

SP Bar - Bridge Street, Andover

The bar location is marked by the dot on the map below, whilst the postal address is Bridge Street the main entrance is onto Western Avenue with a secondary smaller entrance to the rear of the Post Office and Salvation Army shop. It is 38.5m from the front of the bar to the front of Clarence Court



Copyright Ordnance Survey 2020

When the SP Bar submitted the request to extend their opening hours my initial response at that time was as follows:

“Thank you for consulting the Environmental Protection Team of the Housing and Environmental Health Service. I object to the application for reasons of potential public nuisance, in particular noise from both people and loud music.

I appreciate that the applicants have made clear their intentions to do their best to manage noise but the very late hours proposed mean that people noise on leaving at the end of the night would stand out significantly in this otherwise quiet part of town as would breakout noise as people come and go from the premises (for example to smoke). This is irrespective of the ability of the building envelope to contain noise when well managed.

I am not suggesting that there is not scope for some extension, merely that the later elements of the request are cause for particular concern. It should be noted that this premises is situated away from the towns’ core night time economy activities in a quiet location with a number of residential premises nearby. As such would the applicant be willing to consider reducing the terminal hour to 1am for recorded music and last orders on Fridays and Saturdays - and removing the extended finish time and music on Thursdays.”

Stephanie Pledge came back to me on behalf of the bar in early July following these comments in the hope that I would reconsider in the knowledge that they are looking to create a classy professional environment catering to 50 to 55 people with table service. Ms Pledge explained that they need to be open later to attract business after people have been out for dinner and also to retain business before people move onto the clubs in town. Ms Pledge also felt that other nearby premises had similar permission already. I was offered the opportunity to visit the location and to hear the proposed music for myself. I explained at the

time that I had already been to the location to ensure I had recalled it correctly, and that much of my concern is not about the noise level inside the premises itself but breakout noise and people noise as people come and go.

I then submitted the following additional comments:

“My comments and objection (as below) dated 30th June remain unchanged. The applicant has been in contact with me and raised questions regarding the hours for The Charcoal Grill and The Town Mills as examples of premises nearby which already operate later than I have suggested, but I am not convinced these are relevant examples. Whilst The Town Mills has later hours as a historic right - the full extent of their hours is not in use - they are also more remote from residential properties. The Charcoal Grill is a different form of more transient business and as such not a clear comparison.

This premises is on the periphery of the town centre and noise from this location would affect residents who live outside of the centre. The hours proposed are more in keeping with a night club and are not appropriate to the location.”

My initial suggestion to look at 1am as the terminal hour on Fridays and Saturdays would be in line with The Station Inn, which can be seen on the map south of Clarence Court and labelled as “Hotel”. This seems an appropriate benchmark for a similar impact business in the location.

Concerns about noise from people gathering outside the premises in good weather were raised with us in 2015 when the premises was under different management. This concern came from Junction Road. Whilst there is nothing to suggest that the management in this situation would be the same this does demonstrate that sound from outside the bar has the potential to affect the residential neighbours. Since that time additional conversion of some town centre property to residential use has been agreed meaning there will be residential neighbours at the rear of Captains Mezze on Bridge Street and there is already residential use above the buildings on the south side of Bridge Street and west of the river.

It is also the case that any transfer of patrons from this location to the nightclubs at the end of London Street would take people past a number of existing residential premises on Bridge Street and the lower end of London Street

This variation request has come to review because I remain concerned that the very late night finish requested would stand out in this location and cause nuisance to residential neighbours. Whilst it is clear that the applicants' intention is for a well-managed premises this is a significant period of time for people to be out drinking and levels of consideration and awareness when leaving (or coming and going to smoke) may be low. I must also bear in mind that once granted such permission would stay with the premises even if the current applicants move on so the question here for Environmental Health and the Committee is about the use directly and not the specific management regime and aspirations on offer from the current applicants.