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ANNEX 5

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Tanner Row
York

10/03/2008

City of York Council
Licensing Section
9 St. Leonards Place
York
YO1 7ET

Ref. McMillan York Nexus application

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object to the application put forward from Nexus regarding the variation of existing licensing hours.

The music from Nexus is already audible in my house up to 3.00 am most nights of the week and it would become intolerable if this was extended to a later time. The constant boom of the bass sound is always there and becomes louder as closing time gets nearer. We also have to suffer the crowds of people leaving after that time. Just 1 arguing couple, 2 drunk men or women walking down Tanner Row can create enough noise to keep you awake – let alone huge crowds of people!

The issue is that, yet again, the boundaries are being pushed and whichever way you look at it there will be an increase in noise and drunken behaviour beyond the current levels.

I was living in the house when everywhere closed at 11.30 latest and gradually we have been made to suffer later and later closing times.

If an extension to 4.00am. is granted then “drunk” people would be leaving the premises up to 4.30am. and the noise from that alone would be intolerable.

Of course Salt and Peppers kebab house would then apply to stay open to accommodate the late night revellers and that means crowds of drunken people gathering outside McMillans until they decide to disperse at 5.00am. or until the fights force people to move on!

The area is infamous for fights and noise after closing times – especially at the front of McMillans – and there are not enough resources for it to be policed as it should be. I appreciate that this is not their fault but I can't imagine what it would be like if another premises were to open later! Customers leave Nexus and then congregate outside McMillans while eating takeaway food.

Most of the fights that occur in the Tanner Row area are not recorded or reported when it is so late at night – there are no police resources to deal with them unless they become so serious that they are contacted – but even minor disturbances are unacceptable after 2.00am.

The area is now noted for late drinking and most of the people arriving here are already drunk – every time a licence is extended the customers arrive later and even more drunk.

I must also point out that when these premises close and the staff and doormen are tucked up in bed the residents have to suffer the aftermath of the late night drinkers – even the police disappear around 1.00am!

It is not only the immediate noise of singing, chanting, screaming and fighting but as these very drunken people leave the area they cause mayhem until they arrive home – windows are smashed regularly on Tanner Row and North Street, cars are damaged if they are parked “en route” to their destination – mirrors, wipers, windows broken – and worse still, they like to walk or dance on cars. All the residents in this area have damaged cars.

One of my house windows was smashed 1 week ago – I’m still waiting for the police to show up!

Every doorway in the area is a urinal, the park area next to the river is one big toilet, and waste disposal unit – visitors to the city walk through there and must be appalled by the litter from the night before – pizza, kebab and chicken boxes – the stench of urine as they walk through the gate and then past the hotel and Argos.

A distinct lack of Police monitored CCTV in the area shows a lack of understanding by the council of the enormous problems that are suffered. If a council member would like to spend a Friday, Saturday or Sunday at my house to monitor what happens between the hours of 11.00pm. and 3.00am. they are welcome to do so.

The City is not geared up for late night establishments and it should not give out late licences until better systems and more manpower is put into place. The Council should also remember that they are encouraging people to move into the city and by granting later licenses they are making it impossible to live here.

The area is already part of a “special licensing policy” which should definitely preclude all bars in the Tanner Row area from extending their hours.

I would therefore request that you refuse this application to extend the license for Nexus.

Yours Faithfully

