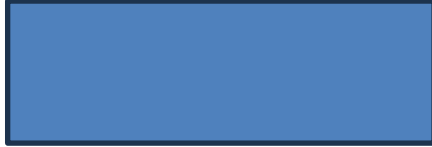


Mia Taylor,



11.10.23

Somerset Council,  
Licencing,  
Bridgwater House,  
King Square,  
Bridgwater,  
TA6 3AR

RE: Objection to Licence Application for Sale of Alcohol until 10pm at The Village  
Café and Bakery

Dear Somerset Council,

I am writing to formally object to the licensing application regarding the sale of alcohol until 10pm at the business located below my residence. After careful consideration of the proposal and its potential impact on the residents of Myrtle House, I believe there are several significant concerns that need to be addressed before any decision is made.

- **Disturbance and Noise:** The extended hours for the sale of alcohol will undoubtedly lead to an increase in noise levels, disturbances, and the potential for antisocial behaviour in the vicinity. This would significantly disrupt the peace and tranquillity of our residential building, particularly during the evening hours.
- **Impact on Residential Quality of Life:** As a resident living directly above the business, I am deeply concerned about the adverse effects this extended alcohol licence could have on my quality of life. The ability to enjoy a peaceful and quiet living environment is of paramount importance.

- **Building Structure and Noise Permeability:** It is important to note that the building in question is an older structure with single-glazed windows. This characteristic makes it particularly susceptible to noise infiltration, amplifying the potential disturbance caused by extended hours of alcohol sales. Additionally, noise generated from the premises below can be heard through the floor by the premises above, further compounding the potential impact.
- **Excessive Days and Hours:** According to the application, the request for the sale of alcohol until 10pm spans from Monday to Saturday, and until 6pm on Sunday. This extensive schedule, covering every day of the week, appears excessive and may not be warranted for the nature of the establishment in question.
- **Community Wellbeing:** I understand the need for business to thrive and I am willing to consider this application under certain conditions. I am happy for the business in question to sell alcohol as a takeaway option, such as sealed bottles of wine, beer, or spirits. Moreover, I am amenable to the idea of alcohol sales on the premises, so long as it does not affect residents' daily life or cause disturbances. This includes ensuring that noise levels are kept at a reasonable level and with an assurance that no drinking of alcohol is permitted in the evening. This restriction would help maintain the peaceful atmosphere of the neighbourhood and safeguard the well-being of its residents. The current closing time of the premises is 4pm, and I question why this needs to be extended beyond this hour. If alcohol sales were restricted to 4pm and no later, I would be content with this arrangement.
- **Redundancy of Service:** It is worth noting that there is an existing pub which is managed – possibly owned although of this I am unsure – by the same company, located directly across the road. This popular establishment already caters to the community's need for a place to consume alcohol. I strongly question the necessity for this additional premises to sell alcohol for consumption on site, particularly until a late hour. Could the proposed events not be hosted at their existing licensed establishment? This would not only preserve the peaceful environment of our building but would also allow the company to continue offering such events without causing disruption to our residence.

I must also express my dismay at having only discovered this licencing request through a notice posted on the bakery door. I understand that this is procedure, but as long-term residents of Myrtle House and considering the close proximity to the residential properties, I believe it would have been correct to receive direct and official notification of the proposed change. My neighbour, who shares concerns about this application, was also not aware of the proposed changes - of which affect the entire building - until I informed her, despite the notices being displayed.

Finally, I would appreciate being kept informed of any progress on this application, and any public hearings or meetings regarding it. I am happy to participate and provide further input if necessary.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mia Taylor