

York
YO1 8NN

Ms Angela Bielby
Democratic Services
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York
YO1 6GA

20 November 2018

Re. Stonebow House Licence Hearing - Additional Information

Dear Ms Bielby,

I would like to attend the above hearing and speak on behalf of the Residents Association to explain the impact that this licence, if granted, will have on our daily lives. I would also like to make the additional points:

It is well documented that York is suffering reputational damage from binge drinking groups that arrive in York by train at weekends. They often arrive tipsy and continue to drink throughout the day so that by around 4pm on Saturday afternoons York city centre is a place to avoid. These groups (often hens and stags) make a bee line for large bars that can accommodate their party and they can reliably be seen at around 7pm lunging from one bar to the next, often staggering around in the middle of the road.

It is no wonder that York attracts binge-drinkers: In 2015 there were 799 licensed premises in York. Today there are over 1000, of which 485 are located in YO1. (Source: elicensing.york.gov.uk).

From the York Alcohol Needs Assessment Consultation in 2016 we know that

1. York has significantly higher numbers of people who binge drink
2. General drunk behaviour is seen as the most problematic reason for anti-social behaviour in the city
3. Alcohol is a contributing factor in half of all river deaths in York
4. Half of all violent crime is alcohol related.

These points are highly relevant to this case because the proposed Try Market Hall in Stonebow House will be a large venue accommodating 600+ drinkers and will be highly attractive to these boozy groups. The licence application as submitted would allow these groups to be served alcohol without any obligation to purchase a meal. Venues like this will further fuel York's binge-drinking problem and contribute to lasting reputational damage to our city.

Try Market Halls make the point that the food to drinks ratio will be 70:30 but when asked for clarification it was explained that this was the turnover split and not the profit. Profit is the key measure here and it is common knowledge that profit is made on the sale of alcohol with very small margins on food. This is further evidenced on the Try Market Hall website where a new “drinking terrace” is planned (see below). There should be no doubt that the driver for profit in this venue will be alcohol sales.

York city councillors on this panel have the opportunity to stop the downward spiral that is spoiling York for residents and tourists. Please make the decision to protect the reputation of York.

Yours faithfully,



We have transformed the abandoned arcaded bays of Victoria's Terminus Place into a sustainable new destination for local residents, workers, commuters and visitors to the city. Since 1909, the space has housed an Edwardian shopping arcade, a restaurant, and more recently the super-club, Pacha.

Market Hall Victoria showcases a diverse and eclectic offering of food and drink across three floors with eleven kitchens, a coffee shop, and three bars championing independent British-made beers & spirits. A 100 person drinking roof terrace will also launch in Spring 2019.

Enquiries - bookings@markethalls.co.uk