

I am writing to object to this new alcohol licence for 24 hours a day 7 days a week on the grounds three grounds of Prevention of Public Nuisance, Public Safety and Prevention of Crime and Disorder.

Let me start by saying we all want a vibrant high street and the lead story of our recent Sydenham Assembly Newsletter (attached) was to **Shop Safe, Shop Local** to show support for our independent traders and support the economic recovery. For many years we have promoted shop local as we recognise how far the local pound goes. I have supported the Responsible Retail Traders Agreement as we want our traders to thrive in the community.

In the past and at the moment the high street is blighted by street drinkers sitting on the bench at Queensthorpe Square as well as street beggars sitting on the pavement by the cash dispensers at Nat West bank on the corner of Queensthorpe Square, next to Tesco on the opposite side of the road and Sainsbury's Local near Cobbs Corner.

My concern is with traders selling cheap alcohol 24/7 which presents a magnet for the street drinkers and beggars. I have observed residents offering to buy a sandwich in the shops for this community but they have been rebuffed as they only want money. In the past street drinkers have been loud and aggressive and we do not want to return to that situation – particularly late in the evening when residents are returning on the late trains from the West End and want to be able to walk home without worrying about their personal safety. The report from the Chair of the Sydenham SNT ward panel at the Sydenham Assembly on Saturday 12 June included the police action in moving on street beggars and street drinkers as well as tackling pilfering from shops along the high street.

New Istanbul would be another outlet for 24/7 sale of cheap beers and ciders – as happens at Istanbul based at 91 Sydenham Road. I understand the two premises are going to be linked and 91 Sydenham Road already has a 24/7 licence. The sales of cheap alcohol at all hours is in addition to the anti-social behaviour displayed by the street drinkers and beggars. The noise of a group of mainly men gathering in Queensthorpe Square can be tolerated during the day but the noise late at night affects local residents and their families, many of which include young children who need a good night's sleep.

Queensthorpe Square leads to Earlsthorpe Mews which is the access road to the rear of the shops on the odd side of the high street and exits at Mayow Road.

I have been contacted by local residents who live on Earlsthorpe Road who object to the noise generated by the addition of industrial sized cooling units for the over densely installed fridge and freezing units inside the shop unit, and installed at the rear of 81 Sydenham Road. This faces Earlsthorpe Mews and the gardens of Earlsthorpe Road. The new units are of a different type to the simple air conditioning units for the previous retailers that were Barclay's bank. The residents are requesting a reduction to the sound pollution and control over the opening hours. The installation of the cooling units is without planning permission and this has been reported to planning enforcement. I share this as I want to make sure our traders understand that they have to follow the statutory requirements in running a business.

Local residents want responsible traders that are part of the community and I have notified officers that this trader gutted the premises of 81 Sydenham Road and placed the builders rubble into Lewisham Council's pink commercial waste bags and left this on the pavement for collection by our trade waste team – please see the attached email from the 6 May. They completely removed the Barclays shop front and installed a new shop shutter again without planning permission.

I want to suggest a compromise on the times for the sale of alcohol and would suggest a reasonable time of trading would be 7am until 11pm as this fits in the peace and quiet enjoyment our tenants expect. Many of the flats above the shops along Sydenham Road are privately rented and I have casework on the noise transferring within these Victorian buildings with wooden floors.

I have copied in Annabel McLaren who is Chair of the Sydenham Society and has given the support of the Sydenham Society to the above objection.

Kind regards

Chris

**Chris Best**

**Labour Councillor for Sydenham**

**Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care**

**020 8676 9516**

**Twitter: [@ChrisBestUK](https://twitter.com/ChrisBestUK)**

**Web site: [Chris Best](http://ChrisBest.com)**