

Shepherd Neame response to objections

We would like to address the concerns of the objector to the licence variation for The Botany Bay Hotel. We will also aim to outline the application in more detail.

Our application is only for an outside bar servery and the rationale is that an outside bar will alleviate the pressure on the inside bars which in turn creates a better environment for those guests staying at the hotel.

The application was advertised in line with the Licensing Act 2003 regulations – both on site (for 28 days) and in the local newspaper.

We have offered 3 conditions in respect of installing extra rubbish bins and signage and offering recyclable glasses to anyone outside. We have received no objections from any of the responsible authorities which includes the Planning Department.

To address some of the points raised:

We do not feel that the installation of an outside bar would cause a significant increase in customers or that anyone would make a special journey to the site because it was there. Customers will still be able to use the outside space with or without the bar in the way that they do now, as the current licence allows for on and off sales.

We are not aware of any complaints or anti-social behaviour to date and as previously stated neither the Police nor Environmental Health have objected. It would also be the case that the outside bar would be manned by staff who would effectively be managing the area and monitoring customers behaviour. Currently it is difficult to do this as all staff are inside the building.

Last summer the site operated an outside bar for a short time (by way of TEN's) and it generated no extra rubbish, noise or anti-social behaviour that we are aware of. Therefore the site has proven that it can run and control an outside bar and the customers that use it.

The outside bar forms part of a wider development which will provide a large amount of seating outside therefore customers would not need to leave the area and sit elsewhere.

The grassed area referred to in the objection is an area of open public space, people can buy food and drink from any outlet and sit there. Unfortunately we cannot control this but we can ensure that customers act responsibly on our property.

In conclusion:

We feel that this is a proportionate application that does consider the local area and residents. We have offered the following conditions:

- Recyclable cups and glasses will be available for customers sitting outside or taking drinks away.
- Outside bar to be manned at all times when open and to close by 9pm.
- Additional bins to be placed outside along with signs advising guests to respect the area.

We very much hope that the above will allay the fears of the objector and show that we are responsible operators.