

From:

Sent: 09 March 2026 14:38

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

Subject: Application for Premises Licence, 129 -131 High Street, Strood, Rochester ME2 4TJ

Good morning - the City of Rochester Society objects to the above application on the following grounds: -

Prevention of crime & disorder.

1. The proposed hours for the sale & supply of alcohol to 0400 on Fridays & Saturdays have clear potential for associated increased crime & disorder into the middle of the night. The proposed use of this premises is described as ' Restaurant / Bar / Lounge '. The applicant does not explain why such late hours are sought?
2. This premises is located within Medway Council's ' Strood Stress Area ' which refers to alcohol related issues. This Stress Area targets alcohol related crime & disorder and anti social behaviour & serves to address high crime rates in this area and prevent issues arising from the sale of alcohol. A licence applicant would be expected to have carried out a risk assessment for their business to prevent a negative effect on the 4 Licensing Objectives. This assessment does not appear to have been carried out. The closely adjoining area of Rochester High Street is one of Medway's Cumulative Impact Areas in terms of crime & disorder, anti social behaviour etc. Pedestrians in Rochester can access Strood Town Centre within minutes by walking across Rochester Bridge and vice versa. The close proximity of these areas makes the issues of dispersal, displacement & migrating from one area to another, a major concern particularly with those people who are intoxicated. This is even more relevant with alcohol hours to 0400. The Strood Public Spaces Protection Order implemented by Medway Council to try & prevent anti social behaviour covers the same area as the Stress Area and therefore the same issues apply. The applicant has not satisfactorily addressed these important issues in relation to the Stress Area & how they will deal with this aspect in relation to the Licensing Objectives.
3. Exactly how will a Restaurant/ Bar / Lounge operate in order to reduce the potential likelihood of associated crime & disorder? Another factor here is that Late Night Refreshment to 0400 has been applied for. Does this mean that a ' takeaway ' service to customers not in the Restaurant / Bar / Lounge will be available and if so, how will this operate in terms of complying with the 4 Licensing Objectives?
4. Although the immediately surrounding area is primarily commercial, there are a number of residential properties which would be directly affected by increased crime & disorder & anti social behaviour. In the wider adjoining area, it is heavily residential& the scenario of intoxicated customers making their way home at or after 0400 is very likely to lead to unacceptable effects of crime & disorder etc on the local community
5. If the licence is approved for a 0400 finish, it will mean that this premises effectively operates as a night club with all the associated problems this activity can generate.

Prevention of public nuisance.

1. A number of the points raised at paras 1 -5 above also apply to this Licensing Objective. In addition, potential for intoxicated customers leaving the premises and subsequently urinating and vomiting in the street, shop fronts & residents' properties cannot be ignored. An increased likelihood of littering and rubbish is another factor here.

2. With regard to the request for live & recorded music to 0400, what measures are in place to prevent noise escape and any resulting disturbance? How will noise levels be monitored - will a noise limiter be installed?

3. The property will, with hours to 0400, become a magnet for already intoxicated customers, who have left or been ejected from other licensed premises, wanting to continue drinking. This in turn is a major concern in terms of disorder, anti social behaviour and public nuisance.

For the above reasons, the City of Rochester Society requests that this application be refused please. Many thanks.

Chris Webb, for the City of Rochester Society