

APPENDIX E

Objections to Banksey's Bar request for extended opening hours in Ross Street, Widnes, Cheshire.

Jane Hargreaves,

[REDACTED], Widnes, Cheshire, [REDACTED]

Tel [REDACTED] 29/08/2024

I have lived in Ross Street for 34 years and I am aware that there has always been a bar at the bottom of our street. When it was Tony's Bar it was a lounge bar where people dropped in on their way on to pubs/clubs further up or down the street. I cannot recall any issues with Tony's Bar. When the building became Annie's Bar it became a nightmare of issues for the residents of Ross Street the owners were not friendly or respectful. We had to resort to continuously complaining to the local council about noise levels, public safety, intimidation, littering of bottles and used condoms, open drug dealing, fighting/arguments. I would often go to work as a nurse on little or no sleep due to noise issues. I am aware that other residents had the same experience and now have concerns about this happening again which would leave us no choice other than to continuously complain to our local council bodies once again. I live at the top of the street and experienced all the above issues from Annie's Bar it must have been really difficult for residents living nearer to the bar.

Although the above does not appear to have occurred with the current bar of Banksey's Bar I believe increased opening hours will potentially increase the risk of these concerns occurring once again.

The residents of Ross Street and Saxon Terrace do not want any animosity we just want to go about our lives in a relatively peaceful manner without worrying about increased noise levels and disturbances from longer opening hours. This happened previously and had a direct impact on residents mental health and wellbeing.

Current customers of Banksey's Bar congregate outside on Ross Street to smoke and the entrance also remains on Ross Street I thought there was consideration for the entrance to be moved to the Albert Road side?

Main concerns for objection are:

Increased noise level from live music/karaoke, audience participation.

Bar open currently from early in the day until midnight in keeping with other pubs in the locality. There is no need to increase opening times as this will just create an influx of people who just want to drink for longer, becoming more intoxicated increasing noise levels and disturbances in the area.

Taxi's dropping/picking customers off until early hours of the morning.

Kim Hesketh nee Fisher

From: James Howard <james.howard@cityofwindsor.ca>
Sent: 26 August 2024 12:59
To: Legal Licensing
Subject: Objection to license application - Banksys Bar

Good afternoon.

I would like to make an objection to the application of license extension that has been made by Banksy's Bar on Ross Street Widnes.

Firstly I have been made aware that the owner intends to extend the opening hours of the bar. Although currently there haven't been any major issues having the bar open longer will mean people leaving Wetherspoons and other bars can go there and become more inebriated. I worry this will cause more noise and anti-social behaviour from people leaving the bar.

I am also aware that the owner has asked for a license for live bands, karaoke etc. Having live music in such a small space is bound to cause excessive noise. I feel the owner has only thought about making money rather than the effect this will have on the rest of the street.

Kind regards
James Howard-Smith
Resident of Ross Street.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

23 August 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Letter of Objection

Application for Variation of Premises Licence
Name of Applicant Bethany Owens
Bankseys Bar, Albert Road, Widnes.

I am writing to formally object to the above application. I would like the Committee members to consider the health and wellbeing of the residents of Ross Street and Saxon Terrace when coming to a decision about the proposed extension to opening/closing hours and music licence hours in respect of this application.

I previously raised an objection to the Council in relation to the initial application made by the applicant 12 months ago when Bankseys bar opened its doors for business. I was invited, along with another neighbour to speak to the Licencing Committee and the Applicants legal representative stated that she didn't want to be like the previous bar (Annies Bar) playing music and causing a nuisance to the residents. He stated that the Applicant wanted to be a more up market wine bar playing background ambient music and attracting a different clientele. How things change! Now they want to open longer, serve alcohol for longer, play music longer and allow under age patrons in so they can purchase food. All of which, I believe, to be detrimental to the residents of Ross Street and Saxon Terrace.

The business is the same, as it's always been. It is a small bar, with its entrance and exit in a residential street., serving alcohol and playing music which brings all kinds of issues for residents in the immediate area, mainly noise nuisance. It is a well known fact that the more people drink the louder they become and this increases the risk of noise and anti-social behaviour which impacts the residents of Ross Street and Saxon Terrace.

By extending the opening hours there will be a longer period of time where there will be increased foot and vehicle traffic as customers travel to and from the bar. Car doors slamming, people talking whilst waiting for taxis also affect the residents of Ross Street, over the weekend residents may not be able to get to sleep before 2am, which is not acceptable. Also as Bankseys Bar is only a small venue customers may not be able to gain entry so will queue up outside, talking loudly and causing a noise nuisance.

I will reiterate the points made in my previous objection. Bankseys Bar, compared to the other establishments, is a very small space and I believe is not suitable to be a bar or for events such as live music or karaoke as it increases the potential for noise levels to increase as customers join in with the singing.. The last few weeks the noise levels have been increasing and only 2 weeks ago the noise coming out of the establishment was excruciating. This was 8,30pm at night and residents living nearer to the bar than I had to endure excessive noise. They were unable to hear their TVs. Totally unacceptable. It was agreed at the last Licencing Committee meeting last year that the Applicant would ensure that they would regularly monitor the external noise levels to make sure that there wouldn't be any noise nuisance for Residents. I don't believe this has been done as if it had been then the unacceptable noise levels over the past 2 weeks wouldn't have happened and residents wouldn't have had to have their health and wellbeing compromised. By approving longer opening hours there is no guarantee that external noise levels will be monitored.

The only entrance/exit door to the venue is in the residential street of terraced houses, Ross Street. There are 2 small transom windows which also open into the residential street. Although these are closed at a specified time the noise still can be heard when the door is opened and shut as patrons come and go. The terraced houses in Ross street are close together and front doors open onto the street. There are no grass verges to set the houses back from the road.

I acknowledge that Inevitably there will be noise, from any bar, as customers visit and leave the pub. If the application, to extend the opening hours, is approved then the time span for noise nuisance will be extended.

If the application for music to be played till closing time is approved this again is extremely likely to impact the residents living nearby. As the doors are opened and closed during the hours of business there is additional continuous noise disturbance for residents. As the evening progresses the noise will increase whether it's from people or music and this negatively impacts the health and wellbeing of the residents living in Ross Street and Saxon Terrace. Residents are entitled to be able to go to bed at a reasonable hour and cannot go to work the next day deprived of sleep. Children may also be affected by the noise nuisance and end up going to school tired. This is not acceptable. The lives and comfort of residents is paramount and we, as residents have a right to a level of peace and quiet,

Patrons also continue to smoke outside of the front entrance to Bankseys Bar despite the Applicant providing a smoking area to the back of the premises. This prevents people from being able to pass on the pavement so they have to cross over the road to get past. Nobody from the bar comes out to ask the people who are smoking to use the smoking area , at the rear of the building so people continue to smoke on the street.

There are also a couple of free standing advertising boards on the pavement as well causing an obstruction.

The area outside the pub is swept most mornings with cigarette ends being swept into the nearest drain rather than being swept up and put in the bin. I have witnessed this. Occasionally there are glasses and empty bottles of beer left on the pavement on a Sunday morning. By extending the opening hours will this result in more litter on Ross Street?? Once again the residents of Ross Street/Saxon Terrace have to put up with this.

By extending the hours it is likely to generate more empty bottles which need collecting. It was agreed at last years Licencing Committee meeting that collection would be within certain times in order to minimise disruption to residents. Unfortunately on several occasions this has not been adhered to as the bottle bin has been emptied at 7,15am. Once again the Applicant has not adhered to the agreed process for emptying the bottle bin and residents have had their sleep disturbed,

I also note that the application is requesting that under age patrons be allowed to enter the establishment in order to be served food between 11am and 8pm. Can they only go into the establishment if they buy food??

What happens if they just want to sit and watch a football match on TV??

Who is going to monitor it??

I assume that the under age patrons will be accompanied by an adult in order to be served?

Who will ensure that the under 18s leave the premises by the specified time??

Are there any exemptions for under age patrons to remain in the establishment after 8pm if they are watching a football game on TV??

With serving food will any food waste be contained in appropriate secure bins? What time will they be emptied ? as residents would not want to be woken at 6am by a bin lorry collecting the waste. What measures are in place for excess food waste that doesn't fit in bins as the entry is already awash with rats due to rubbish being dumped.

In my opinion The bar does not need to be open so late in a **residential** area and is not a suitable venue for holding live music events and Karaoke. I know that music and karaoke has taken place since the bar opened in August 2023 and I haven't personally been affected by any noise, as I live half way up the street, and I have not been at home for a month but I know that the residents closer to the bar have been affected and they have told me that the last couple of weeks has seen an increase in the noise levels heard from the bar.

I believe that the opening times should remain as they currently are and that live music and karaoke be restricted to cease at 11pm with recorded music being allowed until the pub closes. I believe that this will in turn reduce noise pollution and lessen the effects this application is going to have on the residents stress, mental health and wellbeing.

Residents have the right to enjoy peace and quiet and be able to go to bed and have a decent sleep before they have to get up for work or children to go to school. Extending the opening hours of this establishment will impact this right.

Residents of Ross Street/Saxon Terrace have worked together with the Council and Council Members over the past few years and with their help have improved the quality of life for most of the residents in Ross Street/Saxon Terrace. I would ask the Committee, therefore, to take all the residents' concerns into consideration when coming to a decision about the application that has been submitted by Bankseys Bar.

Yours Sincerely

Lyn Fletcher

Kim Hesketh nee Fisher

From: yvonne jones <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 13 August 2024 10:26
To: Legal Licensing

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To whom it may concern I am writing this e-mail to strongly object to the new licensing hours of Banksey's Bar. I have lived in Ross Street for 30 years. In which time the bar has had a few different owners. So we've had to put up with late nite revellers, damage to our car at 1 point. I'm quite happy for Banksey's to continue has they are, but definitely not new proposals. The thought off every wkend with late nite music and revellers is not acceptable in our Street. It is not fair to all the residents in our street, especially those of us who live nearer to the bar. Please do not let this happen.

Regards

Anthony and Yvonne Jones

Kim Hesketh nee Fisher

From: Jeanette Everitt <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 05 August 2024 20:10
To: Kim Hesketh nee Fisher
Subject: Re: Banksey's Bar

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Mrs Hesketh

I believe Bankseys bar is applying for an extension to their license. I wish to lodge an objection. I don't think there is any need for this bar to open later as it could lead to anti social behaviour. At the moment things seem to be settled the way they are.

This bar is on the end of a residential street and backs on to another street. It could lead to noise when people are leaving and it will carry more late at night. Also more taxis going along the street.

Yours sincerely

Jeanette Everitt

Sent from my iPad

Kim Hesketh nee Fisher

From: Danielle Collings
Sent: 01 August 2024 08:12
To: Kim Hesketh nee Fisher
Subject: FW: Premises Licence Variation - Banksey's Bar, Widnes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

From: Eddie Jones - CLLR <Eddie.Jones@hutton.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 7:57 PM
To: Danielle Collings <Danielle.Collings@hutton.gov.uk>; Ged Philbin <Ged.Philbin@hutton.gov.uk>; Angela Teeling <Angela.Teeling@hutton.gov.uk>
Subject: Re: Premises Licence Variation - Banksey's Bar, Widnes

Hello. The same grounds for objection, detriment to nearby and established residents, as before.
Thank you.
E.J.

Sent from Outlook for iOS

From: Danielle Collings <Danielle.Collings@hutton.gov.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2024 2:58:47 PM
To: Eddie Jones - CLLR <Eddie.Jones@hutton.gov.uk>; Ged Philbin <Ged.Philbin@hutton.gov.uk>; Angela Teeling <Angela.Teeling@hutton.gov.uk>
Subject: Premises Licence Variation - Banksey's Bar, Widnes

Good Afternoon,

We have received a Premises Licence Variation application from Banksey's Bar, Widnes – as they would like to amend their permitted hours of alcohol sales.

Please can you let me have any comments you may have by the 29th August 2024?

Kind Regards

Danielle

Danielle Collings
Licensing Officer
Legal Services | 4th Floor Municipal Building | Kingsway | Widnes | WA8 7QF
Tel: 0151 353 2222