

THE SP BAR: APPEAL 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020

**Venue:**

The SP Bar is a small and independent Bar run by a husband and wife with their team, serving freshly made cocktails ambient music and a social place for working professionals to enjoy after work or weekend drinks.

A small Mexican brunch and evening menu is being introduced this month to run alongside the drinks.

As a fully seated venue capacity is around the 50-55 people. We also offer a full table service.

The bar offers a new safe space for those such as women, working professionals and over 25's to enjoy socialising.

A number of those that attend the bar are from professions that they would not be able to frequent other venues in town, so it has been a refreshingly welcome change to the Town.

We have a booking system already in place and a number of bookings are already made up to 4 weeks in advance.

We currently open Thursday – Sunday from 4pm

**Location and Building:**

34 Bridge Street Andover SP10 1BW – Our main entrance is on the path set back from the western avenue.

We do not have a garden, car park or outside area.

The SP Bar is located 38.5m away from Clarence Court However There is also a dual carriageway and many trees between the 2 buildings.

The Town Mills Garden is located 40m from buildings on the same road.

The Town Mills and The Redbridge are located Closer to the new apartments being built behind Captains Mezze.

The rear of The SP is 106m from the new apartments behind Captains Mezze.  
The Redbridge is 94.8m

Between the SP and the new flats there is also a number of buildings including: Wilko, The post Office, Riverside Bowling, Belvoir estate agents and The Methodist Church along with the River.

Whilst we are not in the 'Towns Core night economy' there is no defined area to where the nightlife is within the town and in fact the pubs and bars are spread out across the town from 1 end to the other.

People will be not using the venue as 'stop gap' to then go to that end of town instead the extending of the license is so that people have the choice of something else rather than that end of town.

Whilst the Town is becoming more residential the Venues are already in place and should not impact those moving into the new properties in town.

Also when deciding on moving into a town center you would expect to then have a nightlife – having a different venue such as ours offers a glimpse of how the town is growing.

We have made alterations to improve the building over the period of 10 months including:

Installing new windows and doors that are now double glazed

Speakers are displayed at angles to avoid noise escaping and reverberation and vibrations from the bass form the building- The Music levels are also low as we encourage a social place to drink at tables rather than a 'club' environment.

Door staff have been in place since opening for Friday and Saturday Nights and any TENS that were for other dates such as Bank holiday Sundays, the Christmas period and New years etc. We made this decision yet this is not something that is a condition on our license. The door staff will be in place on Friday and Saturday Nights until the last person leaves

Notices have been displayed asking people to leave the premises quietly and the door staff will ensure that they speak to those leaving or smoking to ensure that this is upheld.

Food is being introduced this month so the venue will not be a venue where people just 'drink' for long periods of time.

We offer a number of Low alcohol beverages, soft drinks and Mocktails and free drinking water is provided for tables.

Bins and ashtrays are provided to ensure no litter is produced from the area and our bottle bins are to the rear of the building located in the Post Office Alley where they are not noisy for any residents.

We offer a bookings system which is already in place, this allows us to be on top of the numbers of customers and also as a result people leave at staggered times, there is not a number of people leaving at any one time late at night.

**Support:**

We have had a number of people support the late license application.

We are part of Pubwatch and a representative from The SP attends every meeting

The BID have offered a letter of support

Residents of Andover have offered support, including those who live on Junction Road .

The Licensing Police have also been extremely helpful throughout this process and prior to the application we spoke with them in great detail about the Town and they made it very clear what we needed to do to alleviate any concern from the police. As a result we have already put into place the things that they suggested would be good practise for a venue opening later than 12am.  
-CCTV Cameras of a commercial grade throughout the building and to the exit and entrance with clear visible displays. These record for 28 days, Age Verification Policy, We have a challenge 25 Policy in place and all staff are trained on this. The Police said they have no concerns with our establishment at present due to the steps we already had in place.

**Noise: (People and Loud Music)**

There are other venues that are open at this time at this end of town. The Town Mills have a later license than 1am. The license in place is the same as what we are requesting.

Charcoal Grill whilst not a drinking establishment it offers takeaway until later than 2am. As a small place it will often have queues outside and from people who have walked down from the other establishments passing residential areas.

We have tested noise levels at different times using the Distance from our bar to the rear of Clarence Court. Upon leaving the noise is minimal when on the main road and we have spoken to some residence who have they have experienced no nuisance noise from people leaving the bar We have stated that in fact the type of customers that the bar was designed for was so that there is an alternative to that end of town.

No one has been to see the level of music we have at the bar in order to see if it can be defined as Loud. The bar itself is a small venue where people come to relax, enjoy background music and chat with friends over a fresh made cocktail or beverage.

We have already taken a number of steps to avoid any noise concerns which are:  
Speakers have been placed inwards and positioned so to avoid any noise leaving the building or causing reverberation or vibrations.

We have had a number of TEN's agreed and these have shown that having being opened until 3am we have had no concerns raised, complaints or trouble.

Local Taxi companies have said that we are able to pre book taxi's for customers to avoid excess numbers walking through town.

The upstairs of The SP Bar is now operated as an Airbnb therefore we again have gained a new clientele than those who previously were associated with the Bar.

We will operate a no entry after 1am

We are not a nightclub and therefore cannot be compared to one just because of our operating times. The layout and functionality of the premises prevents this possibility.

**Time:**

The Town Mills and Redbridge have an existing License to open later than 1am, and later than the 2am drink up time and 2.30am close.

From 9pm on a Friday and Saturday Night we have door supervisors, this helps to reduce risk, prevent any issues and to control those entering and leaving the premises.

Other establishments are open later than 1am which are closer to residential areas than The SP

1. The Redbridge
2. The Town Mills
3. Charcoal Grill

**Complaints / Police:**

The SP bar has had a number of TENS successfully approved since opening and has had no complaints made. Nor have we had any trouble reported. The door supervisors are extremely well trained in what the venue represents and the Police had said they are happy with the current extended license plans.

The trouble reported that the EHO refers to was over 5 years ago and was prior to the refurb. The previous Establishment had tables and chairs set up outside their main entrance ( which is now our emergency exit only to the back of the property). We have redesigned the layout of the bar.

In the 10 months since opened we have had no issues

Office Colin Pollard for the licensing police has had regular liasing with us at The SP Bar

We have complied with all requests at the Pubwatch meetings

We have CCTV in operation as a deterrent

No glasses or drinks are allowed to be removed from the premises. Even when leaving for a cigarette drinks and glasses are to remain at the tables.

We are part of shop safe and have a direct link to the town venues with the new issued radios from the BID

We are part of the pubwatch group whereby we follow all incidents and follow the banned from one banned from all protocol used from the venues at the Pubwatch meetings