



4/2/2021

Dear Concerned Resident,

We have been advised by Portsmouth Licencing office of your written submission and they have informed us that as majority of the concerns are similar, it is perfectly acceptable for us to answer them in one letter which they will circulate.

Unfortunately, a lot of the submissions only utilised the information on the Blue Notices and did not investigate fully the documents that were available to be found online on the Council's website. If these had been accessed, you would have seen that we stated that any outdoor event will indeed finish at Midnight. Which having read your submissions and suggestions this is seen to be an acceptable time and completely empathises with the wellbeing of people nearby. There will also not be an event held every day of the week.

It is unfortunate that the paperwork used by all Local Authorities to request a premises licence are not overly user friendly and attempting to write our vision into a few boxes is actually quite restrictive – "Live Music" is such a broad term and I think that quite rightly when seeing this the reader automatically fears the worse, however live music also refers to a single person playing a piano or a harp- right up to a full blown orchestra or band. We want to re-assure you that this will be a high-class establishment, attracting the type of clientele that would not bring the area into disrepute.

Regarding excess noise and concerns about your ability to sleep, we too will have to be very mindful of the level and timings of music and noise as we will have our own guests to consider, many of which may be un-connected to any event that may be running while they stay with us. Our guests in the building will have paid for five star luxury accommodation and service, they will be expecting to receive a good night's sleep and awake refreshed and not to have been kept awake, so bearing this in mind it is not an issue that anyone living in a nearby building needs to be concerned by.

Similarly, Companies that we use to deliver or collect will also need to be mindful of our guests and therefore schedule services at appropriate times.

Grand Hotel Excelsior International Ltd.
Hazelwood,
Gregory Lane,
Southampton, U.K.
Postcode: SO32 2BS
Tel: +44 (0) 1489 861356

Registered in England No:8165696
Registered office as above

There will be a door concierge service which will operate 24 hours a day, we are also obliged due to the licencing requirement to install CCTV security systems and comprehensive lighting, all adding to the overall security of the area. This will ensure that any outside "activity" that would be unwelcome can be dealt with swiftly and efficiently and should have the benefit to make residents feel more secure about their own properties.

Majority of the cars will still use the existing car park area which is well away from the main building and the resident's areas, thus taking any leavers away from the direction of the apartments. There will be signage asking anyone to leave quietly. Unlike before when it was purely used as a wedding venue with no accommodation and all participants potentially left at the same time en-masse, many will be staying as guests and therefore not leaving or leaving in a piecemeal fashion.

We would really like to focus on what we will bring to the area, rather than diminish. The building has been empty or not used to its capacity for several years hence why it was up for sale and we appreciate that this has lulled people into a sense of quiet, so the fear of what might be is real and understandable. The size and nature of the building made it attractive to a multitude of potential purchasers and uses and I quote from the sales particulars—

"DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY-We consider there is significant potential to redevelop or re-occupy the building and grounds (as a whole or in parts) for a wide range of alternative uses such as residential conversion, educational/training centre, nursing home/healthcare, event/conference centre, offices, designer hotel etc."

On reading all of the above we had hoped that providing Portsmouth with its first 5 star Hotel would have been a welcome relief to the residents – it was inevitable that the building would not remain an empty unused resource forever and the fact that we will have at all times to be mindful of our own paying guests should be seen as comforting news for all in the vicinity. We really hope that reading this will have helped set your minds at rest.

Kind regards

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Helen Hubbard.

Helen Hubbard - Company Administrator