

From: Leigh's iphone
Sent: 01 March 2018 10:51
To: Licensing; Licensing
Cc: Councillor David Simpson; Councillor David Williams; Councillor Daniel Holden
Subject: SMASH, 82 The Broadway

Dear Sir/Madam:

I write on behalf of Wimbledon E Hillside Residents' Assn to voice our views on the above New Premise Licence.

We are pleased the owners have given up on the previous nightclub, PoNaNa. The new venture - Smash - appears to be gaining a following, but it is still very early days.

We do not feel that the new 'ping pong and sports' format lends itself well to the proposed 2:30/3:30 am closing times. As a new licence application, we had expected the owner to reduce the hours of operation to more sensible times, better suited to the location immediately adjoining homes. For example we would have expected midnight closure Sunday to Thursday, and 1 pm on weekends: Sat and Sunday.

This area is a CIZ. The later night visitors (most of them are not from Wimbledon) become so drunken, drugged and rowdy, even a well-managed venue has difficulty with the very late night visitors who come here solely to 'get crazy' and leave the town in much worse shape than when they arrived.

For these reasons we object to this application for a new premises. If the owner wishes to be open later than midnight weekdays and 1 am weekends, we believe CCTV monitoring - inside and out - is absolutely essential.

Especially with the Pod Bar across the road, and Wibbas Down so close by, some of the troublemakers who frequent these places will without doubt find their way into SMASH in the early hours of morning.

This venue is still owned by the same people who owned and operated PoNaNa, with the knowledge of all the problems their venue caused in the town. Smash is not 'entirely new' as has been suggested, but still is linked to the people who knowingly ran - in our view - a pretty seedy establishment.

While the number of door staff might not need to be as many as with PoNaNa, it is too soon to be eliminating door staff and also reducing requirements for scanning equipment, in our view.

Looking at this from residents' perspective, we not want to have to return in a year for a Review.

The Committee should not be hasty in removing safely conditions put in to protect local residents, neighbouring businesses and other well intentioned visitors to WTC, when the new business has not even been operating one year.

As evidence of the present late night CIZ activity, last weekend the street litter strewn everywhere, vomit and urine was so severe, the entire street cleansing team was called in as an emergency, so that locals wouldn't see how awful our beloved town had become overnight. We still found a large plate or sheet of glass window smashed by vandals or blind drunks fighting EVERY two or three weeks. This kind of incident happens after midnight, and we need the culprits sent packing, not invited to linger longer, and damage the town along the way.

Local people do love Wimbledon, and we believe any relaxation of the Conditions of the Smash Licence should be refused, until the business has proven itself to be more suitable venture for the primary stakeholders in Future Wimbledon, local Homeowners.

This proposal should be refused to ensure prevention of public nuisance, prevention of crime and public safety.

Thank you for consideration of our views.

Yours sincerely,

Leigh Terrafranca, for WEHRA