

Appendix Z

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 August 2022 21:41
To: Susan Lindsey <Susan.Lindsey@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Ref: review of licence 22/0260/REVIEW - Ephesus

Dear Ms Lindsey

Please find below a representation from the owners of the Sun Do, 61 High Street, Sevenoaks.

I hope this arrives ahead of the deadline. I could not find an online portal for submitting the comments below.

**Ref: review of licence
22/0260/REVIEW - Ephesus**

We urge that the current licensing and opening hours of Ephesus are scrutinised very carefully and potentially revised on the grounds of unacceptable noise and disorderly behaviour after current licensing hours.

Since we first opened in 1967, we have operated with as much respect as possible for the local residents. The catalogue of objections to Ephesus' previous application (see appendix G to the documents circulated for the withdrawn hearing on 9.2.2022), and previous complaints to Kent Police and Environmental Health, illustrate just how much Ephesus' contravention of current licensing/opening hours is having on the mental health of the local residents.

We are in support of making Sevenoaks a thriving centre of retail, business and hospitality as long as it respects the basic rights of local inhabitants to sleep and peace in their own homes. And even if there was a balance to strike between business health and personal health, it is important to point out that, at present, Ephesus already has the competitive edge on licensing hours over other similar establishments in the vicinity (e.g The Sennockian on the High St and The Restoration on Bank St). The point here is that the balance already sits in favour of Ephesus over and above the local residents and that it is time to revalue the latter.

In summary, we request that;

-that the current opening hours (and the regular breach of these hours) are reviewed with a view to reducing them so to enable the immediate local community to recover from how this is negatively impacting on their mental health and daily lives.

Kind regards,
Mr. Mrs. Man

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 August 2022 12:39
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Ephesus, High Street, Sevenoaks. 22/0260/REVIEW

Dear Sirs

It's become apparent that in spite of their licence extension application being refused, Ephesus is carrying on flouting their requirement to close at 11 pm. Opening until 1 o'clock in the morning or later is totally inappropriate in this mixed use area of town. There are 9 houses in Oak Tree Close as well as flats either side on the High Street and several residences in Rockdale Road. There are no close parking facilities meaning that the late night revellers must walk some distance to reach their cars, causing further disturbance to residents in the area. I believe the Police expressed concern about their application encouraging more crime or disturbance in the area. When we return home late at night it's interesting to see there is a group of customers outside the front of the property (who are not queueing). This doesn't seem to occur at other restaurants in town where you may see the odd smoker popping out for a few minutes.

It seems grossly unfair that this business is carrying on trading, ignoring the restrictions which all other licensed premises in the town observe.

Yours faithfully

Alan and Christine Bumstead

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 August 2022 13:58
To: Licensing <licencing@sevenoaks.gov.uk>
Subject: Ephesus representation

09.08.2022

To Whom it May Concern:

Regarding Ephesus Restaurant.

My name is Thomas Gold. My partner Susan Wood and I live at:

[REDACTED]

Our home is less than 50 metres from the back door to the restaurant. Rockdale Road is double yellow however the street is lined with cars at night on weekends. As their patrons leave as late as 1.15 often drunk the noise from screaming and singing has now become out of control. Car doors being slammed as well as engines revving and screeching off down the road.

The restaurant in question has been a nuisance to the neighbourhood from the day they opened their doors. The problem is now become so acute that after 8 years in the neighbourhood we are not considering leaving solely because of the noise and disruption caused by the restaurant and their customers.

The other two restaurants in the immediate vicinity (Branded and Sun Do) have never been a problem and we consider them to be excellent neighbours. That is the last thing we would ever think about Ephesus. On the contrary, it seems like they go out of their way to cause disruption and aggravation.

It seems like they never observe the hours which they are licensed for. Last weekend the 5th and 6th of August there was loud music well past midnight and drunk people leaving the premises way past 1.00am.

Last night (Monday the 8th) there was a van parked at their back door and it seemed like they were intentionally banging things around and throwing things into the van until 5.30am.

The rear of the building is a flimsy plastic extension which almost magnifies sounds coming from the back of the building.

This should be a quiet residential street which is adjacent to Rockdale Housing Association. This OAP facility certainly should not be subjected to the noise or the drunks leaving the bar way into the early morning hours. For that matter no one on this street should be.

The restaurant has never had any regard for the neighbours. They think they are a late hours nightclub and seemingly could care less what their alcohol license and business license say. Quite simply, they are a restaurant with a bar and should not be allowed to sell alcohol to people who come in drunk and proceed to get them more drunk.

They should inform their customers that there is no parking on Rockdale Road and this should be enforced, either by the restaurant or by the council. Their customers should be informed that the restaurant is in a residential neighbourhood and they must leave quietly so as to not disrupt the sleep of the residents.

In a perfect world, this restaurant should have a severely restricted alcohol license until they prove that they are capable of adhering to the licensing rules they have been granted.

I apologise for this long rant but the situation here has become increasingly difficult. The stress and anxiety caused by the noise from this restaurant are ruining our time here. They are a nuisance and that goes for their customers as well.

Susan and I encourage the licensing department to restrict their hours of operation as well as the hours they are able to sell alcohol. Also, late night enforcement of the parking restrictions would be greatly appreciated. We are more than happy to support local restaurants who are good neighbours but we have no use for this restaurant which over the years has proven to be the worst, most disrespectful neighbour imaginable.

Thank you in advance,

Thomas Gold
Susan Wood

