



Licensing Reference Number:

AC0191

Address for Application:

[Silver Darling Restaurant North Pier Aberdeen AB11 5DQ](#)

Details of Proposed Application:

Application to Vary a Premises Licence. Variation to commencement of 'on sale' hours to 11:00hrs on Mon-Sat  
Addition of 11:00 hours to 01:00 on Sundays.

**Community Council Response, and Recommendations:**

**In principle, the Community Council does not object to this application, however we have a number of recommendations to advise on its consideration.**

Community Consultation

- The Community Council will encourage residents in the Fittie community, and particularly those who are close to the Silver Darling, to share their views on this proposed application as they are the residents who are most likely to be most affected by any impact as a result of the application.

There is support for the Silver Darling continuing as a restaurant. This business was previously run as a low-key, well-respected business under previous owner, Didier Dejean. This previously award-winning restaurant enjoyed the goodwill of the community and sat well within the residential area; the restaurant was open for business for only a few hours a day, a few days a week and was closed for holiday periods.

In contrast to the above, there is concern at the *extent* of the proposed extended hours. A licensed premises operating from morning until the early hours of the morning seven days a week is excessive and hardly compatible with the nature of a residential Conservation village. There is concern that there may be a shift in focus if alcohol consumption is allowed at the bar, as compared to being enjoyed with meals. If this is the case, this should be made clear to the community and, importantly, lead to consultation in its own right.

Capacity, Safety, Traffic Management and Access

If there is support for this application to proceed, the Community Council recommends that:

- There be a reassurance and commitment given from the Owners and Operators of the Silver Darling that any alcohol consumed on the premises is encouraged to be responsible, and in a manner which takes account and consideration of the fact that there are people's homes and a family play areas next to the restaurant. Fittie's status as a Conversation Area should be considered. The increase in footfall through the village caused directly by the attraction of an all day licensed premises in the vicinity will impact on a village which is already overburdened by overtourism.

- As the restaurant is located next to a children's play area, we recommend that there be additional consideration

given by the operators and staff to responsible consumption of alcohol, to ensure that there would be no adverse affects on families, and in particular young children who could be influenced or, in exceptional cases, potentially placed at harm. Certainly, any proposed further extension to the all day drinking licence that seeks an outdoor seating area next to the play area would be deemed inappropriate.

- As the restaurant is also located nearby a sea-defence wall with steep drops to the water below that can be accessed via pedestrian routes, we again recommend that there be additional consideration given by the operators and staff to the responsible consumption of alcohol, particularly taking into account the mobility and safety of guests and others.

- There be further work conducted by the City Council's Roads Department, City Wardens, Police Scotland any other interested and included parties to ensure that the increase in numbers of those visiting the restaurant for longer does not lead to further congestion and blockage of pavements and streets in and around the village. New Pier Road has a 20mph speed limit and is 'Access Only'. This road is already used as a 'rat run' to the harbour front. Patrons of the restaurant arriving by car and taxi companies ferrying diners to and from town must adhere to the law and avoid using New Pier Road to access the restaurant.

Additionally, we recommend that there be regard given to emergency service and working vehicle access, as well as to speeding. The latter of which has continued to be identified as a priority for residents of the area and in the community. Longer opening hours cause the requirement of more supply vehicles and more frequency of deliveries. Service companies must be instructed to avoid using New Pier Road.

-A lack of parking spaces is already proving to be a problem outside The Silver Darling, with cars parking out with parking spaces and in spaces designated to others. This issue can only be exacerbated by 'all day' licensing and must be addressed by owners.

#### Further recommendation

Although this may not fall within the traditional scope of licensing decisions, we encourage to the Licensing Forum and Licensing Board not to be bound by this and to instead look to making further and more integrated use of Community Planning, Health and Social Care legislation and other powers now at their disposal to bring these recommendations forward to mitigate any potential impact on the community if approved.

*- as prepared by Jonathan Smith, as Member and Chairperson, for Aberdeen's Castlehill and Pittodrie Community Council  
and*

*William Rae, as Member and Planning & Licensing Liaison for Castlehill and Pittodrie Community Council.*

-