Local Policing Support Team

Your Ref: AWDM/0596/23 Our Ref: LM/WOR/23/09B Date 26th June 2023

Contact Name: Lee Melbourne

Dear Ms Hincke,

RE: Cafe 8 - 9 Montague Place Worthing West Sussex

Thank you for your correspondence of the 22nd of June 2023, advising me of a planning application for AMENDED DESCRIPTION ONLY Change of Use from Bank (Use class A2) to restaurant (Use class A3). Application to Vary Condition Number: 10 of previously approved AWDM/1630/19: No customer trade or business shall take place on the premises except between the hours of 07:00am and 20.00pm on any day. Amendment: to be able to be open between 07.00am to 11.00pm Sunday to Wednesday and between 7:00 am to 12.00am Thursday to Saturday at the above location, for which you seek advice from a crime prevention viewpoint.

The National Planning Policy Framework demonstrates the government's aim to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places which are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear, and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas.

The level of crime and anti-social behaviour in Worthing district is above average when compared with the rest of Sussex, so additional measures to mitigate against any identified local crime trends and site-specific requirements should always be considered.

I have had the opportunity to examine the detail within the application and in an attempt to reduce the opportunity for crime and the fear of crime I offer the following comments.

I refer the applicant to previous correspondence from this office pertaining to this site – Your Ref: AWDM/0596/23 dated the 10th of May 2023 and Our Ref: LM/WOR/23/09A dated the 10th of May 2023.

Ms Hincke
Planning Officer
Planning Services
Adur & Worthing Councils

The application was seeking to vary condition number 10 with regards to planning application AWDM/1630/19 to extend opening hours until 23:00 Sunday to Wednesday.

I note that this this latest application is seeking an amended description to be able to be open between 07.00am to 11.00pm Sunday to Wednesday and between 7:00 am to 12.00am Thursday to Saturday.

As the applicant will be aware I made the following comments with regards to the previous application:

From a crime prevention perspective my main concern with the proposed variation is with regards to the amenity of the surrounding residential community in that they may be unduly disturbed by noise when customers leave particularly in the late evening as the applicant is seeking an extension of opening hours until 11pm Sunday to Wednesday.

If permission is granted for this amendment - I would ask moving forward that a degree of sensitivity is shown to ensure that the local community are not disturbed when customers leave the premises during the hours of darkness.

This latest application is seeking permission to further extend opening hours.

My comments and concerns remain extant and would respectfully ask that these are considered when deciding any outcomes as the amenity of the local community could be unduly disturbed even further by the proposed additional opening hours.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to comment.

The Crime & Disorder Act 1998 heightens the importance of taking crime prevention into account when planning decisions are made. Section 17 of the Act places a clear duty on both police and local authorities to exercise their various functions with due regard to the likely effect on the prevention of crime and disorder. You are asked to accord due weight to the advice offered in this letter which would demonstrate your authority's commitment to work in partnership and comply with the spirit of The Crime & Disorder Act.

Yours sincerely

Miss Lee A Melbourne
Designing Out Crime Officer
Sussex Police Headquarters