

Licensing Department
Northumberland County Council
Stakeford Depot
East View
Stakeford
Northumberland
NE62 5TR

13th July 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Rialto, 1 Main Street (and adjacent land), Ponteland, NE20 9NH
Premises Licence application**

I operate a business in the vicinity of the applicant premises and am extremely concerned by the Premises Licence application submitted by Suna Miah, particularly for a large external licensed area.

I believe that granting the premises licence would be inconsistent with the licensing authority's duty to promote the licensing objectives.

I am greatly concerned that the application will undermine the promotion of the licensing objectives, particularly the prevention of crime and disorder and prevention of public nuisance.

In terms of the proposed external licensed areas, the application seeks to permit the sale of alcohol, provision of live music, recorded music and late night refreshment in a very large external licensed area.

It is noted that for live music, recorded music and late night refreshment that the box on the application where further details are to be provided (for example but not exclusively whether or not music will be amplified or unamplified etc) that nothing is stated and therefore the application is deficient in that regard.

The Committee should also be aware that any area licensed for the sale of alcohol automatically obtains the benefit of a deregulation whereby live and/or recorded music can be provided within it until 23:00 as long as the audience does not exceed 500 persons. This means that any assurances provided in the application that live or recorded music will cease earlier than 23:00 are not legally binding so I would request that the external areas are not licensed for the sale of alcohol whatsoever.

Bearing in mind the above deregulation, this means that the only reason to apply for live and/or recorded music as part of an external area is if the audience is to exceed 500 persons. I am therefore particularly concerned that the applicant putting forward these forms of regulated entertainment externally could provide

such activities for a very large amount of people with consequent concerns about crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour and nuisance.

In addition, the fact that late night refreshment has been sought until 23:30 clearly means that the applicant intends to have customers present in that area until at least that time on a Friday and Saturday.

I also have concerns about public nuisance and safety issues being caused by lack of car parking facilities for any attendees to the premises. There is very limited car parking in the area with many businesses having parking control cameras in place.

I believe that the proposed external licensed areas element of the application should be rejected in its entirety but if the Committee are minded to grant this element of the application then robust conditions should be imposed creating a terminal hour on use of the area and limiting its capacity to 100 persons or otherwise if the capacity exceeds that level for SIA registered door supervisors at a 1:75 customer ratio (or part thereof) to be deployed to supervise the outside area. It is also requested that any sale of alcohol in the outside area only be permitted when purchased with food to be consumed as ancillary to the consumption of that food.

A full list of proposed conditions I believe that are appropriate and proportionate in the circumstances are appended to this letter, although my position is still that the Premises Licence application should be rejected.

Should you have any queries, or require further detail, please contact me.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Paul Gibbs

1 Low Haugh, Ponteland, NE20 9XN