

The Licensing Service
C/O Southwark Environmental Health and Trading Standards
3rd Floor Hub 2
160 Tooley Street
London
SE1 5LX
E- [REDACTED]



Dear Licensing Team

We are local residents of a flat adjacent to the Thomas-A-Becket (situated at 320 Old Kent Road) and strongly oppose a licence being granted for this premises to serve alcohol and to open extended hours.

The previous licence was revoked in March 2014. At that hearing it was clear that any subsequent licence application would be subject to stringent requirements and was unlikely to be granted to the current owners or their associates. To my knowledge, the owners of the premises have not changed.

We wish to make representations to oppose a licence being granted in respect of the following:

- The prevention of crime and disorder

As you will be aware, the licensing law plays a key role in both preventing and controlling alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour by ensuring, amongst other things that the premises is well-managed and hours of operation of the premises are regulated. Essentially, the current owner of the premises did not respect this and it is why the previous licence was revoked and they are no longer able to trade. We have no confidence that the most recent licence applicant has any further insight into these issues and the significant crime and disorder that is likely to prevail if they operate under a licence at the proposed extended opening hours.

In the previous hearing, there were examples of various crimes that had been reported to the police; some extremely serious. These examples were just the tip of the iceberg as they were the crimes that were reported on the premises, and not the glassing of a girl in our car park, or the regular assaults and abuse experienced by ambulance staff or the fights between patrons. Many petty crimes were not reported at all to avoid adding to the already substantial workload of the police.

Due to these events, some residents moved and/or sold their properties as a result of feeling intimidated by patrons of the Thomas-A-Becket and lack of support from the management/owners. This was exacerbated by reports of violent behaviour regularly exhibited at the premises due to excessive drinking that was not controlled by the licensee or appointed personnel. In some cases the victims almost died.

The documents that we would expect to be available for this application to even be considered are:

- a) A crime prevention strategy document
- b) A risk assessment that states potential consequences of extended operating hours combined with alcohol licence, including risk to local property and people and how these will be mitigated (not just risk on the premises).

- The prevention of public nuisance

The extended hours pose an issue for local residents due to noise nuisance from patrons leaving or arriving at the premises at unsocial hours. A late alcohol licence inevitably leads to drunk patrons leaving a premises with impaired judgement and lack of inhibition. In turn, problems we have previously experienced and have no desire to be repeated are:

- Trespass into the car park at the rear of Riddell Court
- Litter being left, including broken bottles, flyers and syringes
- People urinating in our car park
- People vomiting in our car park and neighbouring vicinity
- People having sex in our car park and public areas in the vicinity of our property
- Noisy conversations / arguments / swearing / fighting in the car park, near residents windows
- Loud music from cars parked up waiting for others to leave the premises at all hours
- Cars double parked in Shornecliffe Road so that other drivers have to sound their horns to pass

Equally, the bass from music at the premises and noise from patrons gathering in external areas of the premises, e.g. garden, smoking area, front of property etc. could be heard by local residents.

At a minimum, we would expect the licence application decision to be based on documented strategy to prevent recurrence of such issues, particularly any noise after 10pm on any night of the week. It is also important that an acoustic consultant's report is completed in order for the applicant to be able to mitigate further noise pollution from the premises.

- The protection of children from harm

There are children resident in the flats and we are also next to Walworth Academy. Children should not be exposed to any moral, psychological or physical harm from activities resulting from intoxication at the premises. This would include exposure to expletives, fighting and sexual activity of patrons; broken glass, discarded syringes and litter as a consequence of patrons frequenting the local vicinity; noxious smells (from public urination and marijuana smoking); gang-related activity and inappropriate flyers advertising events at the venue.

- Public safety

There is limited public transport in the early hours of the morning which confounds the problem of extended opening hours; people are more likely to drive (potentially under the influence of alcohol / drugs) thus causing a danger to themselves and the public.

Due to the nature of our jobs in healthcare, we need to ensure that we are able to sleep at night (weeknights and at the weekend) in order to be able to function safely for the benefit of patients and the public. There is a danger of this being jeopardised if this licence application is granted as we are likely to experience sleep deprivation and stress.

We would be grateful if you note our objections to this application and sincerely hope that the licence is not granted.

Yours faithfully



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 C/O Southwark Environmental Health and Trading Standards
 3rd Floor Hub 2
 160 Tooley Street
 London
 SE1 5LX
 E-mail: licensing@se1.southwark.gov.uk

Dear Sirs,

We, [REDACTED], local residents of a flat next to the Thomas-a-Becket public house on Old Kent Road.

A licence application for the premises at 320 Old Kent Road to open as public house / restaurant has been submitted and we wish to make representations to oppose a licence being granted on the grounds of:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm (we are next to Walworth Academy)
- Public safety

The problems that have been previously been experienced by residents when a late licence was granted include:

- Noise nuisance when people leave the public house
- Trespass in to the car park at the rear of Riddell Court
- Litter being left, including broken bottles, flyers, used condoms and syringes
- People urinating in our car park
- People having sex in our car park and public areas in the vicinity of our property
- Noisy conversations / arguments / swearing / fighting in the car park, near residents windows
- Loud music from cars parked up waiting for others to leave the premises at all hours
- Cars double parked in Shorncliffe Road so that taxi drivers have to sound their horns to pass

To date, the owners of the premises have not changed. We have no confidence that the new licensee will be any different to the previous licensee, particularly in respect of being family-friendly or community oriented and this is supported by the proposed opening hours.

In relation to the new application I would argue the following points

- Why is there a need for a late opening application (to 1am) for a restaurant? Most restaurants are open to 11pm, with alcohol sales to 10.30pm. I have no objection to this application alteration, but anything after this would appear to promote a drinks venue
- If food is a necessity of alcohol purchase within the venue, then why is there a need for a security guard on site? It would appear to promote the sale of alcohol as a main item of business

In all the application appears to be for a late night bar, fronted as a restaurant. I have no objection to a restaurant application with normal, consistent working hours (until 11pm). But this application would appear to be a way of starting a business and then later applying for extended operational hours to make it a nightclub again.

I would be grateful if you note our objections to this application and sincerely hope that the licence is not granted.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name and address]

request to re submit

The Licensing Service
c/o Southwark Environmental Health
& Trading Standards
3rd Floor Hub 2
160 Tooley Street
London SE1 5LX



1st September 2016

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to oppose the Licence Application for the following premises.

Name of Applicant **Paul Scarborough**

Premise **Thomas a Beckett
320 Old Kent Road
London SE1 5UE**

Date of Application **22/08/2016**



The reasons for my opposition are as follows.

The noise from the Thomas A Beckett would be disruptive to us, as it has been in the past, when the premises was open. I live in Cobourg Road opposite Burgess Park where the music has been horrendous and given the applicants late night/morning opening hours it would be with out any shadow of a doubt cause problems for us.

Myself and the residents of Cobourg Road are at the moment in consultation with Burgess Park Management about the anti-social behaviour in Burgess Park and late night revellers, if this Application is to be allowed to go ahead, once again, apart from the noise in the Thomas A Beckett, this will as usual spill out into the Park where the drinking and anti-social behaviour would continue.

Given what has happened previously ie the violence and anti social behaviour, I request that you refuse this Application.

Yours Faithfully

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a local resident(s) of a flat next to the Thomas-a-Becket public house on Old Kent Road.

A licence application for the premises at 320 Old Kent Road to open as public house has been submitted and I wish to make representations to oppose a licence being granted on the grounds of:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm (we are next to Walworth Academy)
- Public safety

The problems that have been previously been experienced by residents when a late licence was granted include:

- Noise nuisance when people leave the public house
- Trespass in to the car park at the rear of Riddell Court
- Litter being left, including broken bottles, flyers, used condoms and syringes
- People urinating in our car park
- People having sex in our car park and public areas in the vicinity of our property
- Noisy conversations / arguments / swearing / fighting in the car park, near residents windows
- Loud music from cars parked up waiting for others to leave the premises at all hours
- Cars double parked in Shornecliffe Road so that taxi drivers have to sound their horns to pass

In addition, some residents moved and/or sold their properties due to feeling intimidated by the clientele and lack of support from the management / owners. This was exacerbated by reports of violent (almost to the point of fatality) behaviour regularly exhibited at the premises due to excessive drinking and drug taking that was not controlled by the licensee or appointed personnel.

I note that the new licence application proposes extended opening hours, akin to the previous hours. Due to the anti-social behaviour, noise issues, crime and public safety concerns that

lead to stress of residents, this is a major concern. We are strongly against a licence being granted, particularly with the proposed opening hours.

To date, the owners of the premises have not changed. We have no confidence that the new licensee will be any different to the previous licensee, particularly in respect of being family-friendly or community oriented and this is supported by the proposed opening hours.

I would be grateful if you note my objections to this application and sincerely hope that the licence is not granted.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 21, 2016 10:31 AM
To: Regen, Licensing
Subject: Thomas A Beckett licensing application - representations

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as I am a tenant in [REDACTED], London SE5 ODS and have been prompted for representations to the Licensing Service regarding the application to reopen the **Thomas A Beckett pub**.

Firstly, I note representations were requested by 19 September 2016. I have just returned from holiday so was unable to respond in the given timeframe. Nevertheless I am hoping the contents of this email will still be considered before a decision is made.

I would like the decision maker(s) to be aware that **I cannot object strongly enough to the pub being reopened** by the same owner and I am stunned by their audacity to even make an application given the history violent incidents on the premises. Since the pub was forced to close the area has been far safer and more pleasant for local residents and visitors to the Old Kent Road end of Burgess Park.

While the pub was open I and other residents had to endure:

- Constant noise throughout the night from:
 - Music from the club (above agreed limits)
 - Punters leaving late at night (noisy conversations/arguments/fighting)
 - Sirens from emergency services responding to fights in the bar
 - Loud music from cars waiting in Shorncliffe Road
 - Taxis attempting to navigate a maze of waiting cars
- People trespassing in the carpark to the rear of Riddell Court to urinate, damage property, buy/sell/take drugs
- Bottles/glasses being broken in the street and carpark

I believe the current owner of the pub to be a general threat to public safety and community cohesion. The pub did nothing for the benefit of the local community and; if anything, created issues that the area is far better off without.

Given the general Old Kent Road area has been earmarked for regeneration it would be mindless to allow the Thomas A Beckett to reopen before it changes ownership.

Many thanks for your time,

[REDACTED]