

23/4/2021  
Town Hall

Licensing Department  
Barking Town Hall  
1 Clock House Avenue  
Barking IG11 7LU

19 April 2021

Dear Licensing Department

**Application to the London Borough of Barking & Dagenham dated 25 March 2021 to Grant a Premises Licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 for Embas Local, 9-10 The Triangle, Tanner Street, Barking IG11 8QA (the "Application")**

Thank you for your email dated 15 April 2021, in which you confirmed that the above Application relates to a grocery supermarket/off-licence. I am now able to provide informed representations in light of this helpful confirmation.

As previously mentioned, I live at [redacted] in very close proximity to the premises with which the Application is concerned. I am making these representations to register both my own views and those of a number of my neighbours and members of the surrounding area who would be directly affected by the granting of this Application. These include residents of Tanner Street, Fanshawe Avenue, Faircross Avenue, Harpour Road, Glenny Road and Victoria Road. The names and signatures of these individuals are attached to this letter.

We do not have an overarching objection to the operation of an off-licence in these premises generally. Indeed, we recognise the benefits and convenience that this could bring to the local area. We do however have serious concerns regarding the hours of operation as stated on the Notice, and the significant detrimental impact that these are likely to have.

In particular, the Notice states that the off-licence wishes to operate and continue serving alcohol into the early hours of the morning between Monday and Saturday (closing at 3am), and considerably late into the evening on Sundays (closing at 11pm).

Operating into such late hours would cause significant disruption to local residents. This is a family-based, residential area which includes the elderly, working professionals and school-aged children (and younger). The sale of alcohol from these premises late into the evening and in the early hours of the morning is likely to attract and encourage anti-social behaviour and result in a disturbance of peace and order during times in which families will be in their homes and sleeping. Such behaviour could include excessive noise levels (in addition to the existing noise pollution of passing traffic at night), increased littering, physical and verbal altercations and vandalism.

This is especially relevant given the location of the premises, which sit directly opposite a relatively large, communal strip of land on Tanner Street. This land is usually utilised by guests of the nearby driving test centre (who often gather there whilst students are on lessons, taking their driving tests etc), or local residents making their way to/returning from Barking Park. This is of relatively minimal disruption during the day. However, the operation of an off-licence in such close proximity during unsociable hours is likely to result in some of its patrons congregating in this area and engaging in the anti-social behaviour outlined above for prolonged periods, fuelled by the consumption of (easily accessible) alcohol.

It is also important to note that there are various religious facilities nearby, including Al-Madina mosque (a 30-second walk away) and the Muslim community centre. Members of the local community regularly pass through the area concerned to make their way to and from prayers at the mosque. This includes early morning and late night prayers. Allowing the off-licence to also operate at these times (thereby

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encouraging the anti-social behaviour referred to above) gives rise to a material risk of local citizens becoming subject to varying forms of abuse, harassment and/or even violence whilst going about their day-to-day activities, from people or groups of people who are under the influence of alcohol. We cannot have the safety of our residents compromised in this way.

It is worth noting that this same area was, until recently, plagued with issues of prostitution, which the local community worked very hard in conjunction with the Police to finally eradicate. We feel very strongly that such issues or other similarly disruptive, damaging anti-social issues do not now return, otherwise any potential benefits of granting this Application in its current form would be grossly outweighed by the likely disadvantages.

For all of these reasons, the off-licence should not engage in the sale of alcohol **after 8pm or 9pm at the latest** on any given day.

We firmly believe that limiting the hours of operation in this way is a wholly reasonable approach which works best for everybody. It helps achieve the balance between having a successful local business which enhances the lives of local residents, whilst minimising the likelihood of introducing serious trouble and/or conflict into the area.

I sincerely hope the Licensing Authority gives due consideration to these important representations as part of considering the Application.

Yours sincerely

Allah Ditta