

Licensing Partnership
P.O. Box 182
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 1GP

42 Hadlow Close
Oakwood Park
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8FS

3rd May 2016

Application for new premises licence, Ref. No. 16/00998/LAPRE

As residents of Hadlow Close, we wish to object to the above application on the following grounds:

(A) The Prevention of Public Nuisance

The application is for a licence that allows the sale of Alcohol to be served (12 Noon – 12 Midnight) every day and on New Year's Eve until 0200hrs on New Year's Day.

We do not see the justification on such a licence because the college is closed at the weekends and the majority of students have completed their studies by around 1800hrs, the college is also closed during holiday periods. Therefore we feel that the licence should be restricted to particular events and days of the year that coincide with relevant celebrations attributed to the college i.e. end of year dinner.

The granting of such a licence will increase public nuisance in a variety of ways;

1. The loitering of patrons of the said establishment will be common place either whilst they await taxis or cars to pick them up and drop them off or whilst they decide where they will go next and this will lead to increased noise levels in the area and an unwanted congregation of people who are under the influence of alcohol. Furthermore this will not only be confined to particular areas of the Park as people will wander throughout the Park that includes a considerable number of residential areas and consequently increase anti-social behaviour.
2. The issue of parking will also be escalated around the area especially the residential areas where this is already an issue. It is likely that the College car parks are to be utilised which will involve the intoxicated individuals along with the drivers walking past Hadlow close to reach their vehicles which will in itself create numerous public nuisance issues. There is also an increased risk of potential driving under the influence in such an area where children are playing.
3. The consideration needs to be made of the cliental that would be attracted to such an establishment which would be younger adults aged between 18 – 26 typically, with many experiencing alcohol for the first time and therefore giving rise to many problems often experienced in the town centre on a Saturday night, hence the need for a prominent police presence to control the public nuisance. It would not be acceptable to allow a licence to be granted that would bring such problems to a residential area that has recently been established (following planning approval being given by the same council that will consider this application). We as individuals have experienced university/college licenced premises before when attending university and therefore have seen first-hand the types of behaviour that takes place however many of these around the country are confined to dedicated student campuses not public realm residential estates that house young families.
4. The residents on the close are predominantly families with young children and as such will be witness to any anti-social behaviour often associated with a Saturday night in the town centre which is no environment for young children and in granting this licence this would be a very real possibility.

The application is also for the showing of films indoors and live and recorded music both indoors and outdoors from 0900 to 23.59 seven days a week, plus any other entertainment of a similar description. We object to this on the following grounds;

1. Noise arising, especially with regards to outdoor events (which will include the provision of Alcohol), thus possibly creating a public nuisance.
2. Car Parking Problems, again causing a public nuisance.

(B) Public Safety and protection of children

The residents of this close are mainly families with young children and many will need to pass the establishment in question to attend nursery and school. The increase in traffic due to the premises in question will create a hazard to those using the area. The other consideration is that the mix of young drivers who are relatively inexperienced and alcohol would create further hazards to public safety within the area. This would extend to evenings and weekends which is not a problem currently.

The other concerns are that the mix of young people and the consumption of alcohol in grounds surrounded by 3 secondary schools should not be allowed as this leads to safety concerns for children that leave school unaccompanied from 1500hrs or later if they have attended an after school class/activity leaving them vulnerable to older persons who may have consumed alcohol.

The surrounding area is also very dark with many areas densely populated with trees and vegetation and I would not be comfortable for my wife or daughter to be walking home or to the shops in such an area where such a premises has been granted the licence in question. This could lead to potential hazards to public safety especially to girls and women who are more vulnerable.

We believe that the applicant has not considered the surrounding areas and the effect that such a premises would have on those that reside there. The area has only recently been developed into residential areas and therefore should not house what would be more akin to a Student Union bar as opposed to a traditional family pub thus the clientele that would frequent such an establishment would pose issues arising from alcohol and young people – a subject that has had more than its fair share of poor news coverage over the last few years – and this cannot simply be ignored or put down to individuals as this is experienced in towns/cities on Friday and Saturday nights when the same elements are put together hence the amount spent of policing these situations in Maidstone every week, the difference here is that many young families and their lives and safety will be affected by this licence if and when issues do arise from alcohol consumption, loud music etc. It should also be noted that there is no shortage of places to frequent for alcohol within the area all within an easy 20 minute walk of the university where the provisions are in place to ensure everyone's safety, Maidstone already has one of the highest population of licenced premises and in such a residential area do not see why another one is required.

Yours Faithfully



M T Rance and S N McCutcheon

