

**Annex 2**

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my objection to the license application made for 16/16A Latimer Street, Romsey.

I live at 16B Latimer Street, which is a flat directly above these premises and runs the entire length of the shop front. I purchased this property in September 2007 and at that time the terms of the shop licence precluded its use as a food outlet. I understand from the signs that have now appeared on the shop windows that they are now planning on doing exactly that and will be opening a delicatessen and bistro cafe which will sell food for consumption, a proportion of which will be cooked on the premises.

I am extremely concerned by this. Not only will it mean I will be forced to listen to loud customers and staff entering and exiting the building from early in the morning until late evening, which would pose a nuisance to me and other local residents (some of whom are vulnerable), but also with potentially intoxicated patrons leaving it could also lead to a rise in crime and disorder on a normally safe and relatively quiet street. I will also be subjected to cooking smells rising from the kitchens and the associated risk of vermin and hazards that arise from food preparation.

I understand from my conversations with Test Valley Council, that not only have the new shop owners not yet applied for a change of use of these premises, but they also have not had permission for the new signs nor the repainting of the shop front. If the change of use application is granted, I fear this will lead the way for other take-aways and restaurants to utilise this retail space in future. Not only is this very inconvenient and distressing, but it could well adversely affect the resale value of my property.

Other businesses in the close vicinity could also be adversely affected by yet another food outlet and licensed bar. Already in Latimer Street alone, we have 3 popular public houses. There is also an established cafe at Number 8 Latimer Street whose business is certain to be affected by another eatery only a few doors along the road, as well as Subway, Nero and several other small cafes and tea rooms in the town centre. In short, I feel that another food and drink outlet is not only unnecessary, but that this would also be detrimental to other local businesses and would make it a disturbing, depressing and an unhappy place to live.

I hope you take my very strong feelings on this matter into account. Many thanks.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Mackay  
16B Latimer Street,  
Romsey  
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