

Licensing,
Coventry City Council.

19/2/23

Application for variation of premises licence (1st floor) 'Quids Inn,' 117-118 Gosford Street, Coventry.

I must object to this on the ground that it goes against the licensing objective re prevention of public nuisance. and 117 Gosford Street are two halves of a single building, constructed in 1860, with recent extensions. On the first floor is an internal party wall between my and Quids Inn. The nuisance is late-night noise associated with the operation of the first-floor premises, disturbing or preventing sleep. Primarily, this has been recorded music, especially with DJs; but there have been other significant issues. Serious interruption to my sleep has caused me to make many representations to Licensing and Environmental Services over the years. With this background an extension of the licensable hours until 4am would almost certainly result in my difficult situation becoming impossible. And the addition of live music - not currently included in the licence - is a clear indication that the applicant gives no thought to his obligation to prevent noise nuisance to his immediate neighbour. With only an internal party wall between us live music would be a serious nuisance at any time, and after 11pm would make sleep impossible. Live music is so obviously unacceptable in this context - as has been recognised throughout the long period of this licence - that one can only wonder just why it has now been included in this application . . .

My occupation of - almost 20 years - predates the 117-118 first-floor licence, which dates from late 2006. Amalgamation of the first floors of 117 and 118 required change-of-use consent - the upper rooms of 117 had residential status. As two halves of one building, and 117 interlock at first-floor level: has one room at the front, two at the back; 117 had two rooms at the front, one at the back. Thus, the party wall is not straight but has a significant return. At first-floor level - but not ground-floor - our two premises are highly interconnected. Planning consent was conditional on an internal layout, using the areas adjacent to the party wall to mitigate noise nuisance to my flat. From 2006 - 2010 the premises traded as a restaurant, 'Varsity Spice', with no nuisance to me. Problems began after it became 'Quids Inn' in 2010. At some stage, the layout of the area adjacent to the party wall was subsequently altered - without consent - which may go some way to explaining the increase in noise nuisance I have experienced since it became Quids Inn.

Bars and restaurants are inherently quite noisy places. Other than recorded music, my sleep has been disrupted, sometimes as late as 2.30am, by loud banging noises from the moving and dropping of heavy objects - barrels, gas cylinders, bottle crates - in the 'cellar'/store area adjacent to the party wall. Also by vibrational noise of varying degrees, from appliances fixed on, or situated next to, the party wall. Sounds which in the daytime might not constitute a nuisance, are a very different matter up to 2am, never mind 4am . . . I must also draw attention to the first-floor kitchen at the rear of 117, with its large extractor unit chimney on the gable end. The extractor fan goes on and off when the kitchen is in operation. It is audible at a low level in my flat, possibly also affects some flats in Carmelite Court, Whitefriars Street. It is certainly now being used well after midnight. I assume that it has been inspected, and that it complies with any regulations. But is it acceptable that such an extractor unit might potentially operate until 4am?

There are other issues concerning the first-floor kitchen. The application refers to 'Quids Inn', but the upper floor seems to be currently trading as 'Quids Pizza', a restaurant and kitchen, with food delivery. At around 1am on December 5th last, I was woken by very loud music, the source of which I could not pinpoint. This had happened, on occasion, before. I sent a text message to the Quids Inn contact number recently provided. At 1.20am the music went off and I had a one-word reply. Later, I got a msg. from , the overall manager, which began, "it wasn't from Quids, it was the kitchen staff upstairs . . ." I have retained these msgs., which can be verified. The kitchen window is usually open - even if closed, music at a volume to disturb me must have been broadcast over the decking platform at the rear of the building, contravening one of the licence conditions. The conditions that the decking platform be cleared of customers and no music broadcast to it, after 11pm seem to be largely disregarded, especially at weekends, as I have observed on many occasions. I must ask that inspections

take place, with a view to appropriate action. This example serves to underline a general lack of commitment to the licensing objective of prevention of public nuisance, indicating a failure of management at some level. I hope this application will be summarily rejected. Also that my issues of concern over the premises' operation under the existing licence are thoroughly investigated.

Yours faithfully,