

**From:****Sent:** 03 July 2017 07:54**To:** Licensing; Licensing**Cc:** publichealthlicensing; Councillor David Williams; Councillor Daniel Holden**Subject:** New Premises Licence for 14 Leopold Road, London SW19 7BD

Dear Sir/Madam:

I write on behalf of Wimbledon E Hillside Residents' Assn to voice our views on a New Premises Licence Application for 14 Leopold Road, SW19.

Leopold Road is a RARITY in the UK - a compact, charming, thriving local Shopping Parade. It is also a Conservation Area, listed because of the strong Victorian street scene, rich with period features including windows, fascias and even a lovely 'gateway' cupola. The footpaths were repaved with York stone and London plane trees, with the help of a Section 106 from the Waitrose development. The Parade's economic strength is in its diversity, including among many others a vet, modern ironmonger, art gallery, florist, barber, butcher, convenience store, dressmaker, newsagent, Italian deli and newsagent. All these units are small in scale and well suit the local community. NB: These qualities should be cherished and protected, and Merton would do well to study this area and seek to replicate it, with dated shopping parades in other parts of the borough.

Unfortunately the more recent businesses appear to be food establishments, many becoming licensed premises, often not open until lunchtime, and most offering takeaways. With takeaway business comes delivery scooters and Uber, idling engines, litter and loitering. In our view, 14 Leopold Road, it should not be allowed to continue operating as a Licensed Premises. It should be returned to A1, as Ambience 'moved' south to 10-12, taking over a convenience store (A1). The owners have assumed they can expand their family restaurants to three units, instead of having the two existing ones. The Licensing Committee should consider what is best for the good health of the entire Parade, not just for one trader.

In our view, we have reached 'peak food/drink' on Leopold Road, and it has emerged this venue will still be linked to Ambience next door. (See attached article, explaining the plans in May 2017). Should 14 Leopold Road become another Turkish food/drink/bar, it will dominate this Parade with too much of one food offering, drawing even more visitors from far beyond the local area. Of course we are pleased for the business, but with that, they will need to relocate to a more high-traffic commercial area such as the town centre, where they must abide by rules of a CIZ that govern larger food/drink premises.

The Applicant proposes Opening Hours until midnight six days each week, and until 11:30 pm on Sundays. This is not acceptable. No other business in Leopold Road operates after 11 pm, because the Parade immediately adjoins family homes, many with young school aged children and working adults who need to be up at dawn and get on with their day. It is wrong to allow one business to disrupt that delicate balance.

Further, it would set a precedent, whereby the Licensing Committee would find it difficult to refuse similar requests from other traders. Allowing a nighttime economy to

develop on this Parade at the expense of the daytime economy - one that the locals require and enjoy - would ultimately mean its demise.

Waste Management. The extended family owns around 20 flats over 10-12-14 Leopold.

For whatever reason, they accept faint responsibility for good management of their tenants' waste at present, and this impacts on all the others trying to earn a living in the Parade. By copy of this email, we request Public Health to request to attach conditions to improve this situation. Further, the extraction system for Ambience is not well managed. (See Ambience representations from neighbouring homeowners.) This suggests a similar problem may occur with number 14 Leopold. With cooking, all ducting needs regular, professional cleaning, and it appears this has not yet been brought to the attention of the Council. Any new extraction ducting system must be scrutinised by Public Health Officer, and inspected regularly, to ensure compliance.

Smoke from the chimney at Ambience reaches adjoining homes, and that is not acceptable.

Should the Committee be minded to approve the application, we would urge an 11 pm closing time (Mon-Sat, 10:30 pm Sunday), and ask that the Committee attach the usual Conditions (see below). We would also request that there is no open ended clause (as Ambience has at present) that would permit 'ad hoc' opening hours for private events, as stag/hen nights as this kind of event is inappropriate here. Finally, we would ask the Applicant to accept - as a matter of goodwill - a Condition to remove any cigarette butts, other litter or fly tipping from the footpath outside 14 Leopold Road, whether it is their rubbish or not. This would be a kind gesture, and hopefully other businesses will do, or are doing the same. Likewise, there are tenants' satellite dishes on the front of the Victorian facade that should not be visible from Leopold Road. These should be removed and relocated to a less visible position on the rear elevation.

In summary, WEHRA believes it is inappropriate that 14 Leopold be granted a Licence, for the Prevention of Public Nuisance. We recon 44% of premises in Leopold Rd Shopping Parade sell food/drink and prepared food, and that is sufficient for any shopping parade. Such is the strength of our convictions, we are exploring a Cumulative Impact Zone for Leopold Road, as we are nearing HALF of the space is used for a single purpose. We must not stray from the 'delightful diversity' that makes a Listed Parade thrive in the 21st Century. We need distinctive offerings from independent business people that encourage local people to shop there regularly, to take delight in their community, and to spend money to keep the businesses prosperous. What is distinctive about a bunch of takeaways and restaurants, closed in the morning and open after bedtime?

Yours sincerely,

Leigh Terrafranca, on behalf of Wimbledon E Hillside Residents' Assn

**ATTACHED: Conditions for The Sampler, 26 Leopold Road (June 2017)**

1. The conditions offered in the Operating Schedule of the Application were imposed on the Premises Licence, where they were enforceable and/or did not arise from separate legislative enforcement regimes. They were as follows:
  1. There shall be a personal licence holder and/or designated premises supervisor on duty on the premises at all times when the premises is authorised to sell alcohol.
  2. A Challenge 25 proof of age scheme shall be operated at the premises where the only acceptable forms of identification are recognised photographic identification cards, such as a driving licence, passport or proof of age card with the PASS Hologram. Notices shall be displayed explaining that the Challenge 25 scheme is in operation at the premises.
3. The premises shall install and maintain a comprehensive CCTV system as per the minimum requirements of the Police. All entry and exit points will be covered enabling frontal identification of every person entering in any light condition. The CCTV system shall continually record whilst the premises is open for licensable activities and during all times when customers remain on the premises. All recordings shall be stored for a minimum period of 31 days with date and time stamping. Viewing of recordings shall be made available immediately upon the request of Police or authorised officer throughout the entire 31 day period. A staff member from the premises who is conversant with the operation of the CCTV system shall be on the premises at all times when the premises is open. This staff member must be able to provide a Police or authorised council officer copies of recent CCTV images or data with the absolute minimum of delay when requested.
4. A clear and legible notice shall be displayed outside the premises indicating the normal opening hours under the terms of the premises licence during which licensable activities are permitted.
5. An incident log shall be kept at the premises, and made available on request to an authorised officer of the Council or the Police. It must be completed within 24 hours of the incident and will record the following:
  - (a) all crimes reported to the venue
  - (b) all ejections of patrons
  - (c) any complaints received concerning crime and disorder
  - (d) any incidents of disorder
  - (e) all seizures of drugs or offensive weapons
  - (f) any faults in the CCTV system, searching equipment or scanning equipment
  - (g) any refusal of the sale of alcohol
  - (h) any visit by a relevant authority or emergency service.
6. A record shall be kept detailing all refused sales of alcohol. The record should include the date and time of the refused sale and the name of the member of staff who refused the sale. The record shall be available for inspection at the premises by the police or an authorised officer of the Council at all times whilst the premises is open.
7. No collections of waste or recycling materials from the premises or deliveries shall take place between 23.00 and 8.00 on the following day.

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