

Appendix C

Mrs Turner

2, Woodpath

Southsea

Hants

PO5 3DX

Licensing Department

Portsmouth City Council

Re: Proposed Extension to License (Huis Bar)

I am writing to object to the application made by Huis bar in Elm Grove, Southsea to extend their licensed opening hours. My objection is based on the impact this would have to the residential area in which I live through further noise and traffic disruption, as well as the inability of the owner to maintain a clean and safe environment. I believe the business is run more as a bar than a restaurant or bistro now.

The current owner of this business has steadily increased the opening hours and this has led to a number of issues; customers smoke on the pavement and road outside and drop cigarette butts in large numbers. They also block the pavements and the door staff (when employed) do not encourage them to move. Taxis picking up customers often pull up on the pavement and block the road, Woodpath is a one-way road but taxis often reverse back onto Elm Grove rather than follow the one way signs and this, again, causes disruption on Elm Grove and outside of my property in Woodpath. There has been an increase in noise as crowds gather outside after closing time.

Customers have begun to urinate in the driveway next to my home and also on the adjacent corner (where there is an entrance to Friendship House). The smell of urine is often strong and it's both embarrassing and frightening to find men urinating when I am walking to my car which is parked in the drive at the rear of the restaurant and adjacent to my own property. The door staff do not 'police' the area around the bar – they stand in the doorway and open the door for customers entering and leaving the building.

The music and noise prevent and disrupt my sleep so I am unable to open windows at the front of the property. I have tried to discuss this with the owner of the business but he is obviously disinterested. Increased, or later opening hours, will add to this disruption. The owner has been asked to ensure that the kitchen door is closed at a given time but he has stopped adhering to this.

My greatest concern is the dirty and unsafe manner in which this business manages waste at the rear of the restaurant that is so close to my home. (I attach photographs taken over a period of time in November and December 2017 to support this). The barrels and other large plastic bottles filled with various liquids are left, along with food packaging and, on occasion food waste, at the rear of the property and this has attracted vermin (foxes and rats). The attached photos show how barrels and plastic bottles containing a waste product are left unmarked and in an open area. On at least two occasions I have been woken by groups of men rolling the barrels across the road but have been too concerned for my own safety to intervene. I believe there should be a barrel store but the restaurant clearly lacks the space to safely store barrels as its bins are also left outside of a secure area and are unlocked. There is also a car parked on the hard standing and this has made using my drive more hazardous as the large waste bins are unsecured and can be pushed across the driveway.

I have had to remove the large polystyrene crates used to pack fish or seafood from the driveway as they have blown out of the bin.

I really hope that this application will be refused as I believe it is unfair to grant a licence to a business that is so close to so many homes and that has already caused concern and disruption. I have lived in this property for 30 years and have real concerns about how this proposed extension to 3 A.M would impact my life. Any extension will lead to an increase in footfall and the issues outlined in my objection will be exacerbated, I believe, as customers who are already intoxicated will come to this after others are closed.