

Please quote:
Your reference:
Date: 20th November 2012
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Environmental Protection Team
Aquila House, Breeds Place
Hastings, East Sussex TN34 3UY

Mr B Brown
Licensing Manager
Hastings Borough Council

Dear Mr Brown

Re:
Licensing Act 2003 – The Ground Floor and basement 53- 57 Robertson Street, Hastings, TN34 1HY.

The Environmental Protection Team wish to make representation against the application for the grant of a premises licence for the above.

Under the licensing regime the role of the Environmental Protection Team is to avoid the creation of situations where new or varied licenses, by virtue of their proposed activities, their locations, or times of operation, give rise to nuisance to local residents and take action to deal with problems arising from premises holding a licence. In this respect the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and the Noise Act 1996 provide some protection to the general public from the effects of noise nuisance. However, as the DCMS guidance recognises these may not, by themselves, be sufficient to protect local residents.

The Town centre has long been considered to present an unacceptable noise environment to those people living in the area. There are 24 residential properties in Robertson Street alone and many more in the nearby area. The changes to the licensing regime and the effects of the smoking legislation have exacerbated this situation.

The causes of the excess noise are twofold. Music noise, typically low frequency bass beat, can occasionally be heard from some premises some of the time. This is caused by premises having insufficient sound insulation and or operators playing music at levels too high for the standard of insulation available to them. This issue can be responded to by ourselves.

The second source of noise is that arising from the gathering of customers on the streets as they arrive and depart premises in the area and as they congregate outside premises because of the smoking legislation. In practice there is little that can be done to control or reduce this source of noise.

This premise has advantages with regard to the breakout of music noise, it had a good track record when operating previously and the applicants have undertaken to improve levels of sound insulation in the existing building. I don't anticipate music noise being an issue as a result of this application

However I am concerned at the proposed opening hours these being unrestricted. At present most of the premises in the town centre have closed by 3am. This results in the noise of patrons on the streets gradually dying down over the next 45 minutes. I have a concern that if this application is approved as requested the extended hours of opening will result in noise from customers on the streets being extended even further into the night time. I would therefore ask that the hours the premises are open be restricted to a closing time of 03.00 hrs.



If later opening hours are agreed there may be a need to consider a policy of no admission after a set time in order to prevent issues arising with customers queuing whilst trying to enter the applicants premises with the existing crowds of people that are likely to be in the lower end of Robertson Street

Yours Sincerely



G Casey
Environmental Protection Manager.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE