

I understand that the Ephesus restaurant has applied for an extended licence up to 2:30am on Fridays and Saturdays, which will include recorded music, dance performance and sales of alcohol, with slightly reduced hours on Sundays. My office with residential property above at 48A and B High Street is within 50m of the restaurant and so I write to object to this additional 19 hours of licenced time per week on the grounds that this will constitute public nuisance and will be detrimental to the protection of children from harm. I am told by my tenant in the flat above my office that fights sometimes break out in the street, so these proposals would hinder the prevention of crime and disorder. There is noisy activity as people get into taxis etc, and the noise from the open air garden area can be considerable into the early hours of the morning, a considerable public nuisance. It is inevitable that restaurant windows and doors will be open onto the garden and therefore the dance and recorded music, will, by definition, be heard by quite a number of people in the vicinity, including children who live in flats nearby. Sales of alcohol will during until 1am during the week and therefore it will be 1:30am before the street is quiet again; an unreasonable imposition on people who need to go to work and school in the morning. Many people live in flats over shops and offices in the Town Centre and whilst I would not want to curtail the vibrancy of Sevenoaks, a sensible balance needs to be found between the needs of residents, commercial activity, and the enjoyment of visitors who may be quite often be from outside the town.

I consider that the granting of a licence as proposed would upset this balance since it will be close to 3am by the time diners have left the restaurant if music and dance performance continues until 2:30am. This is unreasonable and should not be permitted. I hope you will take our residents views into account.

Regards

Robert Rummey
for and on behalf of
Rummey design