

Pintxos

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I am writing in response to the letter dated 27th August from the Crossgates Watch Residents.

First of all I would like inform you of my current involvement in the local area of Crossgates and in particular Austhorpe Road.

I have been the owner of La Cantina44 restaurant since 2001. Many of my restaurants customers who are repeating customers and have been since the opening of La Cantina44 are from the Crossgates area. Mny of whom are now close friends of ours. We have a very respectful clientele base and throughout all the years of owning the restaurant we have never had any nuisances or unacceptable noise disturbances relating to the restaurant. We have no car park facilities at the restaurant and many of our clients use late public transport home or park respectfully in the local area without any issues. Alternatively we arrange taxis for them at their request. It is not unusual for customers to get a taxi at 11.30pm-12pm from the restaurant, more so during the weekend. On many occasions particularly during the weekend we witness customers walking by La Cantina while we are closing the restaurant who are leaving from other local public houses in Crossgates in a peaceful manner. This is often up until the hours of 1am. La Cantina has never been involved in any altercations or disturbances during these times.

La Cantina44 is well embedded and established within the local community and people very much associate it as a positive experience and amenity in Crossgates. We have a zero tolerance to unacceptable/disruptive behavior although in all honesty as mentioned the clientele base do not display those behaviours or unsavory characteristics.

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As the owner and manager of Pinxtos44 I will be adopting the same principles as La Cantina44 in terms of the clientele base. The restaurant will enhance the local amenities available to residents of the Crossgates area and beyond. The restaurant is being furnished and decorated to a very high standard and will offer a sophisticated atmosphere for customers.

I have no doubt that the system we have in place at La Cantina44 whereby staff order customers taxis or they respectfully park locally if driving can be and will be implemented at Pinxtos44. There will be an area in the restaurant where customers can safely wait for their chosen transport so there will be no need for them to outside on the pavement area where there is no railings. Although our customers are more than capable of taking care of their own safety we are also committed to this too .We again will have a zero tolerance to unacceptable/disruptive behavior.

Pinxtos44 will be opening 5 days a week and closed Monday and Tuesday. It is not expected that the restaurant will be open until 2am on all of those days indeed it is more unlikely than not, but rather occasionally when people are celebrating special occasions. In terms of live music this is also something that will be infrequent and will not be playing until close of business. We anticipate the frequency of this to be approximately 3 monthly with a singer playing a set time of 2 hours during the early evening time. This will not affect any local residents as the music will be confined to the restaurant.

In terms of other local businesses, we are keen to support them. We order our fresh produce for the restaurant from those businesses and will do so for Pinxtos44. We have an excellent working relationship with local businesses and have done so for many years. Pinxtos44 will be offering additional employment opportunities in the local area if possible taking into consideration the recruitment process and needs of the business.

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The positive response from the local community in Crossgates and surrounding areas to the plans for Pintxos44 has been overwhelming and indicates almost certainly that the clientele base will be similar/same as to that of La Cantina44.

Thank you for taking your time reading this.

I will be attending the panel on the 26th September and look forward to having the opportunity to discuss further.

Yours Sincerely

Naki Akarsu