

From: Caroline Scott [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 February 2019 13:13
To: Licensing Unit
Subject: Corkage extended license application

To whom it may concern:

I am one of the residents of the block of flats above the wine bar Corkage in Quarry Street. I saw that another application has been put in to the council to further extend licensing hours until 11pm and I wanted to outline some of my concerns below as the owner claims in the application that "we have received no complaints from residents nor had any cause to involve the local police or any other interested authorities in this application, during the past three years trading." This is untrue. I can prove correspondence that I have had with the council regarding noise and environmental health issues.

My concerns are as follows:

1. Noise - I have lived at the flat directly above the bar ever since it opened (2016) and have had some issues with the bar during that time. At present it closes at 10pm but in actual fact I have noticed that people don't tend to leave until at least 10.30pm and many people sit out on the patio (just below my bedroom) talking until closing time which gets quite loud. Once the patrons have gone the noise continues while the staff stack the bottle deposit and close the doors up. All of this means I can't go to sleep until 11pm when it's quiet - and if the license is granted to extend - even later.

2. Smoking: while the document submitted that "no complaints have been received" that is untrue. My neighbor [REDACTED] and I have both been unhappy with the patrons smoking in the doorway to our building and the cigarette butts left to accumulate in our doorway. It's unpleasant to have to walk through smoke to get in or out as well. We spoke to the managing agent (Gascoigne's) some time ago about this and unfortunately the response from the owner was hostile. I haven't yet had a follow up to this but we requested that the bar take responsibility for ensuring that any mess left by their patrons was cleaned up by thoroughly sweeping the pavement when they close.

3. Changing nature of the business: when I bought the flat in 2016 I was told there would be a wine shop below which served some drinks but with early closing. However in the time I have lived here the shop/bar has more than once requested extensions to its licensing hours. I was unhappy when the time was extended to 10pm (as I explain above in practice that means quiet an hour later) but extending it til 11 means that it will be almost midnight by the time everything is quiet. I imagine that's why many owners live in the flat above their business. It seems that gradually the wine shop is now a late night bar and that's not compatible with a residential block. Had I known 3 years ago that the goal posts would keep shifting and my sleep would be disturbed I may not have bought and it puts me in a difficult situation now.

4. Other lesser issues:

a) While the bar has been there there have also been numerous occasions when their alarm has gone off in the middle of the night and been left ringing until 9am.

b) There's a patio light that is directed towards the building and therefore casts a bright light. I did at one stage ask if this could be repositioned slightly to avoid so much glare at night but there has been no change.

c) Vomit in the doorway had to be cleared up and is occasionally found outside our building. My neighbor [REDACTED] had to clear it up. While this cannot be attributed definitely to the bar it is part of the environmental health questions arising.

d) Music from the bar - this is generally not an issue but sometimes in the summer it can be a nuisance.

Overall myself and my neighbor [REDACTED] [REDACTED] are strongly against this extension on the grounds of noise disruption and environmental health grounds which compromise the standard of living of the residents who live above the bar. We have not found the owner to be cooperative or responsive to previous issues and this is a concern going forward.

Please let me know if this email constitutes my formal objection (or if I need to write a letter with the above points) and what further steps there will be in the consultation of this license.

Yours Faithfully

Caroline Scott Plummer

[REDACTED]