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East Sussex Licensing Team

24th May 2022

Senior Licensing Officer
Licensing
Environment & Place
Hastings Borough Council
Muriel Matters House
Breeds Place
Hastings,
TN34 3UY

Dear Mr Bryant,

**RE Major Variation application for Flames Grill, 19 Havelock Road Hastings East Sussex. TN34 1BP.
NOTICE OF OBJECTION under the Licensing Act 2003**

Notice of objection is hereby given on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police for Sussex for a major variation application at the above premises, on the grounds of the licensing objectives; prevention of crime and disorder, public nuisance and public safety not being promoted.

Sussex Police received the application on 17th May 2022 which seeks to increase the licensable activity of late-night refreshments between the hours of 0300-0400 Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays. They have stated all conditions will be extended for the increase in hours.

Hastings Borough Council has applied a Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) within parts of Hastings Town. The entire length of Havelock Road is within the CIP. Whilst the applicant has stated they will extend their conditions on the licence they currently have, they have not addressed the fact that the premises is within the CIP and how by increasing their hours will not have a negative impact on one or more of the four licensing objectives.

Hastings Borough Councils matrix covers late night takeaways. This premises sits within the cumulative impact area, as well as in a mixed area of commercial and residential properties. The matrix states that such premises have opening times to midnight. This premises already has a licence until 0300 hours. By increasing the hours would go even further against the matrix.

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Police Station, North Trade Road, Battle,
East Sussex TN33 0EX

Between Havelock Road and Robertson's Street there are approximately 5 popular premises that close at 0300hrs. This make 0300 hours a very busy time for dispersal of customers. Allowing this premises to increase the hours at a very busy time of night will highly likely have an impact on Crime and disorder and public nuisance, as we have seen in the past and is the reason why the hours were reduced at a hearing.

Sussex Police reviewed the premises licence for this premises in December 2019 and the hearing took place on 13th February 2020. On 13th February 2020 the Licensing Sub Committee decided to impose a number of conditions on to the premises licence and to reduce the operating hours by one hour meaning they had to close from 0300hrs. The premises appealed the decision and the matter was due in court on 9th December 2021. On the 8th December 2021, a settlement was reached, and the Local authority allowed the reduction of hours SIA needed to be at the premises. The agreement was to allow SIA to be at the premises from 2300hrs as opposed to 2100hrs.

We feel that crime and disorder caused by people congregating in and around the premises has reduced because they are required to close from 0300 hours. This premises have had a number of temporary event notices (TENs) granted this year which allowed them to open until 0400 hours. TENs are not permanent, and the premises can only have a set amount each year.

The premises do not sell alcohol, but we have proven in the past they suffer from those who are intoxicated leaving nearby premises. Being allowed to increase their hours on a permanent basis, we believe will only increase the risk of crime and disorder, public nuisance and public safety for not only the public but also the staff. It could also add pressure to the other emergency services.

Therefore, we invite the Licensing Authority to seriously consider refusing this application.

Yours sincerely,



Insp Tombling
Licensing Inspector
East Sussex Licensing Team
Sussex Police

Please address all future correspondence to Licensing Officer Kirstie Rolfe, email; kirstie.j.rolfe@sussex.pnn.police.uk and EastSussex.Licensing@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Licensing Police Staff are currently working from home, email is the preferred method of communication.