

**Representations re licensing application made by Picture house Cinemas Limited for a Premises Licence re 5 Derby Square Epsom described as a Cinema with external area for the consumption of alcohol (the premises)**

I am an Epsom and Ewell Borough Councillor and a resident of Town Ward. I therefore make these representations in my capacity both as a Borough Councillor and as a resident.

**Prevention of crime and disorder**

Permitting a licence for 24 hour operations and sale of alcohol to 2:00am provides the opportunity to attract customers to continue drinking once other venues have closed, extending the hours and opportunities for drinking with the associated ASB issues – even if such sales are ancillary to the main businesses of the cinema premises.

To permit extended hours would also set a precedent which other premises with louder disruptive operations and clientele could rightly take note of, and apply to follow.

These surely contravene the purpose of the Licensing cumulative impact policy?

**Grounds of prevention of public nuisance and public safety and Town Planning**

There are good reasons that the Planning restrictions to operational hours in Epsom Square were introduced, given that it is a residential area, and increasingly so. These reasons apply equally to the granting of licenses for late night opening, supply of alcohol and late night refreshments. This is not a suitable or sustainable location for 24 hour operation, late night sale of alcohol, refreshments or entertainment.

Additionally public transport out of Epsom town effectively ends at 00.15 and most services finish before that time. There is already a dispersal problem causing late night disturbance which this will exacerbate.

The current hours of operation in Epsom Square (to 2300 hours Sunday to Thursday and midnight on Fridays and Saturdays) are already a burden for the residents, leading to people only staying in the locality for short periods. We need the town centre to be sustainable for the large numbers of residents and families are already trying to live there but for the future residents and families who will make the town centre their home as it is further developed to meet our housing needs.

Granting this application would contravene Licensing Policy by reducing the sense of safety and security for all town centre users at all times of the day and night, and is likely to lead to an increase in anti-social behaviour at hours which are very hard to monitor or control. Our residents will suffer and nothing will be done to help them.

**Conclusion**

I welcome the proposal for a cinema and associated activities, but these need to be appropriate for the location. The hours of operation applied for are inappropriate and not sustainable. They will damage the overall night-time economy, and the well-being of the many residents and families who already live in the town centre, but also the many more planned in the future. The two are simply not compatible and in my view are contrary to the licensing objectives.

Sustainable hours of operation would be to adhere to those currently in operation in Epsom Square.

**Tella Wormington**

**Epsom and Ewell Borough Councillor – Town Ward**