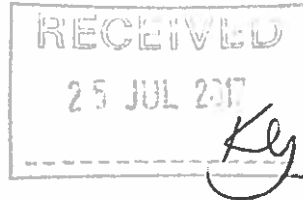


Licencing Team,
Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Business Hub 6L15
Marischal College
Aberdeen
AB10 1AB



20th July 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference No. AC0302 - McNasty's, 37 Summer Street, Aberdeen AB10 1SB - application for a variation of the premises licence

I am writing to register my objection to the application for a variation of the premises licence by Booktwin Limited for McNasty's, 37 Summer Street, Aberdeen. The basis for this objection is that granting a variation of the licence and extending the lateness of licencing hours undermines Aberdeen City's licensing objectives.

I object to the variation to the licence on the following grounds

1. The property to the rear of McNasty's, is both residential and business property located on Chapel Street. The residents in residential premises have a reasonable expectation to a quiet environment at night!
2. Public Nuisance: there is already a noise nuisance from the applicant's premises while it is open, and that if the premises were allowed to stay open longer, this will go on until an unacceptably late time. Noise before and after closing time is already a public nuisance problem, as is litter. During existing periods of excessive noise from the premises, residents are already taking measures such as keeping windows closed. A Tripadvisor review dated 23 May 2016 stated 'This pub is the place to be on a Friday night if you want to work those tonsils! Earplugs wouldn't go amiss either!!'
3. Some of the residential properties to the rear of McNasty's are rented and approval for this application would increase difficulty in renting out property and potentially reduce property values. This is in contradiction to the intention stated in Aberdeen Inspired's Business Plan 2016/ 2021, which incorporates Summer Street and Chapel Street, and which has stated aims of promoting our City centre, making it a safe, welcoming and attractive centre and helping business. Aberdeen is alleged to have the third highest proportion of people unable to work due to alcohol issues in the UK.
4. A variation to the existing licence to extend on sale hours from 01:00 to 02:00 on Fridays and Saturdays, and amending the times children and young persons are permitted access undermines at least three of the licensing objectives, namely preventing public nuisance, protecting and improving public health and securing public safety.

5. Alcohol consumption per capita is already higher in Aberdeen City than Grampian as a region and Scotland across the board. This is particularly notable in the 16-24 age group and it is believed that that group is particularly attracted to karaoke.

6. The application proposes that a further source of alcohol will be available at later hours within an area already heavily populated with licensed premises. There are an estimated 33,400 hazardous drinkers and 3,100 harmful or dependent drinkers in Aberdeen City. Police Scotland already consider there to be overprovision of liquor licensed premises around Union Street (north side). The excessive consumption of alcohol can often increase the likelihood of both perpetrating and being a victim of crime, particularly within the City Centre area. It is a fact that violent crime is most common late at night or early in the mornings and at weekends. The City Centre has, by far, the highest crime rateⁱⁱ.

Residents in this area already suffer noise nuisance and antisocial behaviour and it is evidential that approval of the application will make this situation worse.

In view of the above, I would urge the Licensing Board to refuse the application.

Yours faithfully,



ⁱ Health effects of noise - Environmental Noise Directive

According to the findings of the World Health Organisation (WHO), noise is the second largest environmental cause of health problems, just after the impact of air quality (particulate matter).

The World Health Organization's Night Noise Guidelines for Europe present evidence of the health damage of night-time noise exposure and recommend threshold values above which adverse effects on human health are observed. An annual average night exposure not exceeding 40 decibel (dB) has been recommended in the Guidelines.

Sleepers that are exposed to night noise levels above 40dB on average throughout the year can suffer health effects like sleep disturbance and awakenings. Above 55dB long-term average exposure, noise can trigger elevated blood pressure and lead to ischaemic heart disease.

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/noise/health_effects_en.htm

ⁱⁱ Sources

Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership, Joint Commissioning Strategy 2013 – 2023.

Aberdeen City Strategic Assessment 2016.

Aberdeen Inspired's Business Plan 2016/ 2021

Aberdeen City Licensing Board Statement of Licensing Policy 2013- 2016

Evening Express 2nd May 2017.