



Date:

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

E:mail: see below

Tel: 33

Dear

Application for a Premises Licence in respect of premises known as The Barbershop Brewhouse, 2 Downham Road, Woburn Sands MK17

We are the agents who recently submitted the application for a new premises licence for the above mentioned premises.

Part of the application process involves the advertising of the application by way of a site notice, and also in the local newspaper.

Milton Keynes Council Licensing Department have advised me that you have made a representation to the application and I have been sent a copy of your representation – this is also part of the application process.

The blue notice at the premises is prescribed by law. We can see how the wording in the notice may make you think that the premises are going to be 'just another bar' but this is not the case.

Having read your representation, we feel we should provide you with further information about the applicant and how he intends to operate the premises.



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The applicant is a local man, he lives in Woburn Sands and is very familiar with the locality and local people. The Barbershop Brewhouse is his own idea, and he intends to operate the premises in the style of a shop, where customers can effectively 'try before you buy'.

The products which will be available at these premises are specialist products - craft alcohol products which carry a premium price - approximately £5 for a bottle of craft beer for example. There are some very successful similar style premises in other Authority areas, and no issues arise as a result.

The premises are a small premises, and by the time the premises are fitted out with a serving counter, display shelves and refrigeration units, there will only be room for a maximum of 15 – 17 people to be able to sample the products at any one time. Please note that the application is for the ground floor only.

All customers will be seated when drinking at the premises - there will be no 'vertical drinking' - this reduces the potential for nuisance. Customers shall not be permitted to stand outside and drink, therefore there will not be an 'overspill' of customers on the street as some people fear.

No entertainment is applied for within this application - any noise from the premises will be customers talking and low-level incidental music - again, this reduces the potential for nuisance.

We have been in discussion with the council's Environmental Health Officer regarding the application. Through those discussions, we have proffered additional measures to ensure local people are not affected by the use of these premises.

One such measure is in respect of customers wishing to smoke. You will be aware that there is a small area at the side of these premises (where the steps lead to the room above the premises) which is just off the footpath. The applicant intends for his customers to use this area for people wishing to smoke, as this will be away from your homes and the building will provide a sound-screen between the smokers and yourselves.

The applicant has also stated he will keep windows and doors closed after 20.00hrs each day (the door will only open after this time to allow customers to enter / leave the premises).

It has further been agreed with the Licensing Authority that the last sale of alcohol which can be consumed on the premises will take place no later than 21.45hrs.



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The premises will be closed at 22.00hrs each day. Concerns have been expressed that customers leaving the premises will engage in rowdy and loud behaviour. The nature and style of the operation intended at these premises reduces the potential for that type of behaviour. The pricing structure at these premises (as mentioned above) means that the premises will attract a certain type of customer. In other words, not the type of customer who has been drinking all night and has forgotten where the 'volume button' is.

It is also anticipated that customers may try one or two drinks at the premises before leaving – effectively sampling some of the different products available before taking some home.

Parking issues in the street have also been expressed as a concern if the Barbershop Brewhouse is granted a licence. Whilst parking issues are always a concern for residents, parking issues are not always a reason to refuse a licensing application.

People have a legal responsibility to park legally – that responsibility can never be attributed to people who have licences to sell alcohol products.

Having said that, the applicant is fully aware that whilst not everyone who visits his premises will be driving. Many of his intended customers will drive. He will therefore encourage customers who are driving to make use of the appropriate parking available in Woburn Sands rather than litter the streets through irresponsible parking.

Can we also add that not everyone who drinks alcohol then goes on to drive a motor vehicle. You will be aware that petrol stations sell alcohol – people take it home or to other locations, they do not open up their drinks on the forecourts and start drinking whilst driving.

For the reasons provided above, we submit that the risk of these premises posing problems for local people will be very low. If any problems did arise from the proposed use, then the applicant would welcome being contacted by yourselves to discuss the issues – he can then address them in the most appropriate way.

We hope this letter provides more detail about the way the applicant intends for these premises to be operated. We hope you feel more reassured that the risk of issues is low.



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If you do feel more reassured, we would invite you to consider withdrawing your representation.

Your objection to this licensing application means that the Licensing Authority must convene a hearing in front of the Licensing Sub Committee. That hearing will take place in the next few weeks. However, the hearing does not need to take place if we can reach an agreement with you about the measures planned to address the licensing objectives.

In order to reach an agreement with you, we would be happy to communicate further with you, meet with you, or engage in dialogue via email if that is preferred. We would like to avoid the hearing if we can, hence this letter to see if there is room for movement on your objection.

My contact details are as per this letter, and I would be more than happy to talk about the application further with you, if you so wish. I am sure the Council's Licensing Team would also be happy to discuss this further with you, or to confirm what I have written in this letter.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

Frank Fender
FJF Licensing Solutions
E-mail