

**Planning Representation in relation to an application for grant of premises licence made
under Part 3 Section 17 Licensing Act 2003**

Details of person making representation	
Name of Officer:	Thomas Stubbs
Department:	Development Management
Postal Address:	Medway Council Gun Wharf Dock Road Chatham Kent ME4 4TR
E-mail address	Thomas.stubbs@medway.gov.uk
Telephone Number:	01634 331578
Signed:	Thomas Stubbs

Details of premises representation is about	
Name and Address of Premises:	148 High Street Rochester Medway ME1 1ER
Development Management Enquiry Number	ENQ/21/2563
Date application received:	1 September 2021
Date representation sent to Licensing Authority:	20 September 2021

<p>Planning has received an application for the granting of a premises licence made under the provisions of Section 17 Licensing Act 2003. Under Section 18 of that Act, asks the Licensing Authority to consider these representations. We are making our representation based on the following licensing objectives:-</p>	
<p>Prevention of crime and disorder <i>Planning enforcement must deal with matters arising from breaches of planning control under planning law and therefore this representation prevents applicants from breaching planning law as a result of applying for this licence under the Licensing Act 2003.</i></p>	
<p>Public Safety <i>Not Relevant</i></p>	
<p>Prevention of public nuisance <i>Such development/use of the building can cause serious harm to the way that people live. Residents and businesses have a right to expect a quality of life. These can include a number of factors which were discussed when planning permission was granted for example, to limit the opening and operating hours of the business.</i></p>	X
<p>Protection of children from harm <i>Not Relevant</i></p>	

Please give the reason for the representation and detail the evidence supporting it:

I understand that the applicant is seeking to apply for a Premises Licence to authorise for the Sale of Late Night Refreshment. The hours that have been applied for are a variance with the opening hours allowed under the terms of the planning permission MC/16/4952.

The planning permission permits the premises to trade under the following hours:

- 09:00 to 23:00 Sunday to Thursdays (inclusive) and Public Holdiays and between 09:00 – 00:00 on Fridays and Saturdays

The applicant does not appear to have applied for Planning Permission to vary the hours subject to the licensing application. A variation outside of the opening hours require the benefit of planning permission. Planning would not extend the hours permitted to those applied for due to the detrimental impact on local residents.

Suggested alterations to the application that could remedy the representation or other suggestions the Licensing Sub Committee may take into account:-

The applicant amends their operating schedule to reduce the hours as per the planning permission.

Please contact us to discuss this representation

We welcome and positively encourage discussions in relation to your licensing application. We can also advise you about submitting the relevant planning applications. These discussions can result in better quality applications that stand a better chance of a successful outcome.

If you are in agreement to amend your operating schedule to include the suggested alterations to the application.

Can you please confirm in writing by either email or a letter confirming your agreement to amend your operating schedule stating each amendment to your application. Please email

licensing@medway.gov.uk and Planning (*email address on the front of this representation*).

Address for licensing is below and planning address on the front of this representation.

Alternatively, please send a copy of this representation to both licensing and planning and sign to confirm that you are in agreement to the amendments:

I agree to amend my operating schedule as per the suggested alterations to the application as recommended by Planning.

Signed:

Name:

Date:

Send to:

Licensing Unit, Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR

Contact details on the front of this representation.



Kent Police

Chief Officer of Police Representation in relation to an application for grant of a premise licence made under Part 3 **Section 17** Licensing Act 2003 (S18 Licensing Act 2003)

Details of person making representation

Name of Chief Officer of Police	Chief Superintendent Price
Postal Address: (Divisional Headquarters)	Medway Police Station Purser Way Gillingham Kent ME7 1NE
E-mail address	licensing.north.division@kent.police.uk
Telephone Numbers:	
Licensing Co-ordinator	Geoff Rowley 01634 792733
Licensing Officers	Ian Pickett 01634 792411
	Chris Hill 01634 792276
	Dan Hunt 01634 792388
	Andre Smuts 01634 792733

Details of premises representation is about

Name of Premises:	Kebab and Chicken Hut
Address of premises:	148 High Street Rochester Kent ME1 1ER
Date application received by police	01/09/2021
Date representation sent to Licensing Authority	

All representations must be made within 28 days of receipt of initial application

The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005. Part 4 Reg. 22.

The Chief Officer of Police has received an application for the grant of a premises licence made under the provisions of Section 17 Licensing Act 2003, and under Section 18 of that Act, asks the Licensing Authority to consider these representations in respect of: -

Prevention of crime and disorder	X
Public Safety	
Prevention of public nuisance	X
Protection of children from harm	

Is this a representation regarding the Designation of Premises Supervisor under S18 (9) Licensing Act 2003? No

If yes complete the appropriate statement:

Please give the reason for the representation and detail the evidence supporting it under the appropriate headings:

This application is in relation to a premises that is situated on High Street Rochester. The premises is surrounded by residential dwellings with a number of licensed premises nearby and is currently trading as a takeaway food business.

There is already a premises licence in place, which shows times for sale of late night refreshment as follows:- Sunday to Wednesday 23:00 to 00:00, Thursday 23:00 to 01:30 and Friday to Saturday 23:00 to 02:30.

With opening hours as follows:- Sunday to Wednesday 23:00 to 00:30, Thursday 23:00 to 02:00 and Friday to Saturday 23:00 to 03:00.

With regard to section 2.7 of Medway Council Statement of licensing statement "*An important part of the cultural offer is the dynamic night-time economy, centred around Rochester.....However there is also a tension between residents and these businesses. Our residents, responsible authorities and other agencies tell the Council that crime, disorder and public nuisance associated with late-night licensed premises, their customers and alcohol misuse can cause problems*", there is a need to promote business needs especially since businesses have opened up post Covid, balanced with those that live within the same area.

With this in mind, where the premises is situated on Rochester High Street, this is a prime location for customers to attend after they may have visited other licensed premises within the area, especially during times the premises is licensed, as the choice of food establishments for late night refreshments is low however this brings the associated risk of crime and disorder as well as public nuisance by way of noise and litter. To evidence levels of crime and disorder, as part of a regular review of weekend incidents conducted by North Division licensing team, the last weekend alone (18th September to 19th September 2021) has shown in the local area to this premises, there have been a number of assaults, ranging from common assault to GBH, assault on an emergency worker as well as other public order incidents, from which three people were arrested. The timings of these incidents all occurred between midnight and 0400 hours on both 18th and 19th September.

For this premises in particular, as a part of an incident outside a nearby venue, colleagues made Kent police licensing team aware that on Sunday 22nd August 2021, the premises were still open past their closing time of 0300 hours. In light of this information, I visited the premises on 27th August 2021 with a colleague, PC Hill 12000 and spoke to staff, making them aware of their duties to adhere with the times stated on the premises licence, to uphold the licensing objectives. PC Hill spoke by telephone with a male, purporting to be the owner, who identified himself as Mr Mahesan, which was a different name listed on the current premises licence on show within the premises. When this application was allocated to myself on 1st September 2021, I believed that it was our police visit that prompted the new owner to apply for the extension to the licensed hours and to change premises licence holder into his name.

Historically, there has been issues with dispersal of customers from the local area due to the various licensed premises nearby and post-Covid, this has not changed and as this new application is to allow trading until 0400 hours on a Friday & Saturday, I believe this is to primarily capture people that will have left the nearby nightclub. As the applicant has mentioned in their operating schedule, "The number of customers into the service area of the premises will be limited", while this may maintain some sort of order inside the premises, I have no doubt this will cause, at the very least, noise nuisance with people queuing outside and possible crime/disorder. The applicant also mentions in his operating schedule, there will be no seating, however on the plan (dated 07/09/2021) attached with this application there appears to be seating shown and on my visit on 27th August, there were a number of people sat down, inside the premises however there is nothing in the operating schedule to specify how staff would manage the removal or non-use of the seating during licensed hours, making me suspect that the seating will be used, allowing persons to congregate inside the premises.

Since this application was submitted, I have been made aware that the premises had planning permission to trade until midnight on a Friday and Saturday. Having reviewed the Medway council planning portal which showed a decision notice listed against this premises, dated 20th February 2017, which included times that premises could operate as follows:-

The use hereby permitted shall only operate between the hours of 09:00 to 23:00 Sundays to Thursdays (inclusive) and Public Holidays and between the hours of 09:00 to 00:00 on Fridays and Saturdays.

Referring to Medway council Statement of licensing policy section 4.3 *"In addition the Policy also supports a number of other key aims and objectives of licensing legislation. These are: 1. Protecting the public and local residents from crime, anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance caused by irresponsible licensed premises"*.

While I am aware that licensing and planning are different bodies and should be looked at separately, the fact that these times are being ignored, either shows a deliberate attempt to trade later in order to capture more of the late night refreshment trade or that there has not been due diligence conducted by the proposed premises licence holder & owner and considering the fact that the premises were seen by colleagues to be open after the premises closing time on 22nd August, I believe that the owner is irresponsible in the management of this premises.

With the above in mind, I do not believe that there are any conditions that would make it suitable for granting of this premises licence, allowing the premises to trade to a later time which I believe will prolong any dispersal from the area, which will generate crime and disorder and allow public nuisance to occur, so the view of Kent police is to object to the granting of this premises licence.

PC Ian Pickett 12274

PP. Ch. Supt Price

Date: 21/09/2021

North Division Area Commander



Director of Public Health
Public Health Directorate
Medway Council,
Gun Wharf,
Dock Road,
Chatham, Kent. ME4 4TR
20th September 2021

LICENSING ACT 2003 – APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION

Name and address of premises
148, High St, Rochester. ME1 1ER

premises licence under the following licensing objectives

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance

General comments

These premises are situated on the High St in Rochester, which has a busy evening and night-time economy. While this area is a commercial centre with shops, restaurants and public houses, Rochester High St also has many residents and many of the routes to and from the area go through residential areas.

The Rochester cumulative impact policy (CIP) covers this area and, although the policy does not directly apply to takeaway premises, the evidence accepted by the Authority to support the CIP is relevant to this application. There is strong evidence of high and unacceptable levels of crime and public nuisance in the immediate and surrounding area, which the Authority has identified needs addressing.

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Fast food and takeaway premises which are open after 2300 hours attract groups of customers, many of whom have consumed alcohol. This increases the likelihood of violent crime such as assaults, public disorder and criminal damage.

Specifically, this premises is in the Rochester High Street CIP area, which was agreed by the Council due to the unacceptable levels of alcohol related crime and disorder. While the policy does not directly apply to the sale of hot food and drink between 2300 hours and 0500 hours, the Director is concerned later opening hours for these premises will add to the already high levels of crime and disorder.

The applicant has neither acknowledged the particular issue of crime and disorder in the area, nor offered any effective control measures to promote this objective in the application beyond the installation of CCTV, signage and 'passive staff surveillance'. It is not explained how any of these measures will promote this licensing objective to reduce crime and disorder that may arise from customers using the premises late at night. The Director does not think it an unreasonable presumption that later opening hours has the potential to increase crime and disorder in this and surrounding locations.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

Noise nuisance in residential areas can disturb people in their homes and can be generated by a variety of means. Customers and staff gathering outside buildings to eat, talk and smoke can all be disturbing. This can affect residents even at some distance from the premises. The impact on the wellbeing of local residents from noise generated by late-night premises such as hot food and takeaway businesses is of concern. Late-night noise is often unsettling; particularly shouting and screaming. The degree of nuisance caused by noise can increase with the lateness of the hour, especially if it disturbs or prevents sleep.

Public nuisance can also be generated by a variety of other means, such as litter, smells, smoke, light pollution, waste disposal and the noise caused by vehicles used for deliveries, all of which may cause a disturbance to people in the vicinity.

In line with the issues related to crime and disorder already discussed, the CIP was put in place due to unacceptably high levels of public nuisance. The Director is concerned that later opening hours for these premises will add to the high level of public nuisance given it is within an area with a significant number of residents.

In 2012 the premises had a planning application for opening hours of 09.00 – 00.00 Monday to Sunday refused due to the generation of late night noise and disturbance, a decision which was also upheld on appeal. The premises further applied for planning permission to allow for operation until 00.00 on Friday and Saturday in 2016 (MC/16/4952). This application was granted, allowing for the use as set out below:

The use hereby permitted shall only operate between the hours of 09:00 to 23:00 Sundays to Thursdays (inclusive) and Public Holidays and between the hours of 09:00 to 00:00 on Fridays and Saturdays.

The reason given for the decision was to '*regulate and control the permitted development in the interests of amenity in accordance with Policy BNE2 of the Medway Local Plan 2003*', which concerns the loss of amenity to local residents by reason of the generation of late night noise and disturbance, among other matters.

The concerns expressed in the planning decision are exactly the same as the concerns about this licensing application. Noise from customers attending these premises until 00.30 Monday to Wednesday, 02.00 Thursday, 04.00 Friday and Saturday and 00.00 on Sunday will inevitably have a disturbing effect on residents.

The applicant has not acknowledged the issues that this area experiences with nuisance and the control measures offered in the operating schedule are generic in nature and do not sufficiently explain how they will address the concerns specific to this location. The Director does not think it unreasonable that a takeaway premises with later opening hours in a location with a high number of residents has the potential to add to public nuisance in the immediate and wider area.

Summary

This application neither acknowledges nor addresses the issues this area has with crime, disorder, and public nuisance. It also does not address the possible increase in behavioural and situational noise and nuisance that may arise due to the increase in trading hours. This in turn raises questions of just how the applicant intends to promote the licensing objects, or even if the issues in this area have been considered. The mitigation offered in the operating schedule appears generic and would do little to address the serious concerns the Authority has in this area.

While the Director acknowledges that licensing and planning are separate regimes, Statutory Guidance states at paragraph 9.45:

'...licensing committees and officers should consider discussion with their planning counterparts prior to determination with the aim of agreeing mutually acceptable operating hours ...'

Further Policy 26 in the Statement of Licensing Policy, and associated guidance, is relevant to this application, and has not been addressed in the operating schedule. Paragraph 17.4 states:

Where a terminal hour has been set for the use of premises for commercial purposes under planning legislation, the Authority, when its discretion is engaged on receipt of representations, will consider imposing the same terminal hour under licensing legislation, unless there are exceptional circumstances, in order to ensure a proper integration between the two regimes.

It is the view of the Director of Public Health there are no exceptional circumstances in this application. In addition, no meaningful conditions have been offered to promote the prevention of crime, disorder and public nuisance in an area which already suffers high levels of all three, and it is therefore requested that the Licensing Committee grant this application in line with the planning permission, which would be until 00.00 Friday and Saturday.

James Williams
Director of Public Health

Date 20th September 2021

For all communication please contact **Barbara Murray**, Public Health Project Officer at the address at the head of this representation or by the following:

Tel: 01634 332637:

E mail: barbara.murray@medway.gov.uk

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Hi,

I am writing to formally object as ward councillor to the recent licencing application to stay open until 12:30am Monday to Wednesday, 2am on Thursday and 4am on Friday and Saturday.

This establishment seems to have little regard for the local community and by the sale of fast food encourages late night drunks to stay in Rochester well past midnight creating considerable noise and litter, and other anti-social behaviours by delaying the dispersal of drunks. Many hundreds live in the High Street area; it is not purely commercial by any means. This includes many places such as La Providence where many elderly people live; they frequently complain to me about very late night disturbances as do other residents. While people living in the centre respect the fact an evening economy can be lively to some extent, it is unacceptable to have excessive noise and other disturbances all night, regardless of what day it might be. Furthermore, thousands more live in the areas surrounding historic Rochester, and they too are disturbed by late night revellers when they do eventually make their way home, sometimes also creating damage.

I should add this also encourages extended late night drinking, which is very unhealthy, although I appreciate this particular venue is not selling alcohol. It is drinkers in the High Street who are their primary customer base after midnight; these people also tend to have the least interest in using litter bins.

In my view this premises should stop serving all food in time to lock doors by midnight on Friday and Saturday and earlier on other days when people need to sleep in order to work the next day.

I have attached photographs of litter; these were taken between approximately 12:30am and 1am on 11th September.

I am happy for this email to be made public.

Kind regards

Cllr Stuart Tranter
Rochester West

















From: Kelly Tolhurst MP
Sent: 21 September 2021 10:52
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Application for the grant of a Premises Licence objection (Case Ref: KT24629)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to object to the application for the grant of a Premises Licence to Rochester Chicken Hut, 148 High Street Rochester, Kent, ME1 1ER.

I understand that the application is to be able to remain open until 04.00 serving alcohol. Rochester High Street already suffers from antisocial behaviour from drinking as well as the accompanying mess and large amounts of litter. As such, allowing a venue to remain open so late and to serve alcohol when there are already ample pubs and restaurants very close by is not suitable.

Residents are already deeply concerned with the issues and disruption caused by drinking in the area, and as such this application cannot be allowed to proceed.

Kind regards

Kelly

Kelly Tolhurst MP
Member of Parliament for Rochester & Strood

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From: neomae gb
Sent: 19 September 2021 11:46
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: COMPLAINT - Chicken Hut Staying open until 4am on some days

I have no understanding as to the concept /parameters by which the licensing department of Medway council can even consider approving a licensing application made by Chicken Hut to extend its opening hours until 12:30am Monday to Wednesday, 2am on Thursday and 4am on Friday and Saturday.

There is no merit to the hours of this establishment (and I'm being polite here) being extended - moreover, with the clientele that it currently attracts even in the day leaves much to be desired, (including school children who congregate outside and are quite aggressive/intimidating). Moreover, hasn't the campaign to *limit access to fast food*, especially for children, not reached Rochester!

The 'riff raff' that I have seen attending this establishment on my way home from work at night leave much to be desired in the main and as a woman walking along the high street, I feel very vulnerable and sometimes intimidated by some of the clientele who can be worse for wear, to say the least!

Does the council think it will receive an increase in revenue from any additional use of the blue boar car park? As there will be no Traffic Wardens/Police in situ to monitor it is pretty clear that the majority of clientele would park outside the establishment potentially causing an increase in traffic related concerns/issues. Moreover, the clientele that will be in attendance from the local watering holes will probably be intoxicated and potentially under the influence of illicit substances at those times.

Who is going to ensure that discarded litter is going to be cleared away or will there be fines/sanctions imposed on the chicken hut for what will be its inevitable failure to clear the litter? Additional big bins will cause obstruction and provide intoxicated clientele with even more missiles with which to destroy the high street.

DID YOU NOT SEE THE DAMAGE DONE TO EASTGATE HOUSE AND POOR TRAVELLERS HOUSE WINDOWS ?!

Tourists come to Rochester for the history which sadly is being eroded with the inane decisions this council has made, including and notwithstanding, the fatal decision to allow the hundreds of monstrosities (so called homes inspired by historical Rochester - now there's a laugh if ever I heard one!) to be built along the river, that has kept Medway safe for hundreds of years from not only enemies, but from flooding - Who approved that imbecilic decision - several properties have already had to be underpinned due to subsidence.

I'm certain that many residents who live in the high street, seeing as it is not purely a commercial area, will have something to say about this issue!

I do not support this application and moreover, would actually like to see the chicken hut closed down!

Lady Bell

.....
From: Bobby Bloyce
Sent: 18 September 2021 14:19
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Opening hours - The Chicken Hut, Rochester

I am writing to formally object as a citizen based in Rochester High Street to the proposal for the Chicken Hut's recent licencing application to stay open until 12:30am Monday to Wednesday, 2am on Thursday and 4am on Friday and Saturday.

We are already plagued by violence, damage to property, excessive noise and unacceptable language and behaviour mainly due to drunkenness.

I tried to walk my little dog in Rochester high street this morning and had to end up carrying her due to the excessive amount of broken glass, mainly from broken bottles and glasses.

Enough, no more!!! Kindly decline this application. We also have a right to live our lives in a civilised manner and Rochester at night is rapidly becoming a NO GO area.

Bobby Bloyce

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From: ann blyth
Sent: 19 September 2021 19:15
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Chicken hut in rochester

We have enough of a problem with drunks etc. On weekends with the hours available now, but until 4.am is telling the residents of rochester that they will, if this goes through, that we are not entitled to any sleep as the noise we have to put up with now is going to be extended to at least 4am and beyond I live in the French Hospital where most are elderly vulnerable people who suffer Thursday, Friday, and Saturday each week with permitted hours now please do not add to this by a 4am extension added to what is there now.

Mrs A. M BLYTH

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From: Jennifer Cobbing
Sent: 19 September 2021 20:23
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: 4am License for Chicken Hut, Rochester High Street

Dear Sir/Madam

I was far from happy to learn that Chicken Hut on Rochester High Street have applied for a license to stay open until 4am on some days of the week.

I live on the High Street, not far from Chicken Hut and I am appalled that they would consider it acceptable that we should tolerate more night time noise! The night club on Blue Boar Lane closes at 3am and the crowds pour out of it on to Blue Boar Lane car park where they continue their drug taking, sexual activity, fighting, screaming, shouting until well in to the night, as late as 5am on most nights. If the Chicken Hut opened an hour later than the night club it would mean the noise would continue further than 5am. I can't believe it's even being considered.

I live at La Providence, just the other side of the city wall which runs along one side of Blue Boar Lane car park. The night noise carries and we hear the constant screaming and shouting in the night. Why would anyone think it would be acceptable for anyone to have to put up with that even longer than now.

I think it would be profitable to concentrate on the daytime and early evening economy of the High Street, and I'm pretty sure businesses would open later if they were sure that they were not going to lose customers who are eager to leave the High Street before the drunks turn up. This economy would benefit more people than the late night economy does, which is monopolised by just a few businesses.

So many houses and flats have been built in the area, with many more planned, and the owners of these nice new properties must also be tormented by the yobbish behaviour of the young people who flock to Rochester on certain days of the week with the ambition of getting blind drunk and/or stupified by drugs. There doesn't seem to be any sense in attracting people to live in the area and then happily making their lives miserable!
I beg you not to allow this 4am license.

With regards, Miss Jennifer Cobbing

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From: Melanie Comber
Sent: 19 September 2021 10:54
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Chicken Hut Rochester High Street

Dear Sir,

I write with concern with regards to the news that the 'Chicken Hut' in Rochester High Street has made an application for a new licence enabling them to supply food until the early hours of the morning.

My property sits very close to the junction with the High Street. This large area around the road junction is used as a meeting place and congregating area at night for drunken youths and night time revellers. Noise perpetuates until approximately 4am with the closure of the Casino Rooms as revellers make their way home.

Any enticement to provide food and encourage people to remain in this area late into the night is totally unacceptable for a number of reasons.

1. Noise levels are already high in this area which has a high density of residential properties. Anti social behaviour, drunken shouting, singing, (particularly during football season) and swearing is commonplace.
2. The provision of benches in the area, encourages 'picnic' type liaisons, with bottles of alcohol purchased locally, and food supplied by the Chicken Hut. Very often litter is just walked away from, thrown or left on doorsteps. A particular concern being polystyrene food boxes which are toxic for the environment and are not recyclable.
3. Traffic in this area is loud in the early hours, with people being picked up once the clubs and pubs close, car doors are slammed, horns blared and loud music played in cars. No source of enticement to keep people in the area should be encouraged.
4. People use the walls of local properties as lavatories.

Since lockdown has ended, there has been an increased air of aggression with fighting commonplace. I would ask that consideration be given to local residents who are already coping with an enormous amount of external pressure due to the 'night time economy' through no fault of their own with regards to a change of operating hours for this establishment.

Yours Faithfully
Melanie Comber

.....
Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref Chicken Hut, Rochester High Street.

I am writing to formally object to the recent licencing application to stay open until 12:30am Monday to Wednesday, 2am on Thursday and 4am on Friday and Saturday.

This establishment seems to have little regard for the local community and by the sale of fast food encourages late night drunks to stay in Rochester well past midnight creating considerable noise and litter, and other anti-social behaviours by delaying the dispersal of drunks. Many hundreds live in the High Street area; it is not purely commercial by any means. This includes many places such as La Providence where many elderly people live, I also live here and I am the Steward that looks after the place and the residents.

*I understand that there are other establishments that may be open until 4am some mornings, this is not helping the residents at all, there is still noise up to 5 am at weekends.
I am happy for this email to be made public.*

Best Regards

Jon Corrigan
The Steward
The French Hospital

.....
From: Cathy Hull
Sent: 18 September 2021 14:54
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Chicken Hut ROchester licensing application

Dear Medway Council

I want to lodge my strongest objection to the extension to the hours of operation of the above premises.

This is wholly inappropriate as the premises lie at the centre of a densely populated area. Most of the premises above the shops in Rochester High Street are residential and there are many older people living close close by. Nuisance spreads from the High Street quite regularly at weekends. To grant this licence would exacerbate these problems by encouraging people to stay in the area or be attracted into it at totally inappropriate times in the night. Many people commute daily from this area and leave to work early in the morning and the last thing they need is further disturbance to their sleep, or indeed anxiety about possible damage to their property.

Yours Sincerely

Cathy Hull

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From: Jo Manning
Sent: 21 September 2021 14:27
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Rochester Chicken Hut - Objection to late night opening

Dear Sir/Madam

As a Rochester High Street resident i wish to formally object to the recent licencing application from the Chicken Hut to stay open until 12:30 hrs Monday to Wednesday, 02:00 hrs on Thursday and 04:00 hrs on Friday and Saturday.

The Chicken Hut's request has little regard for local residents right to peace and quite during the night time. The sale of fast food encourages late night revellers to remain in the High Street well past midnight creating considerable noise, litter, and other anti-social behaviour, such as breaking shop windows by delaying their dispersal, notwithstanding the smell of cooking the food.

Many hundreds of residents live in the High Street area; who are continually inconvenienced by these types of planning requests and I believe there should be an overall covenant that prevents these requests.

There are already too many venues open late causing late night disturbances and whilst people living in the city respect the fact, to some extent, that the evening economy can be lively to some extent, the requests are increasing and I find it unacceptable to have further reasons to extend the excessive noise and other disturbances throughout the night.

Once one venue is provided with approval this will act as a catalyst for other venues to make similar requests.

In my view the premises should remain open at their current times only

Yours faithfully

Jo Manning
David Roberts

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From: marylyn nicholls
Sent: 22 September 2021 13:15
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Chicken Hut, Rochester High Street

We are aware that the above establishment has made application to extend its opening hours up to 4 am on certain days of the week.

The noise, disruption and residual litter caused by pubs and restaurants in his area operating under normal hours is already unpleasant - for an individual establishment to set a principle by extending such opening times into the early hours of the morning would simply exacerbate the problem.

Rochester, as a visitor destination, is in danger of losing its historical and cultural reputation and is beginning to attract people who, in pursuit of a "good time," do not respect its traditions. Certainly, they do not respect the well-being of those who live here and have to endure the residual vomit, urine and excrement which accompanies the noise, swearing and fighting which, by having access to establishments open after midnight, is only likely to get worse.

We would urge you to turn down the application.

Marylyn Nicholls & Alex Pollock

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From: Clerk <clerk@frenchhospital.org.uk>
Sent: 20 September 2021 13:34
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to licensing application by "Chicken Hut" on Rochester High Street.

I refer to the licensing application by "**Chicken Hut**" on **Rochester High Street**, to extend licensing hours to 12.30am Monday to Wednesday, 2am Thursday and 4am Friday and Saturday

I am writing in my capacity as Clerk (Executive Director) of The French Hospital (at 41 La Providence, Rochester High Street) on behalf of **67 Almshouse residents** to register our strong objection to this licensing application.

The French Hospital comprises **55 independent residential flats, located within 200 meters** of the applicant's premises. Each of our 67 residents, and The French Hospital on their behalf, therefore qualify as "Interested Parties" who will be significantly impacted by the late-night noise, anti-social behaviour and litter consequences of this application.

We are objecting to the application on the basis of **2 of the 4 stated licensing objectives**, namely i) the prevention of crime and disorder, and ii) the prevention of public nuisance.

The effect of the extended licensing hours, if approved, will be to increase the number of intoxicated crowds gathering late at night to eat fast food on and around the high-street in close proximity to residents' premises, which will :

- Encourage prolonged street drinking and delay the dispersal of pub and night-club customers
- Increase the volume of late-night noise levels generally

- Increase the number of incidents of aggressive and/or abusive shouting and screaming, physical altercations and anti-social behaviour such as urinating in doorways, and
- Encourage criminal behaviour such as drug-dealing to move from inside pubs and clubs to continue outdoors on the high street.

All these disorder and public nuisance consequences will result in worsening the late night and very early morning disturbances on 6 nights a week, and our residents' ability to get a reasonable night's sleep.

The effects of regular sleep deprivation are real and proven to drain mental abilities and put physical health at risk. Interrupted sleep has been empirically linked with physical health problems such as

- Weakened immune system
- High blood pressure
- Risk of diabetes, and
- Being moody, escalating anxiety and depression

For our elderly residents in particular, a lack of good quality sleep is associated with

- A negative impact on short and longer term memory
- Trouble with thinking and concentration, and
- Poor balance

Our residents' concerns relate directly to the likely effects of the license on their ability to sleep and therefore on their health and quality of life. I consider these concerns are entirely justifiable, highly significant and objective, and cannot therefore be reasonably considered to be either frivolous or vexatious.

I wish the strong objection of 67 residents of La Providence to be registered as a relevant representation and confirm I am happy for this email to be made public. I would be grateful to receive the Council's confirmation that a hearing will be held or alternatively that the application has been declined, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Catherine Parker
Clerk to the Corporation
The French Hospital

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I would like voice my objection to this, or any business, having such extended hours. This area is residential along with shops and restaurants and I see no need whatsoever for the extended hours. This would result I'm sure in even more litter left in and around the high street along with noise. If one business does it others will want to follow and before we know it the area will become like some elsewhere with drunks and violence and police sirens. Result, beautiful, historic Rochester a no go area!

K. Robinson

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From: Thomas Shepherd
Sent: 18 September 2021 14:20
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to licence application (Chicken Hut)

I am a resident of Crow Lane, writing to formally object to the licensing application made by "Chicken Hut" to extend their opening hours.

The Chicken Hut's customer base is predominantly late-night drinkers, and so any extension to the opening hours will attract drinkers to congregate and remain in Rochester, adding to the many and frequent disturbances already caused by these people.

Furthermore, this would add to the litter generated in the area. I am personally regularly left with litter from these establishments on my property wall and in my garden.

I hope that the wishes of the local residents are taken into account when making a decision on this licence, considering that Historic Rochester is largely residential.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas Shepherd-Gorringe

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From: Corry Smit
Sent: 20 September 2021 18:00
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Chicken Hut extension of hours application MC/16/4952

To whom it may concern

I would like to formally object to the new application to extend the opening hours of The Chicken Hut, 148 High Street, Rochester

I am a Rochester resident and have been for 7 years. I sit on the Rochester City Forum as one of 3 residents representatives. I am also a member of a neighbourhood community group called FORCE (Friends of Rochester, Churchfields and the Esplanade), which meet monthly to voluntarily litter pick the area.

Keeping Rochester clear of litter is a priority to help maintain the attractiveness of The High Street for all to enjoy.

I am also a retired Metropolitan Police Sergeant with over 30 years service in a diverse number of roles. I know, from experience, that late night eating venues unfortunately attract customers who have had too many drinks & cannot control their behaviour.

I daily visit Rochester High Street early in the morning and often witness the after effects of the previous night's activities. Copious litter, cans & bottles cover the High Street The litter around The Chicken Hut has always been particularly bad in comparison to other eating premises along The High Street. The litter is easily identifiable as coming from the Chicken Hut as they brand their containers & food packaging

Extending the premises hours of opening for virtually every night & especially Fridays & Saturdays would attract inebriated revellers from licensed premises nearby & encourage them to stay in the area much longer than desired. Increases in noise & anti social behaviour would be extended for unreasonable periods of time, affecting residents sleep & quality of life. The requested extension hours are totally excessive, unreasonable & undesirable.

Without doubt anti social would increase by the venue, with fighting plus inappropriate words & behaviour being extended for the extra hours that they are requesting to stay open for.

Medway Police, by their own admission, are struggling to cope now and this application would not help their workload at all. It would ultimately lead to an increase in crime and disorder. This will have a knock on effect to others needing a Police response in Medway when no Police can respond to other incidents because of dealing with disorder in The High Street.

My objections therefore are based on the following criteria

Potential
Increase in litter
Increase public nuisance
Increase crime & disorder
Public health & safety would be impacted detrimentally

Regards

Corry Smit

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LICENSING ACT 2003

REPRESENTATION FORM FROM INTERESTED PARTIES

This representation is made by an Interested Party regarding the premises to be licensed as detailed below:

Your name/organisation name/name of body you represent (see note 3)	Robin Simon and Joanna Simon
Organisation name/name of body you represent (if appropriate) (see note 3)	
Postal address	
Email address	
Daytime contact telephone number	

Name of the premises you are making a representation about	Chicken Hut
Address of the premises you are making a representation about	148 High Street Rochester

Your representation must relate to one of the four Licensing Objectives (see note 4)

LICENSING OBJECTIVE	Yes or No	Please detail the evidence supporting your representation or the reason for your representation. Please use separate sheets if necessary
Prevention of crime and disorder	Yes	We are objecting as local residents and therefore interested parties. This business does not seem to have any concern for the community in which it operates as we regularly see a mess outside in the mornings and we are all too aware that it caters to late-evening and late-night drinkers. We strongly object to the application for later opening: until 12.30 am Monday to Wednesday, 2.00 am on Thursday and 4.00 am on Friday and Saturday. Granting the application would have an appalling effect on the High Street, which has many residents in and close by – and not least the elderly and infirm at La Providence.

		Increasing the opening hours will only increase the already notorious anti-social behaviour of drunks, which would run into the early hours. That should be curbed – not encouraged.
Public safety	Yes	See above, plus the fact that bad behaviour will spread all along the routes taken home by drunks fuelled by more fast food as they roam about for longer and longer than at present – which is already quite bad enough on certain nights, and especially Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
Prevention of public nuisance	Yes	See above
Protection of children from harm	Yes	There are many young families in the area, in the High Street and all around, and the disturbance of children's sleep, which would certainly happen if this application were granted, is a well-established cause of inattention in school, lack of capacity to concentrate, and an increase in bad behaviour.

Please suggest any conditions that you think could be added to the licence to remedy your representations or other suggestions you would like the Licensing Sub Committee to take into account		I cannot think of anything that would mitigate the potentially disastrous granting of this profoundly inconsiderate application, which is driven solely by the prospect of profit without any thought for the community.
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SIGNED:

DATED: 19 September 2021

NOTES

1. If you do make a representation you will be invited to attend a meeting of the Licensing sub Committee and any subsequent appeal proceeding. If you do not attend, the Committee will consider any representations that you have made.
2. This form must be returned within the Statutory Period, which is 28 days from the date the notice was displayed on the premises or the date specified in the Public Notice in the newspaper. Please contact the Licensing Section if you are in doubt about the date.
3. They can only relate to the four licensing objectives.
4. Your representation will be passed to the applicant, to allow them the opportunity of addressing your concerns. Your representations will be published in the report available to the Licensing Committee, which will be publicly available.
5. Please return this form when completed to:

Gravesham Borough Council

Licensing Team
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend
Kent
DA12 1AU

Tel: 01474 33 76 51

Gravesham Borough Council processes personal data consistent with the General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. For more information about how the Council processes your personal data please see the privacy notice on our website at: www.gravesham.gov.uk/privacy

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From: Jenny Turner
Sent: 19 September 2021 19:05
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Late night licensing for hot food... objection

Dear Sir

I would like to object to the application from The Chicken Hut, High Street, Rochester to sell food until 04.00 am.

My objections are

1. It will encourage people to gather and hang about in the High Street so late at night.
2. The noise level will increase along the length of the High Street
3. There is a potential for litter to be left in the High Street .

Yours Faithfully

Mrs Jennifer Turner

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From: Emma Veale
Sent: 20 September 2021 14:50
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Chicken Hut Rochester

Hello,

I am writing to formally to object to the recent license application of the Chicken Hut in Rochester to stay open until 12.30 Monday - Wednesday, 2 am on Thursday and 4 am on Friday and Saturday.

Rochester high street is a mixture of residential and commercial units and thus any application to stay open after 11.30 is deemed antisocial, where even the slightest conversation can appear noisy. Not only does staying open into the small hours encourage people to remain on the streets well past any time that people should be on the streets, but it also results in rubbish pollution and antisocial behaviour, including criminal damage.

I think as a council we should be encouraging a healthy attitude towards life, not encouraging them to drink and eat in an unhealthy way that will impact council services both immediate and long term, including putting pressure on the NHS.

Unfortunately, the approval of late-night alcohol licenses and permitting a nightclub to exist in such a residential area has meant that Rochester highstreet has turned into a street reminiscent of Magaluf. Where families feel unsafe to visit after 8 pm and drug dealers peddle an open trade.

I would like not to be woken routinely in the small hours as people stagger home, find plastic takeaway boxes outside my door, or have to listen to Elvis impersonator outside at the Ye Arrow on a Sunday afternoon as I try to worship in the Cathedral. I would like the council to place a curfew on Rochester so that 24 hours later I do not have police, family, search and rescue teams knocking my door to try and find people on a night out that haven't made it home.

The council should be making Rochester an attractive and safe place to visit for families and tourists, where businesses can make a good living from day trade. It should be thinking about the welfare and the long-term health of its people and lost economy from people not turning up to work due to overindulgence and ensuring that families never have to grieve their children who have ended up in the river or down the back of a shed.

Regards,
Emma Veale

Dr Emma Veale | Senior Research Fellow | Medway School of Pharmacy
Universities of Greenwich and Kent at Medway, Anson Building, Central Avenue, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, Kent, ME4 4TB

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The Senior Licensing Officer,
Gravesham Borough Council
Civic Centre
Windmill Street
Gravesend

Dear Sir or Madam,

OBJECTION TO PREMISES LICENSE APPLICATION in respect of ROCHESTER CHICKEN HUT, 148 HIGH STREET, ROCHESTER, KENT

I write, in connection with the above application for an extension of trading hours, in my capacity as Marketing & Tourism Lead for the Visit Rochester UK initiative of the Rochester City Centre Forum, as a local resident, and as a local business owner in Rochester High Street (Rochester History Guided Tours).

I object to the above application and feel it should be rejected on the following grounds:

1. Public Health - in the years I have lived in Rochester, this business has consistently failed to demonstrate an adequate regard for the public health implications of the amount of litter their trading creates. Consistently, their identifiable, branded packing can be found strewn along much of the High Street having been dumped by takeaway customers. I am not aware of this business having taken any steps to lessen this at any time, or wished to engage with Visit Rochester UK in an effort to improve the local environment so it is safe and healthy for visitors.

2. Effect on the local community - It is an easy mistake to make assuming that few residents would be affected. The reverse is the actual fact. Residential properties far outweigh business ones on Rochester High Street and residents' lives are already affected to their detriment by the late night economy which was allowed to expand unchecked in the past. This business being allowed to open after midnight WILL contribute to anti-social behaviour, AND make the High Street somewhere unsafe during the hours of darkness by encouraging nightclub and bar customers to remain in the street instead of making their way home.

3. Public Safety - Continuing on from point 2 above, if this business were to be allowed to remain open after midnight, this would encourage intoxicated nightclub goers to congregate in and around the premises for an extended period and this will, inevitably, result in an increase in violence and/or abuse.

I would also add that I feel I may know what prompted this application. On the night all nightclubs came out of lockdown in June, the queue at 11.30pm for Casino Rooms was all the way up Blue Boar Lane, around the corner into the High Street and went past Eastgate House gates, 6 to 8 people deep.

I happened to be in the High Street right by no 148 at the time and overheard the conversation between the staff. They were discussing how much more business they could get from this market. I understand from others that this queue did not die down until past 3am. It is my opinion that the staff of the Chicken Shop saw the opportunity and this prompted their application. As stated, I place on record my objection to this application.

Yours sincerely Shane Waterman

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Sent: 19 September 2021 12:16
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection: Extended licensing for the Chicken Hut Rochester

Dear Sir / Madam

I write to object to the extended licensing application for the Chicken Hut in Rochester high street.

I object on the grounds of

- additional litter caused by this fast food place which is already a problem
 - anti social noise from people congregating around a fast food establishment, with proposed opening until 4am on some days.
 - impact on people who live in the high street who may be kept awake by the extended hours.
- People in the high street already report problems with noise from the late night economy and there seems no rationale to make their life worse in this regard until 4am.

Midnight is late enough for the Chicken Hut to be selling fast food on Friday and Saturday evenings, with closure at 11pm on Sunday through to (and including) Thursday evenings.

You may publicly publish this email if my personal email address is redacted for privacy.

Yours faithfully

E Whitlam

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Medway Council
LICENSING DEPARTMENT

ARLIE JOHNSTONE

148 HIGH ST MIDNIGHT
Application

I totally object to this proposal.

Extension was granted to bar to extend from 2-3pm. All it did was transfer noise to 3pm which is unacceptable. There is no justifiable reason for this.

There is a night club on New Road. according to my grandpa, open to 5AM in the morning and they fall out of there having had too much to drink.

When I was a Magistrate on the Licensing Committee never allowed premises to open after 11PM. special events 12 noon. this meant that people could still get a good night's sleep. as a Council you want high street properties occupied by someone buildings and residents should be allowed. time with out disturbances.

Yours faithfully



01 OCT 2021