

Fw: Notice of Representation

Helen Tait <Helen.Tait01@northumberland.gov.uk>

on behalf of

Licensing Mailbox <Licensing@northumberland.gov.uk>

Tue 13/07/2021 08:27

To: Helen Tait <Helen.Tait01@northumberland.gov.uk>

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From: >
Sent: 13 July 2021 08:06
To: Licensing Mailbox <Licensing@northumberland.gov.uk>
Cc: Christine Stoddart <christinestoddart349@gmail.com>
Subject: Notice of Representation

Mark & Christine Stoddart
5 North Road,
Ponteland,
Northumberland,
NE20 9UH

Premises: Rialto, 1 Main Street, Ponteland NE20 9NH and land adjacent thereto ref NZ16600 72807

Reason for Representation:

The basis for this opposition is that granting this licence for these premises will not promote the licensing objectives, particularly the prevention of crime, disorder and antisocial behaviour.

Granting such a licence would provide a further source of alcohol within an area already heavily populated with licensed premises where crime, disorder and public nuisance have already reached problem levels for the local police.

Reported Crime levels within 1 mile of the restaurant are as below:

(source <https://www.adt.co.uk/crime-in-my-area> accessed 9/07/2021 17:16)

Crime Type	Number in the past year
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Anti-social behaviour	177
Criminal damage and arson	33
Drugs	11
Public Order	22
Violence & Sexual Offences	147

This application is a fundamental change to the nature of the restaurant hidden under the cloak of a license change. Ponteland already has enough restaurant and public house provision to cater for the local population. This is a blatant attempt to turn the village into a party venue more suited to Osborne Road or the centre of Newcastle. As the vast majority of people likely to be attracted to this sort of venue will come from out of the area there is an increased likelihood of the sort of disorder regularly seen in town, with consequent increased risks to public safety from increased traffic as there is very limited public transport into the Village, let alone out of it late at night.

There is no provision for additional parking in the plans to cater for the increased numbers, meaning that drivers coming to the venue will be looking for parking spaces in nearby streets, inconveniencing the local population, including the significant amount of sheltered accommodation and other housing for the elderly.

The proposed taxi rank is more suitable to Newcastle Central Station than Ponteland Village and will increase the likelihood of disorder at closing time as crowds jostle for what will inevitably be a limited number of taxis. It will also extend the noise and disruption well beyond the proposed closing time.

The playing of live and other music outdoors will have a deleterious effect on all nearby residents – it is verging on the impossible that “noise from amplified and recorded music...will be inaudible at the boundary of the nearest residential premises” – otherwise what would be the point of playing it?

The provision of outdoor live music and alcohol on a daily basis is completely incompatible with the way the residents of the Village have come to enjoy living here and will inevitably lead to increased anti social behaviour and public nuisance. The plan shows some 140 seats, which would at least double the capacity of the restaurant, but it already has a first floor with a bar which is used for occasional events, but is rarely in use otherwise, so there seems to be little evidence that demand is bigger than the venue can already cope with.

The area proposed backs onto the River Pont which sees herons, kingfishers and ducks inhabit the banks. The nature of outdoor eating and drinking poses two potential issues – increased litter going into the river, and light pollution, both of which could have a deleterious effect on wildlife along the river.

The escape route noted on the plan is over a bridge at the back of the premises – this is also a potential route into the venue which could easily be used by anyone looking to evade any age restrictions.

Finally there is confusion in the Agreed Conditions – paragraph 7 states there will be a Challenge 25 policy, but the final line states that if a member of staff knows that a person is over 18 years of age then such a challenge for proof of age will not be necessary. This is fundamentally incompatible with a Challenge 25 policy.

Granting such a licence would provide a further source of alcohol within an area already heavily populated with licensed premises that crime, disorder and public nuisance have already reached problem levels for the local police.

Regards and Thanks

Mark & Christine Stoddart

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