

Annex 7 – Representation

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 23 July 2026 10:05

To: licensing@york.gov.uk

Subject: Representation - Valhalla (York) Ltd, St Sampsons Community Centre Rear Courtyard.

Further to the application a Premises License at the rear courtyard at St Sampsons Centre, I wish to make a formal representation on behalf of [REDACTED] which for the last 20 years has operated within [REDACTED] Patrick Pool, York.

Our licensed premises are located immediately between St Sampsons Centre courtyard and Valhalla. The application for a Premises License causes concern to the operation of our business as noted below:

Our timber framed Grade 2* listed building affords the benefit of a rear fire escape exiting into the Courtyard of St Sampsons Centre and the fire strategy for our building allows unhindered external access from the fire escape around the premises through a side gate onto Patrick Pool. This gate is fitted with an emergency push lock allowing the customers from the upper two floors of our building to safely exit the building. This is a legal right of access as detailed within the deeds of our property.

If this gate were to be locked or obstructed then we would be limited to operate our premises at a reduced of 60 persons, effectively halving our trading capacity. I would request sight of a detailed independently prepared Fire Strategy for any licensed operation within St Sampsons Centre Courtyard noting the evacuation of 64 persons existing from our building. This is a serious Public Safety matter.

I am unaware of any CCTV within the courtyard and the access gate adjacent to our premises. From a public safety perspective then full CCTV coverage of all licensed areas should be provided.

Operationally I am seriously concerned regarding the interaction and friction between our staff and customers and the customers of Valhalla when we are flanked both front and back by their licensed activities. Essentially the application for a Premises License within the rear courtyard of our premises seeks to extend the Valhalla Pavement License from Patrick Pool, into the courtyard. There are no glass washing facilities or external toilets within the courtyard so the area appears to be served or supported by their existing premises opposite [REDACTED], again through the side gate which is under 2m from our main front entrance door. This will become a nightmare for our staff and undoubtedly cause friction between customers.

Owing to the age of our premises we are unable to install mechanical ventilation therefore we leave our rear fire door (facing into the courtyard) open to allow air flow. Valhalla customers will undoubtedly enter into our building unknowing that we are a separate business. Our staff will have to manage this interaction which will create public nuisance.

In summary my key points for the representation are as follows:

- Noise nuisance:
- Customers talking, shouting or singing outside reducing the peaceful nature of the location which we have benefited for 20 years.
- Amplified music or live entertainment.
- Noise carrying into our existing premises.

- Increased anti-social behaviour:
- Customers congregating outside the side gate and our front door onto Patrick Pool in an already congested small street.
- Public drunkenness.
- Difficulties in supervising patrons moving between the two sites.
- Public safety concerns:
- Customers crossing a public road between the main premises and the courtyard.
- Potential conflicts with pedestrians or traffic.
- Insufficient lighting or emergency access arrangements.
- Overcrowding in the courtyard.
- Public nuisance:
- Smoke or vaping affecting neighbouring properties.
- Additional deliveries or waste collections in an already tight location.
- Late-night dispersal of customers.

I would also like to add to the representation that I do not believe the Courtyard to the St Sampson's Centre has permitted planning consent for use as a licensed premises. The proposal would require Sui Generis planning consent for late night occupancy. I note that this does not impact the granting of the license but any retail of alcohol in the courtyard would be an infringement under its permitted use.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Patrick Pool

York

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