

To echo the concerns of our neighbours on Six Bells Lane, and the Upper High Street, we strongly object to the new licence extension application for Ephesus for the following reasons.

We feel that the use of the premises for a late night venue isn't appropriate. It is in the Conservation area, extremely close to the Rockdale residential care home, upper High Street residences and also our own and neighbouring property on Six Bells Lane.

The recent renovation to the exterior of the Ephesus premises has not been constructed in a way that is intended for late night hospitality. At present, it is just covered with a canopy, and there is no sound insulation. We are already able to hear the music and customers, so extended hours will cause significant noise disturbance. Like many of the local residents, we are in a grade II listed building without the luxury of double glazing to eliminate external sounds.

We fear that we may well experience anti social behaviour in the area with the extended alcohol licence. We can clearly hear raised voices in the town council gardens that we live adjacent to, and on the lane. This is likely to considerably worsen, and especially at closing time while people are loitering while waiting for lifts or before making their way home, and we are conscious to try and protect our young daughter from this.

The narrow pavements that run along the upper High Street could become more of a danger to passing pedestrians with the increase of gatherings outside Ephesus, forcing passers by off the pavement and into the road in order to pass. This is already happening to some degree. There would most definitely be an increase in private vehicles and taxis dropping off and picking up patrons near an already dangerous junction. A number of these vehicles would almost certainly use Rockdale Road as the nearest place to pull in and turn around.

In conclusion, while we are always very keen to strongly support local businesses that enhance the area, we feel that this application to extend the licence to Ephesus will unfortunately be detrimental to the Conservation area and local residents, and that would be a great shame.

Yours sincerely,
Timothy and Etke Craig