

Merton Council
Licensing Sub-Committee
23 January 2018
Supplementary agenda

6 Additional Information from WEHRA - The Terrace

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From: wehra
Sent: 19 January 2018 14:43
To: Amy Dumitrescu
Cc: publichealthlicensing; russ stevens
Subject: Terrace Hearing, Tuesday 23 Jan 2018

Dear Amy,

My apologies for replying so late. Unfortunately I am unable to attend the hearing, and have not yet located a designate to speak on our behalf.

I note your comments on page 33/34. To respond to the Committee and Applicant:

5.4: Condition of Alcohol to be Ancillary to Substantial Meal

We appreciate the additional condition for alcohol to be ancillary to a table meal.

(We would request the wording read 'substantial meal', as used in other similar town licences. We feel this same condition should apply throughout the day and evening, for this venue. Otherwise, the town centre will very likely have an increase in public nuisance, safety and increase likelihood of crime and disorder in the Cumulative Impact Zone.

5.5 Request for Extension on Thursday nights

WEHRA is against any later evening opening times on weekdays, full stop. This is a residential community of mainly white collar workers and their families. We have to be in bed by 10/11 pm and up at 6/7 am. Within the CIZ we already have significant and increasing instances of anti-social behaviour on Thursday evenings in the town, and in some cases even on Wednesday evenings. The weekends are borderline unmanageable as it stands.

We believe any further weekday (ie Sunday to Thursday) activity after 11 pm will attract a measurable increase in public nuisance and safety. More drinking, later in the evening means a greater likelihood of more litter, vomit, urine, loud noises, shouting, litter on our streets.

5.8 Occupancy Levels

The former business was not successful. They never were 'full' in recent years, and so a 'renewal' of over 300 occupancy without any indication of the impact of this business in our town is concerning. We would like to see a more realistic occupancy number, such as 200, 225 or so. If all works well and the Police and Emergency Services are comfortable, an increased occupancy might be appropriate. We remain unconvinced, without seeing how the business operates. Otherwise, the onus is on local people to call a Review. It seems fair that in a Cumulative Impact Zone the onus should be on the Applicant to prove without doubt their proposal is suitable for the area.

If this is a 'modern pub' as the background information suggests, we still don't have a clear idea how it will be operated. Will it be 'community-serving, focussed on local needs and wants: healthy food, reasonably priced, clean, well-managed'? Or is it more for people from outside Wimbledon, who come here to 'rip up the town, vomit, pee, maybe fight, and then go away'. (Please forgive the crude language, but many developers from Croydon think of Wimbledon town in this way). For that reason, we are anxious about such a high occupancy, and why a midnight opening is needed on Thursdays, a work night.

5.8: SMASH

Yes, Smash is owned by the same group that owned PoNaNa. It is a new company. It is also a dramatically different venue serving food, drink and ping pong, and they have REDUCED their operating hours, not increased them. Their ambition is to appeal to local Wimbledon people. They are moving away from being a late-night club. So it is in many ways a 'new premises.' (NB: It looks more like BaBaBoom may or may not open - they can see the number of new food/drink premises in the immediate area.)

Other: OBESITY

Finally, I would like to draw to the attention of the Licensing Committee a recent programme on Obesity (London Live: How Fat am I?). This is a major concern to the NHS and local and national government, not just to individuals.

Wimbledon town, like so many others, is fast becoming an **Obesogenic High Street**. We aren't getting fat just by our genetics, it is being thrust upon us by lax Planning & Licensing Law. How much food/drink is appropriate for this area? By continually allowing more and bigger, more sugary, alcohol laced food and drink on our high streets, we are all contributing to the obesity of local people.

Again I apologise for not attending; I had hoped to express these views to the Committee and Applicant in person. We hope the Applicant will provide a community-serving business to Wimbledon residents as a priority and also to visitors, and will quickly become part of the fabric of the area. We wish them well.

Yours sincerely,

Leigh Terrafranca, on behalf of Wimbledon E Hillside Residents' Assn (WEHRA)