

# Stephen Thomas **LAW** SOLICITOR Advocate

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**SPECIALIST in Road Traffic, Liquor Licensing, Health and Safety, Transport Law**

The Licensing Officer  
Oxford City Council  
The Town Hall  
St Aldates  
Oxford  
OX1 1BX

18<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Sir,

## **Response to letters of representation against the application**

We have now had an opportunity to consider the letters of representation with the DPS Mr Amos and the Operations Director Mr Pretorius.

Our client wishes to work with its local residents and positively address the concerns raised.

Our client only took over running these premises towards the end of last year and continued with the systems in place at the time. In January the premises were closed for a complete refurbishment. It had not appreciated the previous tenant had installed external speakers into the garden area. These have now been removed.

The applicant does not provide regulated entertainment at the premises. No complaints have been received by the applicant but on receiving the letters of objection the applicant closes the front area at 23:00 hours. The rear patio area is used for smokers after 23:00. On Fridays and Saturdays as per their risk assessment 2 door staff will be engaged. One of the door staff once will be located at the rear patio area at 23:00 hours on these nights. On other nights of the week, it is not considered necessary to do this although as per the condition the need to engage door staff is risk assessed for any event that may be held by the premises.

No person is allowed to go outside with their drinks after 23:00 hours. They are simply allowed out for the purpose of smoking. This minimises the potential for persons to stay outside drinking and smoking for any period of time and engaging in chatter that might be disturbing to local residents.

The premises have put in place their own noise dispersal policy and are surprised at the suggestions made by their immediate neighbours. The DPS lives above the premises. He suffers disruption from customers leaving other premises that close at 2 or 3 AM in the morning. When he is not on duty and in his private quarters above the premises, he has not noticed any disturbance from people leaving his premises at the current closing times.

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I have been asked to make it clear that the DPS or Duty Manager can be contacted on the pub telephone number which is on the website or via email. If there is any concern staff will be more than happy to ensure that any potential noise being complained of is immediately curtailed. However, it is anticipated that the procedures that have now been put in place will not cause any issues going forward.

The premises can currently open as long as the premises licence holder considers appropriate. Non-licensable activities for example the consumption of alcohol can continue well after the time for cessation of the sale of alcohol.

The effect of this application is to set a limit on the operational times for opening to the public and extend the sale of alcohol on Fridays and Saturdays by one hour until 1 AM with 30 minutes drinking up time rather have an indeterminate terminal hour for closing. The applicant has also proposed the addition of a 17 conditions to significantly update the licence and demonstrate the applicant's willingness to ensure that it meets the licensing objectives.

Yours faithfully



**Stephen Thomas LL.B., A.K.C**

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