

Representation from IP2/2

From: Marios Georgiades [<mailto:marios.georgiades@gmail.com>]
Sent: 17 June 2016 20:21
To: Ellie Green; Licensing
Cc: Tzenj; Antigone Georgiadou
Subject: The Winchmore pub, 235 Winchmore Hill Road

Dear Sirs

We write as the concerned residents of 250 Winchmore Hill Road, which is situated opposite to the Winchmore pub.

We refer to the application by the proprietors of the Winchmore for a licence for extended opening hours. As residents who will be directly affected by the late opening, we wish to register our strong objections to this proposal.

We recall many incidents of public disorder offences, disturbances and nuisance caused by patrons of the Willow which became regular occurrences when that establishment operated extended opening hours on Friday and Saturday evenings. Such incidents included amongst other things revving of car engines, use of cars horns, speeding of cars and general loud, drunken and disorderly behaviour long past the hours of 12 and 1 in the morning.

We have seen that this pattern has already begun reoccurring since the Winchmore re-opened and this will only intensify if the pub is granted a late licence.

Ever since the Winchmore has reopened we have already experienced loud music emanating from the pub which can be heard from inside our house (even with the windows closed - our house is fully double-glazed), patrons loitering outside the pub and at bus stops being loud and boisterous, broken pint glasses in our driveway and beyond, customers illegally parking on grass verges outside our house etc. The current proprietors have, in our view, proven to be incapable of controlling the behaviour of their customers. What likelihood is there that this will improve if patrons are able to drink for a further hour and leave the premises even later?

We have made numerous complaints to the Council about recent disturbances but these have not been substantiated because the Council has failed to witness them. On the most recent occasion we called the noise team they took two hours to return our call, by which time the pub had closed and it was clearly too late for them to witness the noise disturbance. We have taken video and photographic evidence which we are happy to show the council and can also provide further copies of our numerous emailed complaints. We fear that the Council is not doing enough to investigate our concerns and will proceed to grant the Winchmore a late licence in the mistaken belief that no complaints have been made against the establishment and that the residents are completely satisfied with how it is operated - this is simply not the case!

The licensing authority should not be persuaded by any arguments that soundproofing, a robust dispersal policy or the calibre of clientele will result in disturbances being kept to a minimum. Similar arguments were made by the owners of the Willow and measures implemented which ultimately

proved fruitless. It was only when opening hours were restricted that the disturbances ceased. The reality is that once patrons leave the curtilage of the property there is little the owners can do to control the behaviour of their customers.

Since the Willow's late night licence was revoked and their opening hours reduced to the standard hours, the quality of life for the residents improved greatly. The number of late night disturbances on Friday and Saturday nights tailed-off significantly.

It should be remembered that the pub is situated in a wholly residential area with no other businesses in the vicinity. Many young families and pensioners reside in the area; indeed our household includes two pensioners who are not of the appetite or physical condition to withstand the regular disturbances and nuisance which is likely to become the norm if the Winchmore's opening hours are extended.

We request that the licensing authority reject the pub owners' application for extended opening hours. This would inevitably just result in a repeat of the frequent disturbances when the Willow operated similar hours. As mentioned previously, we have already experienced incidents of anti-social behaviour since the pub reopened. This is only likely to intensify if the pub's opening hours were extended. We would implore the Council to not put the commercial interests of the pub owners (who as far as we know may have no affinity with the area) ahead of the quality of life of the many residents. We would plead that you do not grant the application and subject the residents to the same miserable experience which they had to endure for several years when the Willow operated similar hours. The residents made exhaustive efforts to secure a better quality of life for themselves and their families by having the Willow's late licence reviewed. We hope that these efforts do not prove to be in vain. It simply cannot be fair or proper that a change of ownership, especially to owners who have already struggled to eradicate anti-social behaviour and nuisance, is sufficient to trigger the grant of a late licence which will likely impact on residents' quality of life.

We thank you for considering our representations.

Yours faithfully

Soteris, Loukia, Antigone and Tzeni Georgiades.

Marios Georgiades

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