

The Licensing Department
The London Borough of Merton
Merton Civic Centre,
London Road,
Morden
SM4 5DX

VW - Merton Borough
VW - Wimbledon Police Station

Wimbledon Police Station
15-23 Queens Road
London
SW19 8NN
Telephone: 020 8649 3074
Email: Russ.Stevens@met.police.uk

7th September 2017

Re:- Application to vary Premises Licence at 72 The Broadway Wimbledon (AYA)

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 15th August 2017 an application was received from Mr Ali Mahfouz to vary the Premises Licence LN/000001135 in relation to the Aya Lebanese Takeaway, 72 The Broadway Wimbledon.

The application can be summarised as follows:-

A fast food takeaway restaurant currently offering Late Night Refreshment until 3am on Thursday/Friday/Saturday nights, wishing to extend these hours to 5am

Police wish to make representations to this application on two of the four of the licensing objectives namely:

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
The prevention of Public Nuisance

To serve hot food (above ambient temperature) between 11pm and 5am, a premises must hold a Premises Licence for the provision of Late Night Refreshment.

Fast Food takeaways operating after 11pm can have an obvious impact on crime and anti-social behaviour levels in the vicinity. Hot food Takeaways offering LNR are often situated very close to alcohol premises to supply demand from people who are often heavily intoxicated, as they leave pubs and clubs at the end of an evening out.

Aya Lebanese Takeaway is no exception and is situated in very close proximity to two nightclubs, and three late opening pubs. Aya is next door to a minicab office and directly opposite KFC, another fast food takeaway serving hot food until 2am on Friday and Saturday nights.

Wimbledon Town Centre has a vibrant and lively Night Time Economy, with so many premises selling alcohol that it has now become a Cumulative Impact Zone. This CIZ includes Late Night Refreshment outlets.

There are two main concentrations of pubs and clubs in Wimbledon Town Centre. One is close to Wimbledon BR Station and includes The Terrace, Prince of Wales, Suburban, Slug and Edwards. The other concentration is a 5 minute walk along the Broadway to O'Neills, The Old Frizzle, Wibbas, PoNaNa and The Pod Bar. These bars and clubs tend to open later and become the finishing point for many people drinking in the town centre. Aya is inside this concentration.

There are two other late night fast food takeaways in Wimbledon town centre. One is Burger King at 2 The Broadway. Burger King has a Premises Licence to provide Late Night Refreshment to 2am, and out of necessity, they employ uniformed security guards from 9pm. The risk around Burger King requires constant management. In the last year, there have been six crimes recorded involving fights and assaults (three of which on staff) during the LNR period. This came to a head in December 2016 when the franchise owner submitted a Temporary Event Notice to continue through 5am during the festive period. I objected to this TEN and my decision was supported by the Licensing Sub Committee.

The other late night takeaway is Kentucky Fried Chicken directly opposite Aya. Their Premises Licence has a condition attached to ensure that SIA Door Supervisors are employed after midnight. The condition mentions that they have a role in aiding dispersal from the area, but personal experience shows them to be ineffective.

Police Crime recording systems show that since 1st August 2016, there have been 22 reported assaults in the immediate vicinity of Aya. This is from the locations recorded as between 66 and 78 The Broadway (same side of road as Aya), and between 75 and 89 The Broadway (opposite Aya). These figures do not include incidents on the next pavement outside PoNaNa nightclub 82 The Broadway. Figures for arrests for Drunk and Disorderly in this area are not available.

Experience shows that the risk of alcohol related Crime and Disorder, and Anti-Social Behaviour is greatly reduced when people go straight home after an evening drinking. Most incidents of alcohol related violence in Wimbledon Town Centre occur towards the end of the evening when people are intoxicated. The majority of these incidents involve people having just left alcohol premises. At around midnight on a Friday and Saturday night, the town centre can become an arena for drunken violent clashes.

Fast Food Outlets provide a facility to those who wish to linger. Disputes arise between hungry intoxicated customers, and fights occur. Many drunk people are drawn to Fast Food outlets rather than going home.

Fast Food Outlets slow down the dispersal rate dramatically and cause extra strain on Policing.

If the licence to provide Late Night Refreshment at Aya is extended, the risk of alcohol related violence will increase proportionately. There is also the obvious risk of increased litter.

On the 19th July 2017, I received a complaint from a local resident about loud and disorderly conduct of AYA customers very late at night. The complainant told me that she lives within sight of the premises and can see from her window that AYA regularly remains open as late as 4am on Friday and Saturday evenings. The front door to the shop is always open and loud music can sometimes be heard from the premises. These incidents have awoken her and caused her annoyance.

On the evening of 28th July, I visited Aya, and discussed the complaint with the person in charge. I left my business card and asked for the general manager or owner to contact me, unfortunately he did not.

This is the only complaint that I have received regarding Aya in the last 12 months, and I suspect that visit may have prompted this application to officially extend the LNR hours.

Aya is a responsible operator and I do not believe that it causes anti-social behaviour or any crime in its own right. The food is excellent and the staff are friendly. But, it does provide the facility for intoxicated people to linger after a night out, rather than going home. As the Police Licensing Officer I have been trying to discover ways of improving the rate of dispersal at this specific area on a Thursday/Friday/Saturday evening. Aya's current 3am finish on a Thu/Fri/Sat night marks the close of the town centre's Night Time Economy. If this finish time were to extend indefinitely, then there would be little dispersal and we would be reliant on people going home when they eventually get bored. The application to extend the LNR hours to 5am effectively takes LNR past the regulated hours of 11pm-5am and so would allow Aya to trade all through the night and into the morning. The applicant states that they want to extend by "only two hours", but this is clearly not the case.

Currently, when the nightclubs close at 3am, people have no other option but to make their way home. Aya is already the only premises in Wimbledon Town Centre permitted to serve Late Night Refreshment after 2am. If this application is approved, then people will linger and the potential for crime and anti-social will also linger.

The Metropolitan Police strongly advise that this application is rejected.

If the Premises Licence is approved, I strongly recommend that the following conditions are imposed:

1. There will be a minimum of 2 uniformed security guards on the premises or immediately outside when the premises is open beyond 2300hrs.
2. A good quality digital CCTV will be in operation at all times that the premises is open to the public. Recorded footage will be kept for a minimum of 31 days and will be supplied to Police when requested with the absolute minimum of delay.

Yours Faithfully

Russ Stevens PC 852VW 191701

Licensing Officer

This page is intentionally left blank