

Sent: 12 May 2022 16:50

To: Licensing <Licensing@hastings.gov.uk>

Subject: Licensing Change Application for the Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade, St Leonards

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of [REDACTED]. I'm writing in response to the application submitted on behalf of The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade for a full variation to the premises to extend opening hours until 2 am, etc. made on 22 April, 2022.

My flat is in [REDACTED]. Since the bar re-opened, I have on several occasions been disturbed by both the music within the building and the noise from the patrons sitting or standing outside of it. Music played in the venue is often of such a volume that I am unable to have my windows open, and even if they are closed it sometimes makes it impossible to watch television or listen to music in my own apartment.

Aside from the music volume, patrons at the bar are often quite loud in their conversations as they drink outside, or enter or exit its premises. This will, I suspect, only increase as the weather improves and the longer evenings make sitting outside a more attractive possibility. There are other hospitality businesses in the adjacent buildings on Grand Parade, but as these are more focused on daytime custom there is no issue with noise into the evening and later at night. The Forbidden Fruit is the only venue of its kind on this stretch of Grand Parade, which may well be why its owners believe there to be a market opportunity for a later licence, but for that reason I would ask that its application be declined.

I recognise that some noise is only to be expected from a bar or café, and the existing hours for the bar's licence, although sometimes annoying, are just about tolerable on the grounds that there is still an obligation on the part of its owners to finish at a reasonable hour. An extension to 2am, however, would represent a significant change to this situation and would, I believe, prove unpleasant and arguably intolerable to those of us who live directly next door to the venue. Both my wife and I work full time with a taxing commute, and living next door to a bar that multiple times a week is opened and serving to the early hours of the morning would have a significantly detrimental impact on our quality of life, our health, and our well-being. I appreciate that businesses are a valuable part of the life of St Leonards, and particularly so as in-person socialising returns after

pandemic-related closures. In view of the proximity of this business to several residential properties, however, I'm requesting that Hastings Borough Council turn down this application.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent: 11 May 2022 11:31

To: Licensing <Licensing@hastings.gov.uk>

Subject: Licensing change for The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade St Leonards

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'm a resident of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I'm writing in response to the application submitted on behalf of The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade for a full variation to the premises to extend opening hours until 2 am, etc. made on 22 April, 2022.

As someone living [REDACTED] to this business operating under its current license, I am already well aware of and perhaps too familiar with the noise levels both from within the bar and from patrons outside. On nights where The Forbidden Fruit has music on offer (not sure if it's an open mic night or karaoke), it's loud enough and the nature of the buildings are such that I can hear clearly what is being played, even though my flat is [REDACTED] and I have all my windows closed. It's not a game of name that tune that I enjoy.

Also, patrons often congregate outside the bar, especially near closing, and at the end of an evening they can be loud and disruptive. My husband and I have coined the term "a Hastings shout" for those who like to end their evenings yelling profanities at each other while they hail a cab. As the bar provides patrons with outdoor seating, I can only anticipate that with the warmer weather the anti-social behaviour that often happens at a bar's closing time will increase. The Forbidden Fruit has also had some club nights, perhaps most memorably their opening night, where the bass reverberates so loudly and thoroughly, I can hear it in my flat and feel it through the floor. Little has been done to date by the bar to manage these issues, and to my knowledge they have never consulted with their

residential neighbours regarding what negative impact they are having on our daily lives. Currently, when the noise from the bar is excessive on a Friday or a Saturday night, we've had to give up trying to watch a movie in our living room [REDACTED] because it's simply too loud, and retreat to the back rooms of our flat.

This current situation is just about tolerable, as it happens once or twice a week and finishes at a reasonable hour in compliance with The Forbidden Fruit's current license. However, to extend this bar's license to allow for a 2 am opening would make it intolerable for those of us who live next door. Both my husband and I work full time with a taxing commute and living [REDACTED] to a bar that multiple times a week is opened and serving to that hour and potentially hosting club nights and other kinds of entertainment events until 2 am would significantly negatively impact on our quality of life, our health, and our well-being. While I can understand that businesses are a significant part of the atmosphere in Central St Leonards so too are its residents and the lives we lead here. I'm asking that Hastings Borough Council refuse this application.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sent: 16 May 2022 22:52

To: Licensing <Licensing@hastings.gov.uk>

Subject: My Objection to The Forbidden Fruit application to vary a Premises Licence

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Licensing Department

Also

Assistant Director

Environment and Place

Hastings Borough Council

Muriel Matters House

Breeds Place

Hastings

TN34 3UY

16 May 2022

Dear sir

Re: The Application to vary a Premises Licence by Charlie Colfield, The Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN37 6DN.

Living on the busy St. Leonards seafront, local residents are used to coping with the constant through traffic and the to-and-fro of pedestrians. The positive aspects of living here are, of course, the wonderful sea views and the camaraderie of local residents. It is also good to see that many of the nearby businesses are obviously thriving. This, however, should not be at the expense and discomfort to local residents.

I have lived at [REDACTED] since March 2003. In these 19 years I have had occasion to write to the Council when the Bar Blue was in operation at 22 Grand Parade. This was always due to the excessive noise throughout some days and nights (mainly at weekends) as external seating was available and the outflow of drinkers and smokers, plus their noise, onto the pavement was often unbearable from my flat. The outflow of customers meant that the Adelaide House frontage was always "taken over" as a place to drink and smoke (often illegal substances). The front door area of Adelaide House was often used as a toilet and I had to clean up vomit on several occasions. The following morning there would always be bottles and glasses left outside Adelaide House. This is also the case now.

Whenever I ventured down to inform the late-night customers that this is a residential property with 11 flats occupied by old, retired folk and younger professional people, they would sometimes move away but on other occasions they would become verbally abusive and threatening.

Currently, noise from The Forbidden Fruit is excessive at weekends, especially with the door of the premises being constantly open. I have all my first-floor windows closed yet I can still hear the loud music and the noisy, external clientele. My flat is [REDACTED] so my neighbours [REDACTED] obviously get the worst of all this antisocial noise pollution.

Staying open late means that taxis regularly turn up both to drop off and to pick up - this is also very noisy. Staying open until 2 am would mean a lot more noise from both inside the bar and out on the pavement in front of and adjacent to Adelaide House. The inclusion of the following nine items within the application would, most definitely, have further negative effects on the residential and domestic situation for adjacent and other local residents:

1. Basement area: (H&S: where are the access and exits situated?)
2. Films
3. Live music
4. Recorded music
5. Performance of dance
6. DJ performance
7. Dancing
8. Late night refreshments
9. Supply of alcohol

Although seafront residents are pleased to see local businesses flourish it should not be at the expense, and to the detriment, of their neighbours - the local residential population. I have described the recent history generated by a previous business located at 22 Grand Parade and I would deeply regret a similar, or worse, intrusion of inappropriate noise and late-night antisocial behaviour. I am 77 years old and my hearing is excellent, such that I could sing along (from within my flat with all windows closed) to the songs played within The Forbidden Fruit - if I knew the lyrics! I am truly fearful of what might happen here if the proposed extensions are granted:

1. Noise pollution
2. Public disorder
3. Antisocial behaviour
4. Drunk and disorderly behaviour
5. Affray
6. Violent disorder
7. Breach of the peace
8. Fear or provocation of violence

9. Harassment or the causing of alarm or distress

I would appreciate your views on this already increasingly loud, late night negative situation.

Licensed Property Noise Control: Effective Management of Noise from Licensed Premises - Produced by the British Beer & Pub Association

<http://beerandpub.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/LicenseeGuidance/Licensed-Property-Noise-Control.pdf>

Kind regards

██████████

Subject: Representation : Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade, St. Leonards on Sea.

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Hastings Council

Please confirm receipt of this email:

I wish to make an objection to the application for the licence application of Forbidden Fruit, 22 Grand Parade, St. Leonards on Sea.

I wish to comment on several aspects:

1) Licence for drinking on and off the premises

- Grand Parade is a residential street, and the bar is nestled in between several residential buildings, some that are of Listed nature. By allowing drinking off the premises until 2am at weekend and 1 am earlier in the week, the pavement area in front of the premises will become an extension of the bar creating noise nuisance, anti social behaviour and potential queues not to mention car traffic and taxis at closing times, operating through the opening hours.

St Leonards is already seeing an exodus of residents for holiday lets / airbnb. Allowing unregulated licensing along these residential streets will only accelerate the exodus of residents and accelerate a temporary weekend population that will impact the long term development of the town and community.

I strongly object to any licence that permits drinking after 11pm outside on the pavement of the premises.

Late licence for inside drinking: This technically would be fine, on the following assumptions and restrictions to be made on any licence:

- i) sufficient noise insulation is installed so that no noise carries to the neighboring buildings or to outside on the street.
- ii) Entrance to the venue is not permitted after 11:00pm. This will limit the issues that arise when venues are open late in the evening, creating crowds forming to queue when other licenced premises close at 11pm
- iii) access to smoking area outside is limited to maximum of 5 people (with no licence for any drinking outside after 11:00PM to ensure that noise pollution does not impact the wellbeing of local residents.
- iv) the venue provides sufficient door security personnel to ensure at closing times clients leaving the premises do so without disturbing the local residential areas with noise, traffic (taxi etc) and possible late night disturbances or anti-social behaviour.
- v) CCTV cameras are in operation at all times along the area in front of the venue, so noise and disturbances can be monitored.

2) I do not have objections to the use of the premises for cinema and other cultural aspects, as long as the impact of noise and disturbance for the residents of the neighboring flats are maintained. As well as restrictions described above are enforced.

Please confirm receipt of this email and that it has been linked to the licence application as indicated.

██████████

██████████

██████████████████

██████████

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

18th May 2022

Ref: Application for a premises licence: Forbidden Fruit

To whom it may concern

Whilst many of us have written with our individual concerns, we also wanted to share our collective thoughts as the Freeholds of Adelaide House.

The past few years have seen a positive turn for the hospitality sector in St Leonards on Sea. As several of us work in that sector, and see it as improving the area, it's been something we are all keen to support. The opening of Forbidden Fruit is another positive step, as for many years the bar has been sat empty.

Its reopening last year was attended by some of us, and we have tried to introduce ourselves to the management (without success). We hoped to have a good relationship with the team there.

Since its opening there have been many issues that have been challenging for the residents of Adelaide House. These are listed below. We hope that the fact that we did not make a fuss about these shows our willingness to not be difficult neighbours and to support local business. We very much had the attitude that things may improve as the business became more established, and any lingering concerns could be discussed on a direct and personal basis.

However we feel that if a late licence is granted, it will exasperate these issues and cause real and ongoing distress for the residents of Adelaide House. Already the licencing hours are being flaunted, noise levels are high, there is little concern for neighbours and alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour is a regular occurrence. As there are few premises with late licences in St Leonards, it is clear that these issues would be magnified by the increased footfall after other bars and pubs shut.

We are keen to find answers that suit all, with the hope that Forbidden Fruit will be able to run a successful business while also avoiding distress for nearby residents.

We appreciate you taking the time to listen to our concerns and are of course happy to discuss further.

The Freeholders and Residents of Adelaide House

[Redacted signature block containing names and contact information]

Concerns:

Live events use very loud PA systems and with no soundproofing, mean neighbouring flats have to deal with noise that makes it impossible to sleep, watch television etc. This is only at weekends.

No attempt to keep doors shut, so noise on street also loud. After closing time people outside, often for an hour in loud discussion and occasional verbal arguments.

Ground floor flats have to keep windows shut to avoid anti-social behaviour (including drinks on windowsill, which have been spilt into flat, smoke and noise).

Bottles/glasses left at doorway and on windowsills

Urination on doorway