

APPENDIX C

Andy Cook
Garden Flat
21 Clarendon Road
Southsea
PO5 2ED
17/08/22

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Sherlock's Bar – Late licence application

I am writing to register my objection to the late license variation application submitted by Sherlock's Bar at 17 Clarendon Road, Southsea and am grateful for the opportunity to express my concerns about this application.

Firstly, I would like to highlight that this establishment is immediately adjacent to a high density of residential properties whose occupants are already suffering significant distress from the inconsiderate and anti-social behaviour of the customers and the bar's proprietors.

My major objections relate to noise levels and behaviours of the customers of the bar:

- Raucous, loud and drunk customers sitting outside the front of the bar until 11.00pm, this is a particular issue on Sunday nights.
- Loud and drunk customers leaving the bar after it closes at 11pm, arguing or fighting in the street after closing time.
- Music and singing so loud that it is audible inside our house despite the doors to Sherlock's bar being closed and our windows being closed.
- Large numbers of customers congregating outside the bar obstructing the pavement and littering.

I have previously written directly to the proprietor, expressing my concerns and have asked that noise levels are modified. I have also made formal complaints about the noise levels emanating from Sherlock's Bar to Richard Maidment (complaints 21/01972/ENI & 22/01681/ENI).

I am particularly affected by the noise levels from customers using the outside area at the front of Sherlock's Bar which is wholly unsuitable for the purpose for which it is being used.

The frontage of Sherlock's Bar consists of a very narrow, roughly 1m wide strip, which is being advertised and used as a 'terrace'. Realistically, this strip could seat around 6-8 people plus furniture and still stay within the boundary of the property. The proprietor has chairs,

benches and tables, which could seat around 12-14 customers. This space is used as a beer garden throughout the day and night, is over-crowded with furniture and then with large groups of customers, the numbers of whom exceed both the number of seats provided and the boundaries of the property. This means they spill over onto the footpath, obstructing the public pavement area. The noise generated by these groups of customers is very often loud and raucous and goes on until past 11pm.

The atmosphere in Sherlock's Bar at weekends is one of loud live music or karaoke, fuelled by happy hour cheap drink promotions. The combination of alcohol and singing creates a party atmosphere which inevitably leads to loud, disturbing and sometimes aggressive behaviour spilling onto the outside space and into the road.

This is not an accident; it is an active marketing ploy designed to attract a certain kind of customer towards Sherlock's Bar. I have attached sample screen shots from Sherlock's Bar's social media, which clearly demonstrate this type of promotion which is out of context for the neighbourhood in which the bar is situated.

Unfortunately, customers do not appear to be managed or moderated in any way by the Proprietor or his staff. There do not seem to be any controls on the number of people using the outside space and there is no evidence to suggest customers are asked to consider the local residents and monitor their behaviour or noise levels; in fact, the noise levels we experience on a very frequent basis is evidence that suggests the contrary.

I understand that I live in an urban area and naturally I expect some external noise but my sleep, and therefore well-being, is being severely impacted by the noise levels from this establishment. I have to get up at 5.30am every morning in order to run my own business, which is now suffering as a result of this disruption. It also means I cannot enjoy a peaceful weekend in my garden or even inside my house without hearing this constant disturbance.

I would also like to say that I have no issues with any of the other establishments on Clarendon Road, all of whom seem to be able to conduct their businesses without negatively impacting the lives of local residents. It seems abundantly clear that Sherlock's Bar is not an establishment being run as an amenity in sympathy with its surroundings.

Finally, I would like to formally request Sherlock's Bar's application for a late license is rejected and further, given the historic complaints made, that Sherlock's Bar's current license and its conditions are reviewed. I also respectfully request that the outside space is closed after 9pm, with customers unable to drink or congregate outside the premises after this time, which is the case for other licensed premises in residential areas.

Yours Faithfully

Andy Cook