

APPENDIX 17

Ephesus Restaurant
57 - 59 High Street, Sevenoaks
Premises Licence Variation Application Ref: 23/00893/ LAPRE

Once again residents in this conservation area in Sevenoaks are threatened with late night opening way beyond those in force under the existing planning consents. With each application the licensing hours vary but the variation now sought still includes staying open until 2.00am on Fridays and Saturdays with dance, live and recorded music permitted until 1.30am.

The grounds for objection relate comprehensively to the four listed licensing objectives and remain:

- Ephesus will represent the sole late night entertainment venue in this quiet area of the Upper High Street. As such it will attract all the adverse effects associated with this. Previous experience has highlighted incidents of anti-social behaviour, and traffic noise will inevitably continue well past the stated closing time of 2.00am when customers wait for transport to arrive.
- Ephesus will still attract customers as closing time approaches at nearby venues. Closing the doors to new customers at 11pm will have little or no effect.
- None of our local restaurants need bouncers on the door. Their presence at Ephesus indicates that either the restaurant or the authorities expect there to be trouble at this venue.
- Since their appeal to the Planning Inspectorate was refused Ephesus appear to have been complying with the permitted opening hours (to 11pm Monday to Saturday). It is understood that there have been few complaints/incidents. This cannot be a co-incidence. Most of the complaints about noise and rowdiness, referred to in the objections to previous Licensing and Planning applications, related to incidents later at night. Any return to the earlier situation would be unacceptable.
- There is little easily available parking in the area. The nearest side street is Rockdale Road which leads to Rockdale House which describes itself as *“An independent supported living community and residential care home for the elderly, set in a peaceful corner of Sevenoaks town.”* Apart from the inevitable increase in late night noise pollution, it is most important that access for emergency vehicles is not impeded at any time.

Please refuse this application on the above grounds.

J R Hacker, [REDACTED]