

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing on behalf of the Deptford Society to submit an objection to the application for a full variation to the existing licence at the Job Centre Pub.

The Deptford Society is the local amenity group for the Deptford High St and Creekside Conservation Areas. Our members are long-term residents, business owners and representatives of other interested groups who live and work within the conservation areas and the adjoining streets.

The applicant is seeking a full variation to its existing licence for Provision of Regulated Entertainment (Recorded Music), Alcohol for Consumption On and Off the Premises until 1am Thursday to Saturday and for Late Night Refreshment until 1.30am Thursday to Saturday. This represents an hour of extra trading Thursday to Saturday.

The Deptford Society objects to this application on the grounds of prevention of public nuisance. We believe that granting extended hours and having patrons exiting the premises after 1am Thursday to Saturday will have a detrimental impact on the reasonable sleeping patterns of the many people who live next to, behind, opposite and around the premises. No matter how well managed a licensed premises is, staff cannot influence the behaviour of patrons once they leave the premises and disperse along the high street and adjacent streets. We believe the current licensed hours are already beyond what is appropriate for the same reasons and suggest that this application for extended hours be refused.

It is important to point out that although Deptford High St has the appearance of a commercial high street at ground level, the upper levels are home to a residential population in a density comparable to any suburban street.

These households range from singles and couples to larger shared and family households, many of whom are long-term residents. At night time Deptford High St, with its low volume of traffic (which has decreased further since recent alterations to the road system) has a low level of ambient noise, making it an attractive place to live. This fact transforms Lewisham Council's responsibility to deliver the licensing objectives since these residents have a legal right to protection from statutory nuisance, as set out in the Environmental Health Act 1990. Night-time noise that is likely to disturb sleep is a consideration under this act, due to its obvious detrimental effects on health and well-being.

The Deptford Society is concerned that this distinction should be properly recognised when planning and licensing decisions are being taken. Over the last year, largely due to the disjointed and unreliable procedure for notifying residents of applications, licences have been issued to premises that are surrounded by residential dwellings to allow them to open late on weekends, some until 1am and in one case, until 3am. We are concerned that these late hours are being regarded as a precedent by other applicants, with the potential for an increase in late-night licensing and a consequent increase in public nuisance to those who live on and around the high street.

The Deptford Society supports the development of Deptford's night-time economy, and welcomes the arrival of new bars and restaurants in the high street, but seeks to ensure that the correct balance is struck between commercial demands and the needs of residents, to enable them to continue to co-exist successfully; the increase in licenced premises should not

come at the expense of the people who have made their homes here and who contribute so much to the unique character of Deptford.

yours faithfully

Helena Russell/Mark Shackleton

Co-chairs

Deptford Society