

FROM :

27 OCT. 2009 01:10PM P1

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MICHAEL J PERFECT
Latimer House
22 Latimer Street, Romsey, Hampshire,
SO51 8DG



Michael White
Licensing Manager
Test Valley Borough Council
Andover
SP10 3AJ

27th October 2009

Dear Mr White,
Application for a new Premise Licence - 16 Latimer Street, Romsey.

Very many thanks for your reply to my letter dated 21st October concerning the above application.

I have noted your comment reference the appropriate planning permission, at the time of writing no change of use had been applied for.

Your comment about a limited number of tables is also noted, have you checked how many are there. It could be called a restaurant.

How do you know that the range of alcohol will be limited, it could expand to meet the demands of the customers.

If this business is a "bistro café" a change of name is all that will be necessary to make it another Indian Restaurant or kebab eatery, or similar.

You say the Licensing Act allows you to accept representations if they relate to one or more of the four licensing objectives, and that my objection does not make it clear how one or more of these objectives will be affected and on that basis you are unable to accept my letter as a valid objection.

In my letter dated 21st October in paragraph 4 I mentioned all the anti social behaviour that we experience in Latimer Street and that this premise would add to it. Can you not read into the letters our concerns about anti social behaviour, public nuisance, public safety and prevention of crime and disorder.

Since I wrote to you I have found the Public Notice in the Romsey Advertiser dated 16th October 2009, in this notice it quotes the opening times for the sale on or off the premise as from 0830 to 2230 hrs.

In this notice it states that representations may be made for 28 consecutive days from the date of this notice. ie 16th October, so is the closing date the 12th November 2009.

Having read the notice in the shop window a couple of weeks ago, I telephoned your department and discussed the application. I was informed in that conversation that the opening times as applied for were 0830 to 2100 hours. During my earlier discussions with the proprietor about his proposed business he informed me that he would be trading between 0830 to 1900 hours with no mention of liquor, hence at that time there were no concerns.

Now that the hours have extended to 2230hours we have even greater concerns than 2100hours.

We can understand that the premise would need a licence to sell cheese with wine, port with stilton etc to customers who are buying across the counter to take away.

Our concern is that during the evening, customers thinking about using the dining area may congregate outside deciding whether to go in or not, they may be waiting for friends to arrive, or those already inside will need to nip out for a smoke, and when leaving hang about talking. During all of these instances most of these people will be talking in very loud voices.

FROM :

27 OCT. 2009 01:11PM P2

In the current time most persons using Latimer Street during the evening speak in very loud voices (I call it shouting) nearly every other word is profane. As the evening draws on the voice noise gets louder, the aggravation is more intense.

With the selling hours up to 2230hrs some inside customers may buy another drink at 2229hrs to drink at their table and will not leave the premise until locking up time, which could be after midnight. What about the voice noise at this time.

When ones goes to bed a resident usually has the choice of having a bedroom window open, but with this premise only about 9 metres away I think we will certainly be woken up when customers are either coming before last orders at 2230 or leaving much later. (they tend to hang about talking or using mobile phones) If we were to ask them to be quiet we would probably get our door kicked or an elbow through a window, after having firstly been abused by profane language. Within the Licensing Act I would call this "prevention of public nuisance" and you could also include the public safety and crime and disorder. If you don't live here you don't know what it is like.

We see many people arguing in the road and their friends try to separate them, this could happen outside number 16, after more liquor inside. This you will say is a police affair. But what is going to attract people to number 16 during the late evening, food or booze, I think the latter.

As I mentioned we are only 9 meters away, what about the people living in the 2 apartments above number 16 and the 2 families in numbers 12 and 14 adjoining number 16. It will be grossly unfair on all of us to burden us with another source of trading that will probably cause a "public nuisance" and disorder. Once granted it is very difficult to take a licence away. When we complain we would have to live with the public nuisance for months and months whilst another department sorts it out.

Granting a license is easy, take the Olive Tree for instance. When it first changed into "Judges" a variation was granted because it was going to be a posh restaurant. The gents lavatory was upstairs. Within 30 months the place was going down hill, the "posh" customers gave up because of the rowdiness and uncouthness of the surrounding area, a lot of the men using the place didn't and still don't bother to use the upstairs gents toilet, they walk across the road and urinate in what we call the White Horse yard or just expose themselves in the street.

People say that we should expect all this noise and unrest living in Latimer Street. Why should we. Years ago drinkers may have been 'tight' but they were not fighting, shouting, throwing glasses and bottles about, breaking windows or urinating in the street. This modern culture is quite different.

We ask you not to grant a licence for the consumption of alcohol on the premise. based on our fear from years of experience that the immediate neighbours will be disturbed by noise and disorder. This is covered in the Licensing Act as a prevention of public nuisance. Within the Licensing Act I presume that we are an "Interested party" a person living in the vicinity of the premises? The Act states in Part 2 6 (1) Each licensing authority must establish a licensing committee consisting of at least ten, but not more than fifteen, members of the authority. Did the committee reject my letter and those of some of my neighbours. Or was it just your own opinion.

A hearing must be held considering all the letters of objection you have received. We are not lawyers so unfortunately do not necessarily know how to put these matters into official wording.

As you refused my objection did you consider it to be "frivolous or vexatious" as quoted in 18 (8)

Yours sincerely

Michael Perteci