



Licensing Reference Number:

AC0291

Address for Application:

[Henry's Bar Cafe 4-6 Exchequer Row Aberdeen AB11 5BW](#)

Details of Proposed Application:

Application to Vary a Premises Licence. Change in commencement of core hours to 11:00 hours layout changes including removal of kitchen, therefore will no longer offer bar meals. Addition of Club/group meetings and removal of dance facilities. increase in on and off sales capacity change to children and young persons access

Community Council Response, and Recommendations:

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

Increase in On and Off Sales, and Removal of Kitchen

- The Community Council has a ***strong and serious concern*** of the proposed increase in On and Off Sales, and Removal of Kitchen.

The consumption of alcohol is already and for some time has been at critical levels in Aberdeen and indeed throughout Scotland.

It has already been identified in the Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership's Strategy that ***reducing the levels of consumption and culture of alcohol must be addressed as a matter of public health***, and in particular the example that is shown to children and young people.

This is reflected and factually evidenced in Public Health, Social Care and Police research, as well as in views and experiences expressed and shared by those in our community.

It is recognised that Food, Drink and Tourism have been identified as an area of economic development for the city and the region but this ***should not increasingly depend only on alcohol*** as a way of achieving this.

- We also have a strong concern over the proposed removal of food and meals being provided on the premises as all available research from organisations in the city, in the country and globally shows that the absence of food universally leads to increase consumption of alcohol and with stronger effects of that alcohol when it is consumed, when not consumed alongside a meal.

Club and Group Meeting Space

- Excellent to see that there will be the opportunity provided for Club and Group meeting space, which has been ***very much in need for some time in the communities*** of this area of the city.

While there are many nearby commercial spaces, these existing spaces are often dedicated as office space for established firms and companies or available to rent and hire as a commercial venue.

However, this can often become very expensive for Community, Third Sector and Voluntary Groups who are becoming increasingly active in the area and in surrounding communities.

The Fittie Community Development Trust is an example of a group which has taken the lead on this issue, looking to make space available for Community, Third Sector, Voluntary and others groups in the Fittie Gospel Hall as a result of a successful Asset Transfer Request.

Therefore, it is very welcome if there is the intention to make club and group meeting space available for other nearby communities and we recommend that this also be provided at a reasonable and affordable rate when and as possible.

Access for Children and Young People

- If the change in access for children and young people is to encourage more access and availability, then we very much welcome this addition.

However, ***we have concern if the change is intended to reduce access and availability to young people to for example the Club / Group Meeting Room.*** This would potentially be ***discriminatory to a demographic and population of our communities*** who already find little activities available to them, outwith those which focus on and revolve around consumption of alcohol.

Particularly if Club and Group Space is to be provided as part of these changes, it is ***essential that children and young people have the chance to make use of this space separately to the sale and / or consumption of alcohol*** on or from the premises.

- 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.

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