

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION - STATEMENT FROM REPRESENTATION #20

COUNCILLOR DION

In relation to the prevention of crime and disorder, it has to be remembered that Ashley Cross has an evidenced history of late-night and licensed-premises disturbance.

It became a hot spot of crime and antisocial behaviour due to the concentration of late night drinking establishments. Residents and several victims of crime and assault had to resort to bringing a petition to the Council pleading for restrictions on the bars' opening hours and better regulation to tackle the problem. A cumulative impact study was also sought to tackle the problem. These were not concluded due to the lack of evidence to warrant further action. But it does reflect how residents were, are and will be adversely affected by the proposals to return to the very late night openings. Approving late night opening with the sale of alcohol risks bringing the crime and disorder back to the area.

Prevention of public nuisance

Ashley Cross is primarily a residential area. All the shops along the road have private flats above. Extended hours would increase the public nuisance of loud voices, shouting and laughing and, on occasions, fighting. Many residents, who live in the single family dwellings all along the adjacent roads to Ashley Cross, have reported the additional nuisance of slamming car doors and drunken behaviour which includes includes urinating and vomiting in their gardens, as customers return to their cars. This is an unacceptable disturbance at 3.00/4 in the morning. Noise from this bar in terms of recorded music, with the relentless thud thud thud of the bass, must be considered by the committee members and to ask themselves how they would feel to be subjected to that until 3am preventing a decent night's sleep. The premises cannot be 100% soundproofed and as people go in and out the door remains open creating huge noise nuisance.

Public Safety

A bar in this location it is likely to become a gathering point for people leaving this and other licensed premises. Instead of supporting quick and orderly dispersal, it can encourage customers to remain in the area, form queues, congregate outside, eat in the street and interact with other people under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. This extends the period during which residents and the police must deal with late-night disturbance. The increased incidence of litter, drug paraphernalia, and broken glass, widely reported by residents to be found in the green and in gardens, particularly after the weekend poses a real risk to the safety of children and animals and prevents the public enjoyment of this amenity. The bar opens onto a busy main road with traffic moving 24 hours a day and increases the risk of road traffic accidents.

The relevant concern is therefore the cumulative effect of another late-night destination, particularly during the peak dispersal period. Granting the proposed hours risks undermining the licensing objectives relating to the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and prevention of public nuisance.

I therefore ask the committee to refuse the late-night hours or, alternatively, impose an earlier terminal hour and robust conditions targeted at these risks.

Cllr Xena Dion

Ward Councillor, Poole Town Councillor