

White, Emma

From: Pryke, Cllr Ralph
Sent: 16 February 2012 15:17
To: White, Emma
Subject: East African Centre, Cherry Row Leeds

Dear Emma
My objection and one other;

I wish to object to the licensing application for the East Africa Centre because of the noise problems caused by visitors to those premises and others locally to residents in the flats which overlook Cherry Row and the houses in the nearby streets:

Many residents have complained to me as a councillor about noise from people shouting and drinking in the street, vehicles arriving and leaving loudly in the early hours of the morning, doors slamming and music playing from cars dropping off, picking up and also stationary near the Centre. They complain that the noise is so great that their children are kept awake, they themselves cannot sleep, and some are late for or miss work because of sleep deprivation.

In the past I have complained to the Police that residents of Cherry Court and Marston Mount (two 60-flat multi storey blocks opposite Cherry Row) have been offended by men allegedly customers of the businesses on Cherry Row urinating against their walls and doors on the ground floor. Human faeces have also been found in the bushes near the flats, again attributed to the alleged customers.

Some residents have complained about the criminal activity which seems to be attracted to the area by these and other nearby premises' activities; apparently the Police have attended several incidents in recent months involving large numbers of mainly men causing problems in the street. Also some residents are concerned that the area is insufficiently policed, being on the edge of Police division, and also perhaps because the clientele people complain about are predominantly non-white while the Police are thought to be reluctant to deal with them, and that this is/may be the reason for perceived greater crime in the area.

Neighbouring businesses have also complained about increased criminal damage, thefts and attempted break-ins since this and nearby businesses opened in recent years.

Councillors have been aware for some time of the pressure on the area with so many people coming to such a relatively small area with a concentration of businesses which appeal to them. Until last week there were no litter bins on that side of Cherry Row, so the rubbish problem has been severe.

In addition, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] spoke to me on the phone, and asked me to submit his objections to this licence on the grounds of noise nuisance. [REDACTED] had visited my surgery last year and complained about the noise, which I passed at the time to LCC's noise nuisance team, and mentioned at the multi-agency Tasking meeting.

I would respectfully request that, if minded to permit this application, the Licensing authority should restrict the opening hours to take account of the large number of local residents likely to be adversely affected by late night noise.

Sincerely
Ralph Pryke

