

Benedict Kpohrator

From:
Sent: 15 October 2019 11:18
To: Licensing
Subject: On and Off Sales licence, Haar Rock Coffee, 81 Charleston Road North, Cove, Aberdeen

Dear Sir/Madam,

On and Off Sales licence, Haar Rock Coffee, 81 Charleston Road North, Cove, Aberdeen.

Thank you for your letter dated 3rd October 2019 regarding the above application for an On and Off Sales licence

I wish to object to the application and in particular the Off Sales section of the licence. I have several concerns that I would like to be considered.

My first concern is the increase in noise that an outdoor alcohol licence would inevitably create. Although Charleston Road North can be busy during the day and has several retail shopping units, the area also has a large amount of residential flats and houses in close proximity. In the evening, after the retail units have closed the area is relatively quiet and any noise tends to travel far. An outdoor drinking area, especially at night until 10.00 pm would create a huge disturbance to our flats above the cafe and to other properties, many of which have young families residing. There is also no 'quieter area' that might be used as a drinking area, such as at the back. The cafe is surrounded on all sides by residential properties.

In the past the cafe has offered several 'themed evenings' where there has certainly been an increase in noise from both customers and increased traffic. If an outside alcohol licence were to be granted would the cafe take steps to ensure that the increase in noise, especially during the evening, would be kept to a minimum?

My second concern would be the increase in smokers around the premises due to an alcohol licence. Many people smoke more whilst they are drinking alcohol. As my property is directly above the premises I would be concerned that there would be an increase of smoke coming in through any open windows of our flats, especially during the summer months, therefore causing a nuisance.

Also the increase in litter from cigarettes. Currently there is no bin provided by the cafe and there are often cigarette ends discarded, especially round the back of the cafe. I can confirm that there are no smokers resident in any of the four flats above the cafe.

I would be concerned that an outdoor drinking area would lead more of this litter. Would the cafe be able to provide a dedicated smoking area, away from residential properties and also provide a cigarette bin?

In the past the cafe has had daytime outdoor seating and at times has erected a barrier around this area. Whilst this caused no issues during the day unfortunately this barrier was left out overnight, for 24 hours, without the seats and tables. Although this blocked part of the pavement and generally looked very untidy my main concern was that it could be a security issue. The barrier, although heavy, can be moved and this is concerning since there are shops with glass frontages and residential properties so close by.

Would the cafe remove any outdoor seating and barriers at the end of trading each day?

Another concern that I would ask to be considered is that of the bin store at the back of the property. This bin store is currently shared by four residential flats and the two retail premises attached to the building. As the store is already overcrowded with bins would there be enough room for any more increase in litter and the potential requirement for another recycling bin, for example for glass bottles? Any increase in bins and litter could potentially create a health and safety hazard as there is no other place for bins to be stored safely.

I would like to add that I am not against any local business and I obviously want to see the area thrive, however I am concerned that an outdoor alcohol drinking area, especially in the evening until 10.00 pm, would not be suitable in this residential area and that it would have an adverse effect on the residents living so close by.