



The Licensing Manager
Licensing Services
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AL

12th November 2015

Dear Sir / Madam

Application for variation of existing license LAPREM/6059 Queens Hotel Southsea

I am writing to express my vehement objection to the application by the Queens Hotel to vary their licence. In particular, the performance of live and recorded music in the hotel garden from 1000 to 0200 7 days a week, and the sale of alcohol to non-residents from 0730. Homeheights is an 11 storey retirement development which stands immediately to the east of the hotel gardens separated only by a strip of undeveloped land at a distance of considerably less than 100 metres. The noise from outside functions in the garden reverberates and is magnified by the size and shape of the building. As a result it is extremely intrusive and causes great distress to those residents directly facing the garden on the west of the building. This is often exacerbated by the prevailing south-westerly wind in the area. I note that part M (a) of the application states that events at the hotel have "been managed well and successfully, always upholding the four licensing objectives". I contend that this is in fact not the case. City Council Pollution Team Officers have been called to Homeheights on numerous occasions over the past year and their monitoring equipment has determined that the noise levels emanating from the hotel were excessive in the majority of instances. As a result they have subsequently had cause to visit the hotel to remind them of their obligations under the existing licence. For ease of reference the case number is [redacted] and the case officer is [redacted]. I stress that I understand the hotel's desire to run a successful and profitable business but contend that there is a reasonable limit to the noise and the time that I should be obliged to tolerate. Indoor events at the hotel have caused problems in the past, particularly when doors have been left open by smokers or on hot summer nights, both issues that are easily remedied. For an outdoor event however, to be allowed to continue until 2 o'clock in the morning is clearly untenable and would subject me to intolerable disturbance at an uncivilised hour. Furthermore, whilst accepting that hotel residents have 24 hour access to alcohol, it is clear that the provision of alcohol to non-residents from 0730 presents a high risk of increased noise levels and antisocial behaviour. I submit therefore that, given the history of existing noise disturbance, the inevitable imposition of further disturbance at an unsociable hour mean that this licence variation should not be permitted.

Yours Sincerely Eileen Wickenden

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