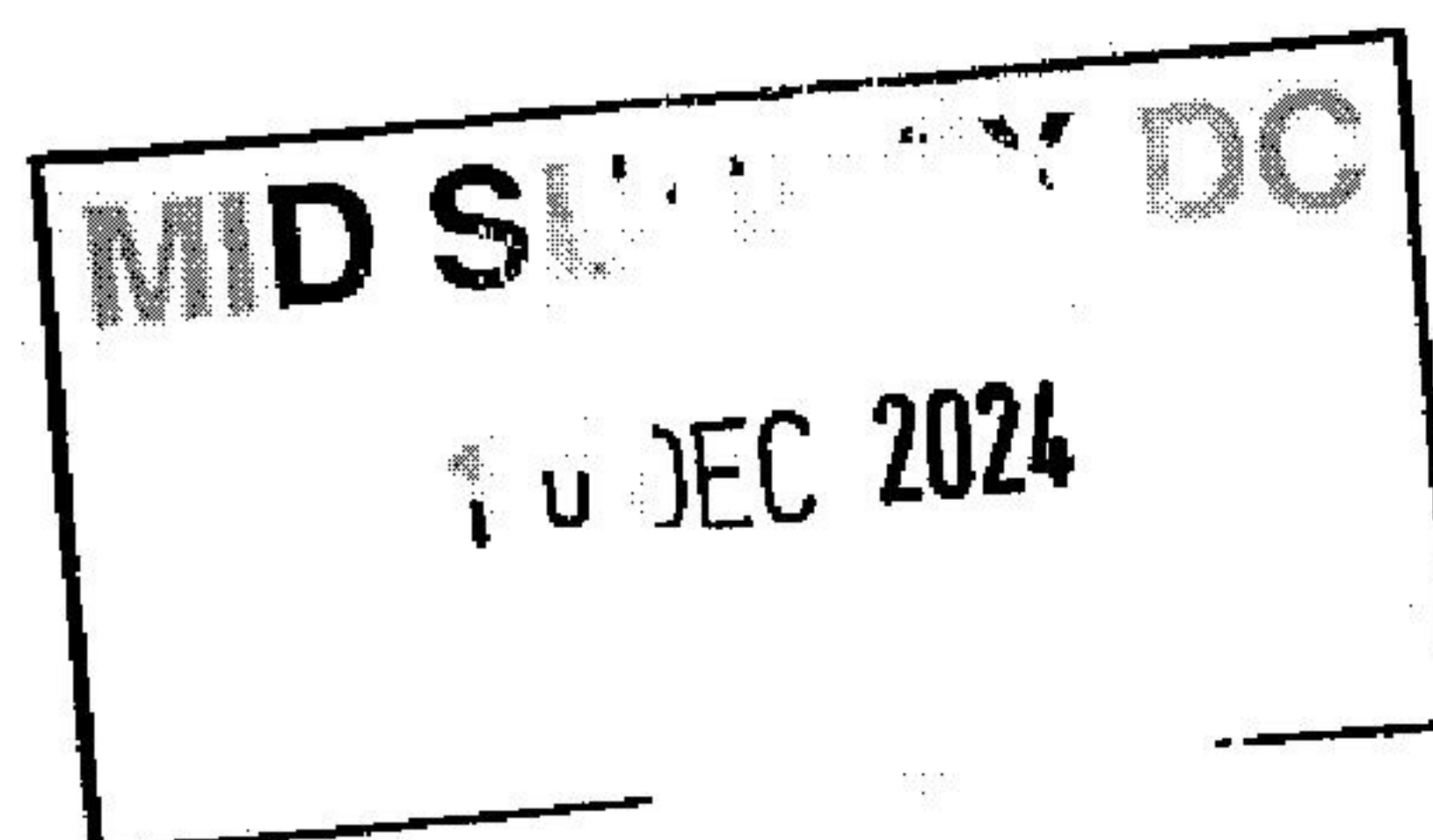


Andrew Watt
Planning Department
Mid Sussex District Council
Oaklands
Oaklands Rd
Haywards Heath
RH16 1SS



7th December 2024

Re-
Application No. DM/24/2894.
Location Savannah Bar 44 – 46 The Broadway, Haywards Heath

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you to highlight my concerns regarding the above planning application for the extension of opening hours.

- 1) The applicant's property backs onto private properties with many residents, including children and infants.**

The current opening hours until 01:30 at the weekend are always accompanied by considerably increased noise levels. This is significantly greater in the summer month where, despite the supporting note from the applicant, windows are left open. Even when the windows are closed, there is significant noise due to the nature of the building - the glass atrium in the centre offers no sound protection.

- 2) The noise from the applicants' customers continues in the street after closing.**

There are people milling for some time - often shouting and acting aggressively. The applicant's covering letter states that their security staff will keep customers quiet, but this is hard for them to enforce in the street where they have no authority.

The noise from the current closing hours of 01:30 is exasperated by the fact that every morning from 06:00, bottles are emptied very noisily into the recycling. To extend the opening hours to 02:30 would allow just 3 ½ hours of noise abatement for the residents to sleep - The noise from the street excluded.

3) The licencing act 2003

This legislation aims to regulate the sale of alcohol to promote public health and safety, responsible drinking, and protect against crime and disorder. The extension of opening hours is not in accordance with this act.

An increase of opening hours is generally considered to be linked to an increase in alcohol consumption. At a time when alcohol related diseases are frequently reported to be at an all-time high, surely local councils have a duty of care to the local community.

We would also like to draw your attention to two possible infringements of current planning permission.

- 1) In December 2010, permission was granted for 'use of the forecourt between the hours of 0900 and 0030 Sunday to Thursday and 0900 and 0130 Friday and Saturday to match the rest of the premises for a **temporary period** of 12 months.' This has never been renewed and the forecourt is in constant use.
- 2) More significantly, permission was granted in Feb 2002 to move from Class A1 to A3 (01/02268/COU), thus allowing food to be cooked and served on the premises. Since then, it has changed operation from 'Tasty Crust' to 'Savannah Café Bar' and seen a gradual increase in opening hours. Apr 2007 (07/00439/COND), Jul 2012 (12/01954/COND) and now application DM/24/2894. In 2020 the property was re-classified as Class E under the The Business and Planning Act of 2020. However, the nature of the business has changed dramatically since 2002 and it is less of a Café Bar and more of a Night Club. As witnessed by the later hours of operation and the inclusion of live music. As such, I would argue that the correct Class is now *Sui Generis* and permission to operate as a Night Club has not been granted.

We therefore formally object to this planning application.

We thank you for your time in considering these arguments and remain at your disposal should you need any more information

Yours sincerely

