

I am writing to you to object to The Ephesus Restaurant application for extension of license to sell alcohol and food with music, singing and dancing until 02:30am. The licensing application number is: 21/01465/LAPRE

I live at 48B High Street which is almost directly opposite Ephesus Restaurant. I have lived here for the past 4 years and have never made any high-street noise complaints during this time. For the entirety of the summer months now, I have had to endure sleepless nights on Fridays and Saturdays whilst Ephesus hosts parties until the early hours of the morning. One thing I will say in their defence, is that when the doors are shut to the restaurant, the noise levels are kept at a minimum, however it appears that the majority of their clientele enjoy smoking outside the restaurant for the duration of the evening, or hanging out in the garden area whilst all singing to the music inside. Not only does this cause a great deal of noise outside the restaurant, it means that they keep opening and closing the door to the restaurant, which allows pumping music to flow out onto the street and keep everyone awake.

The worst element of this late license is definitely the spilling out onto the street of their punters at closing time; 2:30am, often with many of them not leaving the premises until gone 3am, and they sing, scream and shout until they go home in taxi's. A couple weeks ago my neighbour had to call the police as there was a big fight of lads in the middle of the road after Ephesus closing time, they were thumping each other outside of her window and as a female living alone, she felt very unsafe. It has caused great distress to myself and my neighbours throughout the summer, on what has seemingly been a strictly residential end of the high-street for many years now.

The fact that they want to extend their license until 1am on a Sunday is beyond me, I have work to attend in London on on the weekdays, and if the weekends gone by are anything to go by, I won't be getting any sleep if this license gets approved. Even if the music stops at 1am, the noise does not. This end of Sevenoaks town has always been such a delight to live on, and has recently been tainted at the weekend's by the bad behaviour of Ephesus' clients, I really hope this does not continue in to additional days of the week. Sevenoaks is not known for it's late night parties and I sincerely hope this extension does not get approved.

Louise Watsham