

## **STATEMENT OF PAUL LEWIS**

### **EXECUTIVE CHEF AT MEXIco DERBY**

1. I have been an employee of Prezzo Limited (formerly Prezzo Plc) since June 2004 as Executive Chef.
2. Prezzo Limited current operate five brands; Prezzo, Chimichanga, Cleaver, Caffè Uno and MEXIco.
3. We are always looking at ways in which we can improve the experience of our customers when they visit our restaurants. Our newest concept, MEXIco, is the result of a collaboration with a famous Mexican chef who has a string of restaurants across the United States of America.
4. The aim of our MEXIco restaurants are to bring customers the true taste of Mexico. Authenticity is at the heart of what we do, from the food, drinks, ingredients and artwork. We want to bring the colour of Mexico alive.
5. Our first MEXIco restaurant opened in Derby in July 2016. The Derby Premises Licence allows for unrestricted sale of alcohol but this is not something which we wanted or needed to take advantage of by having anything but a restaurant operation.
6. Whilst in Derby customers are able to have a drink at the premises without eating, this will not be the case in Wimbledon. Only customers who are waiting for their table, or those who have eaten a table meal, may have a drink. As such, we have varied our application and volunteered a condition to this effect.
7. By having a holding bar, we are able to maximise the number of diners. It is often the case that customers have not reserved a table. Rather than these people going to another public house or bar in the local area to have a drink whilst they wait for their table, the holding bar will allow customers to stay with us while they wait. This will be a benefit to both our restaurant and the general public as I believe that this will have a positive effect on the cumulative impact of all the other premises.
8. Our restaurant will continue to be food led. 70% of our sales in Derby currently comes from food. The remainder is made up of "wet sales", which includes soft drinks and tea and coffee. Alcohol sales only make up 15% of our total sales. MEXIco Derby continues to attract a wide range of age groups, including families, with the restaurant offering a children's menu alongside the main menu.
9. Since we opened our premises as a Chimichanga in Wimbledon we have sought to fully engage with the local community. Our restaurant is not a source of disorder and conflict. We specifically do not offer any drink promotions – happy hour and "2 for 1" is just not part of what we do.
10. My team of highly trained and motivated staff are only too aware of their obligations to promote the licensing objectives under The Licensing Act 2003 and ensure that our restaurant does not have an adverse impact on the community of Wimbledon.

11. We welcome any feedback from local residents who have concerns or complaints regarding the manner in which our restaurant is run. I am happy to report that, to date, we have not had one complaint in our almost 4 years of operation from this premises.
12. I have organised a meeting with those residents, police and council departments who have made representations against our application. The purpose of this meeting is so that I can assure you that we are not turning the restaurant into a bar and that residents will notice little, if any, difference in the way the restaurant will be run. This meeting will be held on **Tuesday 8 November at 6:30pm** at Chimichanga in Wimbledon.
13. I look forward to meeting you all and putting faces to names. I am certain that we can continue to work together and make MEXIco a success for our business and the local community.

Paul Lewis  
1 November 2016