

## Appendix C

**From:** c.webb

**Sent:** 23 December 2025 13:05

**To:** Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Application to vary Premises Licence , Kings Head Hotel, 58 High Street , Rochester ME1 1LD

I refer to the above licence variation application . The City of Rochester Society objects to this application as follows : -

1. Prevention of crime & disorder . To increase the hours to 2am and 3am for the sale & supply of alcohol is unacceptable . This premises lies within the Rochester High Street Cumulative Impact Area , which identifies this street as ' high risk ' in terms of crime & disorder . Therefore the potential for greatly increased crime & disorder throughout the night is very clear , particularly from Kings Head customers who are heavily intoxicated on & also outside the premises . The potential for increased littering will be increased , as will public urinating & vomiting in the street & in doorways & by residents houses / flats and business premises .There are a large number of residences in the immediate area , many of whom already experience associated crime & disorder . To increase this additional burden on residents etc is just not acceptable . Earlier this year ( 2025 ) there was a very violent incident associated with this premises which perfectly illustrates the potential for increase problems if even more alcohol is being consumed in any longer licensing hours . Another problem of increasing the opening hours is the very increased risk of drink driving . With such late hours, there would only be a period of three to four hours before the morning ' rush hour ' . People attending the Kings Head may well not bother going home to sleep & head off in their vehicles to work or back home well over the current drink drive alcohol limit . Extended hours will also attract intoxicated customers from other licensed premises that have closed or from which they had been ejected . Effectively to increase the hours applied for would change this premises to a ' nightclub ' bringing all the associated problems this creates . The current management of the Kings Head hotel has been unsatisfactory currently at times in terms of alcohol related incidents at or resulting from the premises which gives no confidence to the public for any increased hours . The Operating Schedule information in the application is very ' standard ' and merely pays lip service to complying with the 4 Licensing Objectives and does not address the practical problems that will occur with increased hours .

2 .Prevention of Public Nuisance , Some of the points in paragraph 1 above also apply here . In addition , live & recorded music until 2am will undoubtedly extend on to 3am ( the requested ' hours open to the public ) .. There is clearly definite potential here for excessive noise disturbance both to residents & other businesses . Very loud music noise nuisance from this premises is currently experienced by local residents & is

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currently audible in Rochester Cathedral immediately opposite . This destroys the peaceful atmosphere of the Cathedral and to increase this disturbance is unacceptable . When would increased rubbish generated by extra trading hours be cleared away ? Certainly not until sometime the following day ? The increased public nuisance not only would affect nearby residents but those residents in a wider geographical area as often very intoxicated customers make their way home etc .The licensable activity of Late Night Refreshment to 2.30am has also been applied for . What exactly is proposed here ? would hot takeaway food be made available to the customers and general public ? If so , many of the problems of possible public nuisance / crime & disorder etc associated with takeaways will be happening . .

3. Public Safety . The Licensing Act 2003 explains it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their premises is safe for the public & staff for the activity taking place both inside & immediately outside the premises( eg : in connection with queuing ,access , control of crowds etc ) . The Operating Schedule does not seem to refer to safe capacity levels , means of escape , restrictions on flashing or bright lights etc . This is therefore of concern .

4 . Protection of children from harm . This objective includes moral & psychological harm as well as physical harm . There is now a very broad responsibility on Premises Licence holders to protect children in many different ways . Examples of relevant conditions on the hours children may be present on the premises or restrictions on the exclusion of children under certain ages . There could also be requirements for an accompanying adult in some circumstances . Again here , much more detail is required to address this licensing objective satisfactorily .

5 . All 4 Licensing Objectives in the Licensing Act 2003 are to try & control the impact of licensable activities on the local community . This variation application , if granted , would most certainly have an unacceptable impact on the community as a whole . The City of Rochester Society has been contacted by a number of its members & also local residents expressing their serious concern at this increase of hours variation application .and its direct effect on their general wellbeing & environment . These residents support the above representation . The question has to be asked ' what is the justification ' for increasing already existing late licensing hours ? For all the above reasons , the City of Rochester Society requests that this variation application be refused . Many thanks .

Chris Webb , on behalf of the City of Rochester Society