

Licensing Manager
Guildford Borough Council
Millmead House
Millmead
Guildford
GU1

02/05/2018

## Re: - Charcoal Grill application to vary Premises Licence GUPLA0574

Dear Sir

Surrey Police, as a Responsible Authority under Section 13(4) (a) of the Licensing Act 2003, wish to make a formal objection against the application to vary the premises licence in respect of the premises named above, on the grounds of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder.

Surrey Police have received an application to vary the premises licence for Charcoal Grill, 15 Park Street, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4XB, the application requests to extend the hours of operation when open to the public from 02:45 to 04:00.

Charcoal Grill is situated next to a late-night venue called Thirty 3 Hertz which has a closing time of 03:30, Charcoal Grill is also a short distance away from Bridge Street where four late night premises are located, Bar 13, Pop World, Lloyd's No1 Bar and Casino with closing times between 03:00 and 03:30, there are residential properties above Thirty 3 Hertz and in Park Street.

Surrey Police have concerns that this extension will cause a return to the issues the premises has experienced in the past.

**History:** - Surrey Police called a review in May 2012 the licensing committee placed condition to the premises licence and reduced hours to 03:00 from 03:30.

The premises was reviewed again in November 2013 at this review the premises licence was revoked, an appeal was lodged but refused at Magistrates court.

The premises applied for a new licence under new owners in March 2015 this was granted.

Application was submitted in August 2016 to extend shop trading hours an agreement was reached between the owners and Surrey Police that the premises could trade from the shop up until 02:45 with last entry at 02:30 Monday to Saturday and Sunday to mid-night, in addition to allow the premises to continue trading deliveries only up until 03:30 and to sell alcohol with deliveries only up to 03:00, this is how the venue operates to-day.

Taking account of the number of incidents from January 2012 to August 2016 then a comparison from August 2016 to-date there has been a 65% reduction in recorded incident relating to these premises with the premises operating at their current times.

Dispersal from the town is an important priority for the police with late night takeaways remaining open after the clubs and bars are closed historically these are a well-known flash points for incidents where groups from the different venues come together this is a potential for violence, anti-social behaviour and noise when people congregate both inside and outside to consume their food.

Customers leaving the Bridge Street premises are likely to make for Charcoal Grill as it will be the closes premises to obtain food are likely to arrive between 03:30- 03:45 at this point people will try to gain entry at a time when they will be preparing close, the current times mitigate these potential issues happening.

In the application (licensing objectives) it asked to describe the steps you intend to take to promote the four licensing objectives, the applicant has not given enough detail as to how the premises management will handle problems that are likely to arise with the premises trading to 04:00, the applicant states only "'the operator considers the existing steps to be adequate. For clarity, registered door staff would remain on duty from current start times until close" Trading later that the current hours 02:45 when open to the public, there will be different dynamics to trading to 04:00 e.g. people queuing, turning up just at the premises is to close, also dispersal from the area outside.

## Door staff: -

The applicant has offered to continue with the use of registered Security Industry Association door staff (SIA) update to this, Surrey police have been copied into emails between the applicant's agent and Guildford Borough Council's licensing department on 24<sup>th</sup> April giving details as to the use of door staff.

If the committee is to grant the additional hours Surrey Police would request the following conditions added to the current premises licence although we believe this may not deter potential incidents: -

## 1 & 2 as now proposed.

- 1) SIA registered door staff to be used: At least one SIA accredited door staff shall be employed at the premises from 21:30 to mid-night and two SIA accredited door staff from mid-night until the premises closes to the public, Monday to Sunday
- 2) No new customers shall be admitted to the premises after 03:45 hours Monday-Saturday and leave by 04:00 hours. For Sunday, no new customer shall be admitted to the premises after 00:45 hours and must leave by 01:00 hours.
- *3) The management to adopt a written dispersal policy.*

The current premises licence GUPLA0574 was transferred to Kasimpasa Limited in October 2017 during which time the premises has been in breach its premises licence trading times and conditions:-

On the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 (early hours of Monday morning) customers entered the premises at 00:34 the premise should have been closed at mid-night.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2018 (early hours of Sunday) customers can be seen inside the premises Note, this was when the BST clocks were changed the premises continued to trade when it should have closed at 02:00 BST time adjustment therefore was trading in breach of their licence, there was no Temporary Event Notice applied for to cover this.

Following the above Surrey Police have concerns that the management have not taken their terms of the premises licence seriously.

Yours sincerely

Inspector Andrew Hill Borough Commander



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4 May 2018

Dear Sir.

## **GUPLA00574 – Guildford Charcoal Grill Objection to variation application**

Guildford Borough Council, as a Licensing Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, wish to support the objection made by Surrey Police to the variation application for the above premises for reasons of crime and disorder.

As the Police set out in their objection, the premises has a chequered history and no-one wishes to see a return to the levels of previous disorder which led to the revocation of the licence in 2013.

Although the premises is under new management, the recent evidence of the premises trading past its permitted opening hours in breach of its premises licence on 26 February and 26 March 2018 do not demonstrate that the current management are taking compliance with its premises licence seriously.

If such an approach is taken at the current time, when the premises closes before the four main high capacity venues in Bridge Street close, the Licensing Authority is concerned that the management will demonstrate a similar approach at a potentially much busier time leading to an increase in disorder as customers seek to access the premises later at night.

Most venues in Bridge Street have a number of Security Staff to manage the numbers of patrons in their premises and their subsequent exit from the town. Similarly the premises and only two security staff may not be able to cope with number of patrons potentially accessing the premises from Bridge Street after 03:30 hours.

However, should the committee consider granting this application, the Licensing Authority would support the conditions proposed by the Police albeit would suggest that the requirement for Security Staff be risk assessed.

Yours faithfully,

Mike Smith

**Licensing Team Leader**