

Supporting notes for both DM/24/2413 and our second most recent application (to vary condition 1 of 14/00858/CND).

During the past two years, it's become noticeable that our customers are arriving at our bar later and later during weekend evenings. In the past, we would have expected that we would have a reasonable amount of people during the 5pm to 9pm period followed by a swell in numbers from that time onwards. Now, its often just a sprinkling of customers until as late as 11pm which only gives 2 hours of decent trading thus making it extremely difficult to sustain our business. It would seem that people are either going to a local pub first then coming on to our venue later or they are maybe socialising with friends at home and not going out at all till later in the evening.

We have tried to get back our early evening trade through advertising, offers or by occasional early evening music e.g. a singer, guitarist etc. but its proving to be extremely challenging particularly during the current economic climate.

We do have the ability via our planning licence to submit up to 10 TENS per year so in recent times we have been using these and have found that the extra hour of trading has made a difference to us. Obviously, these have only been periodic extensions so its questionable as to how many customers have been aware of them so we are heartened that there is potential for the additional hour to really help us.

It's also fair to say that the demographic of our later evening weekend customers is relatively young (predominantly 20's and 30's) and that going to a venue until 2am is by no means seen as late by this section of our community. It's also a fact that not only do many decide to go to Brighton for later evenings but also Burgess Hill where the Block and Gasket has a late licence until 2am with 30 mins to vacate the premises.

At weekends, we always employ 2 security staff (as per the conditions of our licence) and in fact, on Saturdays, we have a 3rd person who comes along for the last hour (having finished work elsewhere). Depending on how popular the 1am till 2am period were to become, we would most certainly look to continue and extend this practise as we do take the security and safety of our customers and building extremely seriously. Another reason for our TENS experiment was in fact to evaluate customer behaviour, public nuisance etc. and its fair to say that we didn't observe any noticeable differences.

One of our two applications is to vary condition 2 of 08/03019/FUL. This application is to keep our patio usage in line with the rest of our premises as it would be very difficult to do otherwise. We have always operated according to the terms of our licence which is to close all windows and doors at 11pm so as to minimise noise. Security staff are also instructed to ask customers to refrain from loud noise whilst on the patio and when vacating our premises. We are unaware of any noise complaints being made against us during the last few years.

In summary, we very much hope that our applications will be granted as we feel that they will help our business to survive and prosper whilst improving the social offering to predominantly young adults in our local community. There are currently 3 closed restaurants/bars in The Broadway alone whilst the hospitality industry in general faces additional costs in 2025, not least business rates and employers national insurance. During difficult times, we have to look to make changes which we hope will improve our business prospects.