

**Representations from Becontree Ward Councillors**

**The prevention of crime and disorder**

- Nearby 242 Bennetts Castle Lane are several sheltered housing complexes at Mitchell Close, Bennetts Castle Lane Care Home, Burford Close and Berryman Close.
- This will be the only late night licensed premises open until midnight in the area and is likely to attract a great deal of trade just before midnight
- Customers of H&Q Café are likely to travel by foot or car to reach the premises and are likely to be disorderly if purchasing alcohol up until 2300 late in the evening as well as food until midnight
- I am concerned that the late opening of the H&Q Café will frighten the elderly residents living nearby who may feel vulnerable to crime perpetrated by late night alcohol drinkers.

**Public safety**

- Nearby the H&Q Cafe are several sheltered housing complexes at Mitchel Close, Bennetts Castle Lane Care Home, Burford Close and Berryman Close.
- This will be the only late night licensed premises open until midnight in the area and is likely to attract a great deal of trade just before midnight
- Customers of H&Q Café are likely to travel by foot or car to reach the premises and are likely to be disorderly if purchasing alcohol until 2300 and then food up until midnight.
- Bennetts Castle Lane is a known accident hot-spot. Traffic drives too fast down this narrow road and there is plenty of evidence that Becontree councillors and local residents are, and have been, concerned about road safety here. The build-up of traffic as drivers stop to purchase alcohol and late night refreshments is a serious public safety hazard, and poses new risks. Traffic calming measures along the whole length of Bennetts Castle Lane aren't yet in place to slow the traffic . Traffic speed at night is likely to increase as thoughtless drivers believe they are the only road users, and if drivers have been drinking and stop for a late-night top-up of their alcohol stocks up until 2300 and food until midnight. The dangers will increase both for drivers and pedestrians in the area.

**The prevention of public nuisance**

- The H&Q Cafe is located near several sheltered housing complexes at Mitchel Close, Bennetts Castle Lane Care Home, Burford Close and Berryman Close.
- This will be the only late night licensed premises open until midnight in the area and is likely to attract a great deal of trade just before midnight, and certainly between 2300 and midnight.
- There is likely to be noise as cars drive up to and leave the premises, and noise from the customers as they congregate outside to talk, enjoy their food purchased at the café up until midnight, washed down by a bottle or two of alcohol.
- I am deeply concerned that this new licence application is likely to destroy the quality of life of some of the Borough's most vulnerable residents by disrupting their sleep, and creating fear as strangers are attracted in to the area to make use of the extended opening hours of the H&Q Café for both alcohol and food.

## ADDENDUM TO REPRESENTATIONS

“We request the following amendments to the Conciliation Meeting agreement (changes in **bold**)

Opening hours 06.00 – **23.00** 7 days a week

Alcohol sales 10.00 – **10.00** 7 days a week

End of use of tables and chairs at the front of the premises 21.00 each night

End of use of the rear garden at 22.00 each night.

Becontree ward councillors also want to see a **restriction on alcohol sales at the front of the premises** which we consider appropriate and necessary to diminish any chance of disturbing local residents including the large number of older residents who live near the premises in sheltered accommodation. Please confirm that this **restriction on alcohol sales at the front of the premises** forms part of the amended application.

We expect the timing of the end of use of tables and chairs at the front and in the rear garden to be strictly adhered to without any additional 30 minutes for customers to leave the premises. Can the **prompt end of use of tables and chairs at the front at 21.00 and in the rear garden at 22.00 to be strictly adhered** without any additional 30 minutes “drinking up” period be **part of the Operating Schedule and operating conditions**, please?

We also expect the **timings of opening hours and alcohol sales** set out below to be strictly adhered to **without any slippage**.

Opening hours 06.00 – **23.00** 7 days a week

Alcohol sales 10.00 – **22.00** 7 days a week

Please send us a plan of the seating arrangements at the front of the premises and in the rear garden. We haven’t seen this. We are concerned about the number of seats to the front of the premises (8) and in the rear garden (22) and query whether Covid-19 guidelines can be adhered to in these circumstances. We would want to see any social distancing guidelines applicable to premises serving food and alcohol to be strictly adhered in these premises to avoid passing on Covid-19, which is a serious illness for people over the age of 70 and the BAME community, to passers-by and local people living in the vicinity.

We expect to see all the proposed range of operating conditions attached to the licence which are set out in section 4 of the Statement of Information from the Conciliation meeting to be part of the licence.”