

## Comments for Licensing Application 11/02544/LAPRE

### Application Summary

Application Number: 11/02544/LAPRE

Address: 138A - 138B High Street Sevenoaks Kent. TN13 1XE

Proposal: Premises Licence

Case Officer: Leeann Leeds

### Customer Details

Name: Mr Nicholas Thorne

Address: 1 Plymouth Drive, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3RW

### Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Licensing Application

Comment Reasons:

- Crime Objections
- Noise Disturbance
- Opening Hours
- Safety of Premises

Comment:8:45 AM on 06 Oct 2011 My wife and I consider the existing permitted hours are quite long enough. Extending them would encourage excessive drinking and its consequences in terms of crime and noise in the early hours in the High Street and surrounding areas. This is a pleasant market town - not Party Central, Ibiza.

6:19 PM on 06 Oct 2011 PLEASE DO NOT MAKE MY PERSONAL DETAILS AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Sevenoaks is a busy, pleasant and safe town of specialist shops and good quality restaurants mixed with residential housing. Opening up a night-club with extended licensing hours in town is totally out of keeping with the atmosphere of the town and will bring unruly late night clubbers to the town from outside the district reminiscent of a few years ago when there were fights in the town and a girl was raped by drunken revellers.

I believe the site should not have extended licensing hours.

The Sevenoaks Chronicle article does not correctly represent local opinion as all the locals I have spoken to universally express concern and for it to be welcome by a Maidstone clubber only increases the concern.

The licence applicant does not appear to have any local experience or personal investment in the character of the town.

~~John@btinternet.com~~  


~~24~~ **Pembroke Road**  
**Sevenoaks**  
**Kent TN13 1XR**

Licensing Department  
Sevenoaks District Council  
Argyll Road  
Sevenoaks  
Kent

4th October 2011

Dear Sirs

Re: Proposed Nightclub 'Wonderland'

I was horrified to learn that there is a licensing application for a new nightclub in the old Slug and Lettuce building. Those of us who live in the centre of town are already seriously disturbed by noisy drunks in particular on Friday and Saturday nights. The worst area being around the Marmaris kebab shop in London Road, where they congregate, shout, throw up, pee and litter around the cross roads and down to the station.

Any extra premises catering for this type of clientele would be a disproportionate nuisance to surrounding residents but as I gather this application is for seven nights a week and to a time even later than the existing establishments, it would be disastrous.

I cannot see that a nightclub, even one with such a bizarre theme as Alice in Wonderland (drinking out of top hats?), would be of any benefit to the town of Sevenoaks. It is neither in keeping with the nature of the town nor likely to provide any advantages. Those coming to visit a nightclub are not going to be spending money in any other business such as a shop for example. In fact I would think it would detract from neighbouring businesses and the alley way between it and Tesco's is going to become a really scary place at chucking out time.

I therefore wish to object in the strongest terms and trust the Council will deal with this application with the best interests of the people of Sevenoaks in mind, not some large company who is going to take all profits out of the town but leave it with the mess to clear up.

Yours faithfully



↓ Jeni Smith

11/02544/LAPRE

Knole Way,  
Sevenoaks

Kent TN13 3JE

3.10.2011

Dear Sir,

Re: Application to vary Premises License  
at Wonderland. 138-138A High Street  
Sevenoaks. TN13 1XE

(4) We do not feel that these premises are suitable for this type of venue.

(Mrs)

(M.R. HOWORTH)

(MR P. HOWORTH)

We wish to object to the application on the following grounds.

- ① A night club with very late opening hours adjacent to two existing bars will have a detrimental impact on Sevenoaks town & surroundings area
- ② Unless the venue is totally soundproofed the music will cause a nuisance to nearby residents
- ③ The noise generated by patrons leaving the venue at such a late hour will also impact on residents.

Knole Way  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN13 3RS

The Licensing Dept.  
Sevenoaks District Council  
Council Offices  
Argyle Road  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1HG

6<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Dear Sirs,

**Wonderlounge, 138A-138B High Street, Sevenoaks TN131XE**

**Premises Licence No: 11/01935/LAPRE**

We write to request that you refuse the above application to extend the licence from 11.45 pm until 1 am seven days a week. We feel that extending the hours will inevitably lead to noise and public nuisance. There would be no public transport available and no public conveniences open. We all remember the trouble caused by late night drinking at the Oak Tap to the residents at the southern end of the High Street and there are a number of residential flats above shops to the northern end. Already visitors to the town are using the parking available in The Drive and Plymouth Drive and disturbance caused in the early hours would be totally unacceptable.

We should be grateful if you would refuse this application and keep the existing hours.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer and Peter Bartlett

**£** For all licensing applications please make cheques payable to: "Sevenoaks District Council" . Alternatively card payments may be made over the telephone.

**From:** Liz McLaren   
**Sent:** 07 October 2011 07:05  
**To:** Leeann Leeds  
**Subject:** Alice in Wonderland, High Street, Sevenoaks

Dear Leeann

Having had first hand experience of a nightclub opening until only 11.30pm at the end of our road, you will be unsurprised to hear that I would like to object to the granting of a licence for this premises.

It will be impossible to control the noise through the shop windows of the property, and the noise on arriving and leaving the premises.

There are flats above the shop, and life will be unbearable for them. Someone commented that it would keep youngsters off the streets in Sevenoaks, but it would encourage just the opposite - gangs of 18s and under will be wandering around drunk. And how are they to get in and out of town? No buses, taxis already overstretched.

We are still waiting for any change at El Matador, although they do seem to have suspended the nightclub. I have finally had an email from someone in Environmental Health and will ask him to visit them. Several weeks ago I reported the many breaches of planning to Mrs Clinch, but again, no action has been seen to comply with even one of the planning controls put in place. I despair!

Liz McLaren  
 Lime Tree Walk  
Sevenoaks  
TN13 1YH

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Licensing Dept.  
Sevenoaks District Council  
Argyl Road  
TN13 1HG

7<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

Re: Premises Licence 11/01935/LAPRE  
138A-138B High Street, Sevenoaks

.....  
It was with great misgiving we read about the above request for this 'novel' drinking house requiring extended hours due to

- a) the intention of use
- b) the fact that it would be in the centre of the town with residents in close proximity
- c) the extension hours being to early morning which would bring much traffic and obviously drunkenness to the area in the middle of the night. This happened before so why should it not happen again.
- e) It will also take much needed trade from the public houses around.

We are wholly opposed.

Yours truly,

[Redacted signature box]

[Redacted name box] Chartway  
Sevenoaks  
TN13 3RU

LICENSING PARTNERSHIP  
SEL . 10 OCT 2011  
SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

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TREVOR J GIDLOW

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4 Queens Drive  
Sevenoaks  
Kent  
TN14 5DD  
10<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Licensing Officer  
Sevenoaks District Council  
Argyle Road  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1HG

Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Premises License – 138 High Street, Sevenoaks – Strong Objection**

I would like to register by strong objection to application for a late night/early morning Premises Licence to the proposed 'Wonderlounge' venue submitted by The Chicago Pizza Pie Factory/ No Saints company. I am objecting on two grounds:

- 1) **Crime and Disorder**
- 2) **Public Nuisance**

I am a professional who lives and works in Sevenoaks. As you will note, my home is located in the Greatness Lane/ Watercress Drive/ Queens Drive area which predominantly provides social and housing support.

My first-hand experience indicates that there is a direct relationship between the grant of Late night/ early morning Premises Licences and Crime and Disorder/ Public Nuisance.

Mr Stevie Thomas – Brand Development, No Saints and Ms Alison Whitfield – Business Development have marketed the venue as innocent and fun, However regardless of the intentions of the business and those who attend, we all know that our back-to-back drinking culture will have an inevitable fall out when closing hours are extended.

To be specific, when late night Licences were granted in Sevenoaks town centre this corresponded to a direct rise in extreme aggression, vandalism and even arson, in the early hours of the morning in my area, distressing residents and placing greater burdens on the local police force.

I would also note that the Grant of a Premises License would be in direct opposition to the Government's initiative to reduce binge drinking amongst the young. This is particularly pertinent to this Application whose marketing strategy is based on a 'Alice in Wonderland' themed venue. This is unquestionably unethical business practice since those who are attracted to such themes are not even of a suitable age to be attending late night/ early morning venues.

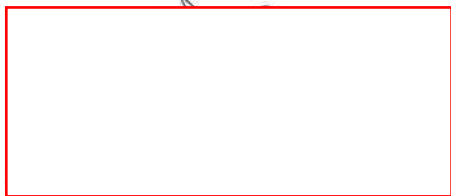
As such, it is transparent that No Saints business strategy is based on grooming minors into our binge drinking culture.

I trust that Sevenoaks District Councils Licensing department would not want to encouraging any of the above consequences and join Sevenoaks Town Councillor Mrs Merrill London in objecting to this application. Furthermore, I petition that this application is Rejected.




TREVOR J GIDLOW

Yours faithfully,



Trevor Gidlow BA (Hons.) Arch., Dip Arch. RIBA

 High Street  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1XE

Telephone: 01732 457539

Licensing Partnership  
Sevenoaks District Council  
PO Box 182  
Sevenoaks TN13 1GB

10 October 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

**138-138B High Street, Sevenoaks TN13 1XE**  
**Application from the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory Ltd.**

Regarding the above and the application for extending the hours for music from 08.00 to 01.00 Monday to Sunday, we request that two sets of doors are needed for both front, side and rear entrances to avoid sound penetration that would adversely affect the environment of close-by residents – 140A through to 148A High Street.

It should also be made clear to the applicants that the rear car park is for the exclusive use of tenants 140 through to 148 High Street and that the applicant is responsible for prohibiting its customers from trespassing.

We thank you for considering these observations.

Yours faithfully



Edward and Pamela Owen

**From:** Henry Pound [h[REDACTED]@k]  
**Sent:** 10 October 2011 10:31  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Wonder Lounge 138 High Street 11/02

Dear Sir

I wish to object to the application for extended licencing times on the following grounds.

The previous licensee attracted alcohol fuelled fights on a number of occasions and I would not wish to see the danger of these events be extended later into the night/early morning.

The premises is close to residential property with flats in the town and houses in the Knole Paddock area. There have been occasions, manly during the summer when the noise of music is noticeable at my house, which is by no means the closest in my road. I would not want this noise to extend beyond the current hours.

Yours faithfully

Henry Pound  
2 Knole Way



Sylvia Lewis

LICENSING PARTNERSHIP

11 OCT 2011

SEL

SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

**From:** Planning [planning@sevenoakstown.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 11 October 2011 15:59  
**To:** Licensing  
**Cc:** Ann White  
**Subject:** Sevenoaks Town Council's Comments on Licensing application 11/02544/LAPRE - 138A -138B, High Street, Sevenoaks (Wonderlounge)

**Importance:** High

Please find below Sevenoaks Town Council's comments on 11/02544/LAPRE - 138A -138B, High Street, Sevenoaks (Wonderlounge)

Please could you confirm receipt of this email

*The Town Council wishes to register its objections to the variation of premises license on the following grounds:*

**Public Nuisance:**

*The proposed extension of hours would lead to an unacceptable increase in noise levels experienced by residents living in flats above shops on either side of the road.*

- 1. The Town Council considered the existing opening hours should not be varied from  
Sunday - 08:00-23:00  
Monday - Wednesday : 08:00-00:00  
Thurs - Saturday : 08:00-01:15*
- 2. There should be no alteration to existing non-standard days.*
- 3. That any facilities for making music and provision for dancing (I&J) should be kept to the same hours as the existing license for live music; recorded music; performance of dance or anything similar to E F or G  
Monday - Saturday : 08:00 - 23:45  
Sunday - 08:00 - 22:45*

*Antisocial behaviour problems could also ensue from excessive drinking; the club would not be able to control such acts as they would occur away from the premises.*

*Taking the above points into account, the Town Council would urge that this application is rejected.*

Regards,

Hugh D'Alton

Planning and Open Spaces & Leisure Committee Clerk  
Sevenoaks Town Council  
Tel : 01732 459953 [Website](#)

# Acorns Residents' Association



Please Reply to:

**The Chairman  
Andrew M W Smith  
24 Pembroke Road  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1XR**

**Telephone: 01732 465 777**

**E-mail: andrewmwsmith@hotmail.com**

Licencing Department  
Sevenoaks District Council  
Argyle Road  
Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1GN

4<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Dear Sir

**138 – 138B High Street – Wonderland (ex Slug and Lettuce)**

I am writing on behalf of the Acorns Residents Association which represents residents in, among other roads, the High Street, Pembroke Road and London Road. We have seen the notice concerning the application to amend the licence for the above property and have some serious concerns.

We understand that the new use of the premises will be as a club rather than a bar. The application appears to be for opening till 01.30 seven days per week with alcohol being sold till 01.00. This we see as totally unacceptable, bearing in mind that the public houses in the town, particularly the Oak Tree opposite, only have licences till 12.00 (midnight) on Sunday to Thursday and 01.00 on Fridays and Saturdays. The new club should not have longer hours. Residents of the roads mentioned above already suffer late night noise, nuisance and disturbance until and after closing time every weekend and to allow this even later should not be allowed.

There is also an application for music all day till 01.00 seven days per week. It should be remembered that these premises are surrounded by a considerable number of dwellings above the shops and life would become intolerable for these people with no sleep till the early hours.

We would like to register our objections to the renewal of the licence for these reasons

Yours faithfully

A M W Smith  
Chairman – Acorns Resident's Association

# Knole Paddock Residents' Association

Please reply to: Jennifer Bartlett, 1 Knole Way, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3RS  
Email: jennyebartlett@btinternet.com  
Tel: 01732 454229

To:  
Licensing Dept.  
Sevenoaks District Council  
Council Offices  
Argyle Road, Sevenoaks  
Kent TN13 1HG

7<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Dear Sirs,

138A-138B High Street, Sevenoaks TN13 1XE

Premises Licence No: 11/01935/LAPRE

We have been approached by a number of our members all expressing concern about the above application by The Chicago Pizza Pie Factory Ltd. to vary a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003.

There is concern that clients leaving the premises as late as 1:30am (significantly after public transport has ceased) would create noise and disturbance whilst waiting for taxis or making their way to their cars. The long licensing hours would also encourage excessive drinking and make public disorder more likely.

On behalf of our members, we therefore request that this application be refused and the licensing hours remain as they currently are.

Yours sincerely

  
**Jennifer Bartlett**  
Chairman

cc. Cllr Mrs Ann Dawson  
Cllr Peter Fleming  
Cllr Simon Raikes

Cllr Stephen Arnold  
Cllr Mrs Merrill London  
Cllr Maurice Short