

Licensing, London Borough of Merton

6th December 2017

1st Floor Annexe, Civic Centre, London Road,

Morden, SM4 5DX Email: licensing@merton.gov.uk

Re: The Terrace, Unit 301-302, Centre Court Shopping Centre, The Broadway,
London, SW19 8ND

Application Ref: WK/201708930

The Applicant:

I recently received notification of a “premises licence variation” for the above. However, when I visited their website (to determine current opening hours/menu offering of a morning – to better understand why they had applied for a licence to sell alcohol from 9.00am) I read the following announcement:

“It is with great sadness that after 24yrs of service, we have now closed. At the end of our 25yr rental lease, we were unable to renew to keep this independent family business going”

...so I was unsure who (precisely) had applied for these licence variations. On checking, I discovered it was definitely not the original owners, but someone new who has patently decided to keep the name. As this is the case, it means (I would suggest) that the previous “clean history/good character” of this establishment is not a relevant factor on which to make a positive decision.....if this is ultimately the decision made.

Background as to why I (a Hillside resident) am challenging a Trinity licence application change

As you will see from my address below, I actually live in the Hillside area of Wimbledon, which is a short distance from Centre Court. So you might wonder why I am writing in. My reasons are two-fold:

1. If granted, these extended hours set a worrying precedent in that they could well have a “domino effect” on other A3 premises in the area. And with a reported upcoming planning application to convert x3 ground floor sites in the conservation listed bank buildings (at the foot of Wimbledon Hill Rd) into one huge/single site, with a planned application to convert the huge single unit to A3, it would mean that this quiet residential area (full of owner occupied homes, many of them with school-age children) would be at the mercy of both late night noise and early morning drinking...particularly worrying as, additionally, there is a school at the end of Alwyne plus Wimbledon High (for girls) is diagonally opposite where the new (giant) site is planned.

2. Our street suffers from the fact that “paid for parking” stops at 6.30pm. This means that of an evening, our road is awash with the cars of those visiting the (walking distance) pubs; bars; restaurants of the nearby Broadway. On their return, we are awoken by slamming doors (as they depart) and (very) loud voices – as they laugh and joke and “bid farewell” to their friends/associates. So, if any extended hours are similarly applied for (to that of The Terrace) from the developer (of the bank buildings) this will mean we are all woken up around 2.00am.

Specifics (of my concerns re this licence change)

I object to:

- The extended hours being granted for the Thursday. This is mid working week and can only result in extending the Friday > Sunday weekend “merriment”, which will result in public nuisance. The police are already under pressure to maintain order in the Town Centre and this will increase this (pressure) even further.....a real worry given Sadiq Khan has seemingly got his way to close Wimbledon Police Station. And I find the closing times of 02.00 of a Friday and Saturday equally worrying. Being leisure days, this means increased night time visitors, the majority of whom will be respectful, but as we have seen from previous police reports (for this area) not all will & these sort of hours (with the possibility of even longer hours being applied for, given the 24hr train service offered of a weekend) can only lead to increased crime and disorder and a worry about public safety.
- The extended time to sell alcohol starting @ 9.00am. This is post the rush hour, so will attract “harder core” drinkers (thus changing the nature of the customers we have previously seen @ The Terrace) who may stay for several hours, resulting in the increased likelihood of public nuisance. A neighbour (on seeing this requested start time) said to me: “Do they think Wimbledon residents are alcoholics?”. As I replied to them: “Well, we’re not currently, but if these sort of hours become the norm.....who knows what the future holds”!!!

I urge you to stop these “drip, drip” type of licence extension applications blighting our area.

L. AVERY

Cc: David Williams – Hillside Councillor; Daniel Holden – Hillside Councillor;
Leigh Terrafranca - WEHRA