

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 June 2023 22:31
To: Licensing <Licensing@lewisham.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Bird in Hand Pub Forest Hill - object to application for extending opening hours
Importance: High

Hi,

My name is [REDACTED] and I live in [REDACTED].

I would like to object to the application recently submitted for extending the opening hours to the pub "bird in hand".

For the following reason:

I live in proximity on the pub and in particular of the external terrace where the noise coming from the pub hasn't allowed me to sleep and it cause me distress. In addition to that the road called bird in hand passage when the pub open was often used, from the customers of the pub itself, to leave their cars on the footpath and often I couldn't even get access to my flat and I have asked to move the car, even at late time during the evening. Is only recently that with the pub closed for refurbishing works the road seems to be clear with less litters and cigarettes as the terrace was used as a smoking area, with a visible improvement on the quality of the road itself with the benefit of the people that live here.

The idea to extend the hours won't help to improve the place on the contrary it will create more problem than before and I don't personally think that a new management will change anything.

I hope this email will find your attention and I look forward to hear from you.

Second email from the same objector

Dear Kennedy

I would like to register my objection to the recent application to extend the opening hours of the bird in hand public house.

This establishment is in very close proximity to many residential properties including mine.

When it is open the noise from the customers makes it impossible for me to sleep.

I work Monday to Friday and have to wake early at 5.30 am to get across London to work. This would be made impossible if the pub were to open until 1am on Thursdays.

In addition i do not think it appropriate for a pub, so close to residential property should be allowed a licence estensione to 2am. That would make for very difficult weekends, particalarly as all other pub in the area close before then, clearly many people would simply walk to this one to continue their night out, I feel it highly unlikely that they would do so quietly.

I would therefore be grateful if my objection could be registered and taken into consideration before a final decision is made.

Yours sincerely

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 June 2023 11:08

To: Licensing <Licensing@lewisham.gov.uk>; amie.k.mccreery@met.police.uk; SaferCommunities <SaferCommunities@lewisham.gov.uk>

Subject: Bird-in-hand Pub / [REDACTED] Oppose application to extend The Bird in Hand business hours

Dear Licensing,

thank you in advance for sincerely empathetically listening to our thoughts and concerns. [REDACTED] and I ([REDACTED]) are writing in regards to the new application of Pub extending their business hours at the 'The Bird In Hand pub' on 35 Dartmouth Road, Forest Hill.

We are the freehold home owners of [REDACTED] from The Bird in Hand Pub on [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] and I oppose the proposal of extension hours for the following reasons:

(0) First of all, home owners are more likely to oppose and renters are less likely to complain due to fear of retribution/or less invested, and can always easily leave to rent somewhere else. With that in mind...However more renters are complaining/concerned now.

1. **The Bird in hand Pub (no matter who runs/owns it) will always say they are not responsible for the people lingering off the premises causing anti-social behavior or parking on Bird in Hand Passage blocking or urinating and are not legally bound to act on it. Which means I personally have to act/risk my life/children's wellbeing like other neighbours as 'unofficial street police' and risk verbal abuse or physical harm again.**
2. **The open Terrace at the Bird in hand pub has a smoking culture type of clients, and may continue to drop litter on path and attract people lingering to pick up drugs class A and Class B and cigarettes.**

(3) Crime issues such as drug dealing and drunk drug dealers dealing may increase my interference to protect my family and [REDACTED] neighbour's property. Even if the Pub doesn't allow them in they will still see it as a meeting point.

(4) Late night revelers taking liberties in urinating on my property and other neighbours property attracting mice and entering the homes.

(5) Parking issues such as blocking my garage door or across the double yellow lines or across other neighbours front doors or their private car parks in the late hours. Plus people are now using Moped drivers in the late night to deliver small packages in the dark to smoking punters during football matches because they think there are less people to see catch/them.

(6) Cross pollination from neighboring The Hill Pub which may increase in yelling in the early morning up to 4am. Example: intoxicated individuals leave The Hill Pub and then hop over to the Bird in Hand in the late/early morning. Causing an intimidation bottle neck of fear for ourselves/neighbours in path if we step outside.

(7) My two young children (go to [REDACTED] XXXXXX) are not able to sleep and I have to approach the individuals and we may have other confrontations to report.

(8) People will possibly climb up the steps for discussion on the fire escape (as in the past) and will look into our windows and cause noise.

(9) Blogs on the internet the past 15 years have explained the culture of smokers/gangs at the Bird in Hand Pub/Passage as examples that we feel it has not been earned/or warrant to enhance this/these clientele with extended hours. People with Children on the path such as myself will turn into Grizzly bears to protect our children's wellbeing, and to continue to attend Outstanding diverse schools such as Elliot Bank Primary.

As residents of Forest Hill since 2008 we aspire to keep/maintain the community feel with local children and families for the years to come as this is our life investing in local safety. Examples of Pubs that we personally experienced a less threatening atmosphere/culture in the evenings to my family are the Sylvan Post, Dartmouth Arms, The Signal and the Witherspoons Pub in Forest Hill.

Today the usual individual gangs are still lingering around the Bird in Hand path while the pub is in refurbishment because the terrace is still attracting smokers while the pub is closed, we believe if the hours were extended the smoking culture individuals will cause disruption like the example when the Pub had illegal late night opening hours in June 2022 last year. We couldn't sleep as we watched people lingering on Terrace at midnight and even up to 2am making noise as the walls create a big echo down the Passage.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 June 2023 16:59
To: Licensing <Licensing@lewisham.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection: Bird in Hand licensing application

To whom it may concern.

I would like to object to the application for the extension of licensed hours for the Bird in Hand Pub (SE23 3HN) on the following grounds:

Prevention of public nuisance

The Bird in Hand sits in an area of very high population density. The Forest Hill ward density is 8299/km² (vs a London average of 5596/km² and UK average of 276km² - stats from 2021 census).

Coupled with this density, the Dartmouth Road area already has a number of establishments with later operating hours, with four other pubs with 01:00 Fri/ Sat night licence restrictions in a very short walk. This already causes disturbance, with regular problems both with noise emanating from establishments and their related outdoor areas, but also noise associated with the dispersal of customers at the end of the evening. Last summer was particularly bad, and my household made complaints to the Council about both the Bird in Hand and the Hill, another local pub.

Given these problems, and the fact that the current precedent in the local area is for the latest licence to be 01:00 Fri/ Sat, there seems to be no good reason to extend the hours for the Bird in

Hand. A particular concern is that, as this would be the latest licence locally, extra custom would be attracted from other local establishments, causing even more disturbance.

Public Safety

Within the Forest Hill ward, especially on Dartmouth Road, there are significant problems with antisocial pavement parking. This is particularly bad in the evenings, when the pavements opposite the Hill pub and the Bird in Hand are covered in cars. We live at the bottom of Bird in Hand passage, and our private car park is already used by patrons of the local pubs to park, turn, and idle. Extension of the Bird in Hand hours would increase this problem, which endangers pedestrians and other road users.

I'm happy to provide further information if required.

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Sent: 12 June 2023 18:21
To: Licensing <Licensing@lewisham.gov.uk>
Subject: Bird In Hand Pub

Dear Sir/ Madam

I wish to respond to the sign which has been placed on The Bird In Hand Pub window regarding longer trading and opening hours.

I strongly feel that any establishment being awarded longer trading hours should be based and rewarded on their recent trading behaviour and the luxury of longer hours should be earned.

I will simply list some of the recent activity that has happened concerning the Bird In Hand Pub:

- The music being ear-splitting loud. On one occasion, I went to complain and was told flatly by the manager, and I quote 'I am here to make money, not keep my neighbours happy' On a Friday, I have had to put the subtitles on my TV it has been so loud.

- See patrons that drink at the side, under the BIH iron awning, allowing their dogs to defecate in Bird In Hand Passage and when challenged being told to '££££ off' I wrote to the planning committee when it was proposed this awning was going to be built and said that this would encourage unsocial behaviour as this would give their drinkers somewhere comfortable to congregate and I, sadly, was 100% accurate.

- Seeing patrons regularly urinating up the side of the pub in full view of anyone walking down Bird In Hand Passage. I used to snap a picture and send it to the manager but they have since blocked the account. The pub is often too intimidating to enter and complain.
- The pubs rubbish bins overflowing with trash, littering the entire street with no attempt to keep this area tidy.
- Allowing patrons to flick literally hundreds of cigarette butts into the street and never sweeping them up. On one occasion, for no reason, a drink customer flicked his cigarette at me when I was walking home.
- Regularly witnessing patrons smoking dope, very openly in the outside awning area. I went into the bar when passing to confront the staff: on one occasion the barman laughed and another time he literally shrugged. I can only presume they are not bothered by the drug use as they have made no attempt to stop it and I witnessed it weekly.
- Witnessing a full on crime operation between The Hill and Bird In Hand Pub. I have sat in the bar opposite and seen people trading bags of stolen meat, darting into the carpark area to trade drugs (on one occasion being aggressively challenged when I simply looked in the redirection and looked disapproving as one of these deals took place) I also see one customer, who regularly steals drinks from the Tesco petrol station and sets up a mini 'off licence' on The Bird In Hand windowsill and openly sells to the customers. One patron recently popped out of the pub and started to change number plates on a car outside my house 30 yards from the pub and when I looked at him disapprovingly (saying nothing) he literally screamed at me saying 'I have been going to that pub for years and you have no right to live here!'
- Hearing a man very loudly organising a drugs deal on his phone on the balcony on the aide of the bar and customers popping out the bar and sitting in blacked out vehicles parked at the end of the street and returning to their drinking.
- Drunk customers playing their own music with a wireless speaker and being completely unchallenged by the staff.
- On many occasions witnessing incredibly aggressive and out of control customers. Once I saw a man being barricaded out of the pub and he screamed and tried to break the windows and another time I returned home in a taxi to see a violent altercation outside with someone screaming 'he's got a knife!'
- It has proved impossible to pass the corner without hearing a loud collection of swear words and it is very common to see very drunk costumers mid afternoon, in the week. I know this is not avoidable but it is depressing this is on the entrance and sets the mood to arriving home.

I compare their behaviour with the Sylvan opposite who run a very 'tight ship': quiet customers drinking outside, everyone removed from the street before 10.00 and

causes no bother at all. I mention this because it is possible to have a high street pub near residential properties and both to exist effectively and in peace.

My larger issues are with The Hill a few doors down but I will address these problems in other correspondence as I know this issue directly involves the BIH.

In conclusion the pub is noisy, intimidating, a haven for crime, has zero regard for residents, filthy and unpleasant. I have emailed the police about the crime aspects of both The Hill and the BIH but sadly, this does not even warrant a response from the police. I would like to stress none of the above is in anyway exaggerated or embellished. Frankly, it amazes me that places like The Hill and The Bird in Hand are allowed to trade at all.

If you need any other details, please contact me. I live xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. If you could confirm this email has been received I would be very grateful.

From: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Sent: 16 June 2023 11:24
To: Licensing <Licensing@lewisham.gov.uk>
Cc: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Subject: Re- Variation of Premises Licence Bird in Hand Pub 35 Dartmouth rd SE233HN

Good Morning Licensing,

My name is xxxxxxxxxxxx, and my husband xxxxxxxxxxxx and I live xxxxxxxxxxxx the Bird in Hand Public House on xxxxxxxxxxxx

The new owner's request (amongst others) to extend their operating hours is of great concern.

As it stands, the pub is very noisy at all times of day, with drinkers often sitting on the open veranda (especially in summer), getting vocally drunk, swearing, and throwing rubbish, cigarette butts etc onto the little road on which we live. The noise and rubbish both sweep down the hill into our carport, and the rubbish has to be cleaned daily or it blocks drains.

Many a time we have had to deal with their customers peeing etc peeing in the what use to be the pub carpark and also into our pot plants or (on one occasion) try to have sex in front of our car (directly in front of our living room window), or coming down to the end of the road to smoke cannabis and continue drinking - glasses in hand. Drug dealing (not necessarily originating from the pub) is also an issue with clients coming down the road for their "pick-up", or handing over the drugs at the railing of the veranda of the pub.

This is very much a residential area with many families that have to use this road and pass the pub many times each day. It is not at all conducive to a good quality of community and family life.

The extension of hours to either earlier in the day or later at night would destroy any semblance of civility and our right to quiet enjoyment of our home and neighbourhood.

Thank-you for taking the time to read this and add our objection to this change. If you are able to send us the complete request, so that we may see the specifics of all the changes that have been requested by the new owners, it would be much appreciated.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 June 2023 19:39
To: Licensing <Licensing@lewisham.gov.uk>
Subject: Licence extension - Bird in Hand Pub

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to register an objection to the extension of the licence for the Bird in Hand pub on Dartmouth Road, Forest Hill.

I own and live in a flat [REDACTED] ([REDACTED])

To access my flat, I must pass down [REDACTED] and past the outside area of the pub.

An extension to the license of the pub will increase the time that the pub is open. This will likely mean that there will be noise from the pub until the early hours of the morning in an area that has a lot of residential buildings. I understand that in previous years the noise and music from the Bird in Hand pub, as well as The Hill pub nearby, has been a nuisance and has been disturbing for residents of xxxxxx Terrace. This is worsened by the fact that there are already several pubs on the vicinity who are open late and play loud music.

I am also concerned for public safety in having large numbers of people outside the pub, including residents having to pass through pub customers who have spilt out onto the street (which is a narrow alleyway) to get to their homes. It also increases the risk of residents being accosted by pub customers.

From: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Sent: 20 June 2023 16:14
To: Licensing <Licensing@lewisham.gov.uk>
Subject: Bird in Hand Pub, 35 Dartmouth Road, SE23 3HN - Licensing Application, Full Variation

Regarding: Bird in Hand Pub, 35 Dartmouth Road, SE23 3HN - Licensing Application, Full Variation.

Dear Safer Communities Service (Licensing),

I'm writing to oppose the application for extended hours as these will negatively impact the operation of my car park at xxxxxxxx of the pub. I worry that late-night alcohol consumption will lead to a public nuisance and disorderly conduct on my property. As the local authority knows, the car park is unfortunately often the site of vagrancy and anti-social behaviour. I'm concerned that extended hours will exacerbate this issue.

Regards,