

Appendix C1

To: Licensing Team, Central Bedfordshire Council, Watling House, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds
LU6 1LF Telephone: 0300 300 864

4 October 2018



Dear Sirs

Re: notice of application dated 19 September 2018 by Fratelli Ampthill Limited for premises licence ("the Fratelli Application").

Dear Sirs

I write to object to the above application on the ground that it will involve the creation of a public nuisance, namely noise nuisance.

The centre of Ampthill is a residential area: lots of people live there around and above and behind the shops and pubs. In recent years there has been a steady attempt by various businesses to turn it into a centre for late night entertainment. The Fratelli Application is the latest development on this score.

The Fratelli application is for permission to play live music until midnight Monday to Wednesday and till 1:30 am on Thursday to Sunday. Similarly, they want the right to play recorded music till midnight Sunday to Wednesday and till 1:30 am on Thursday to Saturday.

If permission is granted the overwhelming likelihood is that music will be played at very loud volumes during the hours specified. The noise will not be confined to the building, as such noise never is unless effective, elaborate and expensive air-tight sound-proofing is installed, which will not happen. Any neighbour who complains will be told that Fratelli have a 'licence' to create noise.

It is not good enough for councillors to regard late night noise nuisance from such businesses as simply an integral part of living in a town or as an inevitable part of 'progress'. Such noise nuisance occurs because the Council allows it to occur. The Council should require hospitality businesses who wish to trade in residential areas to do so without creating noise nuisance. There is no need for a bar or a restaurant to have music late at night - or indeed at all: the Wetherspoon chain has built up an enormously successful pub and food business without allowing music at all in its venues. Night clubs should not be allowed to set up in residential areas unless they can show that the music will not be audible at all in neighbouring houses and flats - a requirement that so far as I am aware the Council has never seen fit to impose although I cannot for the life of me understand why not.

Adding requirements such as that windows be kept closed is ineffective because (a) such requirements are routinely ignored by businesses, especially on warm evenings; (b) the Council does not police and enforce them properly or at all because it does not care sufficiently and (c) the volumes tend to be so loud that even if the windows are closed the noise just pulsates through them.

Nor is it justifiable to inflict noise nuisance on people because 'it's only at the weekend'. The idea that people can be kept up late at the weekend because they don't have to work in the morning is false. Many people have to work on Saturdays and Sundays or have to get up early to ferry children around. The children, too, need to sleep. People who pay their council tax should be entitled to live their own lives in their own homes without having to put up with wholly unnecessary noise nuisance from businesses. Councillors should be vigilant in protecting this right, not seeking to trample on it on the spurious ground that the interests of local commerce somehow require them to do so.

For these reasons I oppose the application in its entirety.

Yours

■ Woburn Street, Ampthill MK45 2HP