

Arlene Dunbar

From: Bradford, Nicol [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 September 2014 15:09
To: Licensing
Subject: Objection to License Application - Chester Hotel

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to raise an objection to the license application made by the Chester Hotel with respect to the 'new external terraced area off of restaurant at upper ground floor level' (for ACLB meeting of 16/09/14, I understand). As a resident with a young family, living in close proximity to the Chester Hotel, the resulting disturbance, reduction in privacy, noise and general deterioration in amenity, is completely unacceptable.

The subject area is elevated such that it over-looks neighbouring properties (and is even as high as, or higher than, upstairs windows) and is in full view of the neighbourhood. The elevation will serve to increase the disturbance and noise to the surroundings. The subject area is large and can accommodate many people – even compared to the internal dining area. Given it is external there will be no benefit from sound-proofing and little control over guests behaviour.

Such an area is available for use all day and every day and, whilst late night noise is a major concern, the effects of continuous disturbance and lack of privacy throughout the day would be unacceptable. Particularly for 'special functions' it will not be in the hotel's interest to control or limit guests behaviour - it may be a 'one-off' event for the guests but not for the neighbours. Linking the application to 'dining' places no limit to the end use of the area – there can be as much or as little food involved yet the presence of large numbers of people, and the resulting disturbance, remains. There is no control over future modifications to use of the area.

Obviously it is not the title or the description given to the area that is important, but the end use, the activities and the resulting disturbance (etc) that matter. Disappointingly, it appears that the related planning and licensing applications are taking advantage of the system by being submitted one-by-one, seemingly unrelated and even retrospective. Such an elevated external entertainment area never existed at the previous hotel (which was not involved in large functions or external dining, or even drinking to the same extent) and would be very unusual in this area or any other area of Aberdeen – particularly a residential area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards, Nicol Bradford.

