

Representation by Cllr Mary Sherwood - application by *Jack Murphy's* to extend the premises licence for 49 Uplands Crescent, Uplands

I wish to register my strong objection to the extension of the licence for the supply of alcohol to the late hours requested, and the addition of further licensable activities. I write on behalf of myself, my family, and - as a local councillor - of my community, some of whom have added their names and additional comments to mine below.

The residents of Uplands understand the difference between living near a bar and living near a restaurant, and so did the Council in 1986 when it granted planning permission for this venue to be a "Licensed public bar and restaurant", but with a vital condition: the bar must only serve the restaurant, must never operate without the restaurant being open, and must never offer music or dancing except to be enjoyed by restaurant customers: "use of the premises as a discotheque is forbidden". There is a marked difference between the expectations of people who attend a bar, with recorded or live music, dancing etc, compared with those who attend a restaurant; what they come to Uplands for and how they behave here. Another Jack Murphy's bar, on Wind St, provides a living example of what we can expect if/when this establishment opens in our neighbourhood; other local licensed traders and their security staff are considerably nervous about this arriving in Uplands, as are residents. Having considered all this in the context of the licensing objectives and the comments set out below, which explain why a restaurant is acceptable in this location but yet another bar is not, I am objecting to the additional licensable activities requested as well as strongly objecting to the extension of hours for the supply of alcohol.

My concerns below refer to the licensing objectives:

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Uplands has a good record here, thanks to close collaboration between licensed venues and their security staff, police and the council. A preventative approach in which partners act quickly to stop problems escalating, and to prevent people causing trouble from being able to move on to other venues in the locality, is very effective. But all partners agree that pressure is increasing, creating a cost burden for all concerned. Radio systems, CCTV, staff hours and other resources are needed to keep on top of the escalating demand. The changes in Uplands, including the recent opening of numerous bars, increase this pressure enormously, and partners are trying to meet this challenge, although all are suffering the effects of austerity, with police and the council struggling with budget cuts and licensees suffering uncertain revenues. Residents commonly report, and I have personally witnessed and experienced myself, negative effects of drunken crowds in Uplands, including: violent outbursts on the street; verbal abuse, sexual harassment, smashed windows, broken car wing mirrors and windscreens and other incidents associated with the over-consumption of alcohol. Allowing the consumption of alcohol to extend late into the night is likely to push services to breaking point and see arrests and casualties increase, as residents suffer more crime and disorder.

Public Safety

The above paragraph explains some of the dangers which Uplands residents already experience regularly as a result of the local night-time economy. Furthermore, I have experienced the slip hazard of vomit on the pavement and abandoned bottles at the roadside, left by people drinking on their way out to one of the local bars, or on their way home. My morning school run with my children is often an obstacle course of vomit, broken glass and other drink-related litter, which I



fear will increase if yet another bar is permitted and drinking is allowed to go on later into the night.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

Please note the above two paragraphs which list some of the public nuisances associated with the Uplands night-time economy. Further examples include:

- Drunk people ringing my doorbell and trying to insist on entering my home late at night, having mistaken my house for someone else's
- Take-away containers thrown into my front and rear gardens
- A neighbour's cordless doorbell being thrown into my garden
- Noisy crowds making their way home from Uplands bars to their various addresses, notably the Swansea University campus – particularly disturbing during the warmer months when windows are open.
- My children being woken up by drunk people shouting, laughing, swearing and screaming under their bedroom windows late at night.
- Noisy waste glass disposal at unsociable hours. I am aware of one resident who has been driven out of the neighbourhood by this disturbance.
- Taxis coming and going, with people shouting, doors slamming etc, late into the night.
- Discarded paraphernalia associated with recreational drug use

Over the last year or so, significant tree cover has been removed from Beechwood Road and Gwydr Square, very close to the licensed premises in question. At least one large mature tree has completely gone and others have been cut back drastically. This removes the sound insulation that we used to have here; noise from the bars is allowed to travel much further – my household can now hear music from the various venues in our front room, and the disturbance of cars driving around the area in the night, and glass being discarded or smashed in the street, is greater.

The addition of another bar would to be difficult for us to tolerate, increasing the likelihood and the impact of all these nuisances. Restricting the activities and operating hours of this establishment is an important way to reduce the harm done to my family and my community.

The Protection Of Children from Harm

Please note the points already mentioned above, and the impacts they can have on children. More specifically, here are some of the harms which my children (7 and 11), and others in Uplands ward, experience regularly because of living close to bars serving alcohol until late:

- Disturbed sleep due to noisy drunk people passing by, or talking loudly under their bedroom windows
- Walking through vomit and broken glass, typically in the morning on the way to school
- Alarm and distress at drunken shouting in the street, and drunk people ringing the doorbell and pounding on the door late at night, sometimes shouting obscenities.

I believe that there are 6 homes with children under 16 along Ernald Place and the end stretch of Beechwood Road closest to the venue in question. There are others equally nearby in other directions.

For all the above reasons, my family, and many other local residents, feel considerable sadness and anxiety about the proposed change from restaurant to another venue focused on the supply of alcohol. Planning and licensing powers must allow the authority to prevent this change, and we

ask that the activities and the hours of this establishment be maintained as per the current licence, thus retaining the existing licensing footprint in this highly residential area.

I have shared the above representation with colleagues and residents in my community. The below have all confirmed their agreement with it, and some wish to add their own comments.

NAME	ADDRESS	ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENT
		<p>I agree with all the points above. When we moved to Uplands Crescent in 2017 it was before they had opened Bar St James and the Bookshop Bar, the difference to us as a family has been significant, with noise, men urinating in our front garden, bottles thrown into our garden, beer glasses left on the front steps. When we walk to school it's like an obstacle course of vomit and broken glass as described above. The noise from the additional bars is phenomenal. We can't have our windows open at night in warm weather now because the howling and shrieking and crashing of glass disposal etc wakes my 7 year old. The atmosphere of Uplands has changed with the opening of two new bars, if another is opened I shudder to think what it will be like.</p>
		<p>I would also add that Belgrave Court is being used as an outside toilet. I have lost count of the times I have come across groups of drunken men using my garden and walls here as a urinal. It is upsetting. My husband recently remonstrated with some men who were peeing up against the entrance to the flats only to be met with foul mouthed abuse and laughter. We moved here three years ago and in that relatively short time have seen the area change, but clearly, not for the better.</p>
		<p>The Jack Murphy's in town sells £1 shots and is the place the young people go to first to drink as much alcohol as possible! I love living in Uplands and am very happy living among students but feel that the nature of the nightlife will change that if places like Jack Murphy's are allowed to come here.</p>

	<p>We have read Councillor Sherwood's representations concerning licence(s) for the above premises and fully support what she says and her reasoning. We do so as local residents at 80 Eaton Crescent, a property which we own.</p>
	<p>My family (three children under 7) lives opposite the new Bookshop bar, which is clearly a bar / nightclub and not a restaurant, with crowds of people drinking alcohol and making noise in the street until midnight. In the few months since this new bar opened, noise and drunken disorder have become much, much worse in Uplands. Friends of mine have been subject to drunken abuse and violence on the street outside my home. We have to keep our windows closed even in warm weather to try and minimise the noise disturbance. I am deeply concerned about the arrival of Jack Murphy's in Uplands because I know what their Wind Street venue is like. Please don't allow Uplands to further deteriorate into a destination for late night drinking and night clubbing. Maintain the restricted opening times and conditions of use as a restaurant, for all the valid reasons listed in Cllr Sherwood's letter. I have no doubt that this premises would be snapped up by a legitimate restaurant operator quickly should Jack Murphy's decide not to open, given the increasing popularity of Uplands as a sociable place to go out for dinner. If we let the area become more and more like Wind Street, we will completely lose the friendly local vibe that residents and visitors have so far enjoyed in Uplands</p>
p	
	<p>I have been out earlier this evening and I can honestly say I will not be returning to Uplands for any night in the future. Noahs Yard has already been granted an extension and this is enough. Too many people were out behaving in a threatening and anti-social way. <i>(Received by email 10:47pm Saturday 11 May.)</i></p>
	<p>We have been woken on many occasions by noisy, alcohol fuelled groups in the early hours & would not welcome an increase of this behaviour</p>
r	<p>I was sad to see Wasabi close and there is a real dearth of restaurants in Uplands that serve good, reasonably priced food. This has made myself and my colleagues from the university go to different areas of Swansea for social activities (Mumbles, Sketty, Marina). I fear that Uplands will merely become a new Wind Street and drive the more mature population from the area in the future which would be a shame for such a lovely place to live.</p>
r	

As a long-term resident of Uplands I'm dismayed by the thought of an increase in drinking establishments in Uplands. In particular I object to the thought of more late night drinking, until 2 am at the weekends. My nights are already broken by the shouting and swearing of groups and individuals going home in a drunken state down Glanbrydan Avenue, and I spend a lot of day time picking up bottles, cans and fast food litter from my street, and indeed from my front garden. I used to have a dog and would frequently have to sweep up broken glass from the pavement before being able to take him out.

Our car has been attacked on several occasions, with mirrors and windscreen wipers ripped off. An elderly neighbour got rid of his car because he became so anxious about damage to it at night.

The character of Uplands Crescent has changed while I've lived here, from a good mixture of shops, cafes and bars serving local residents and visitors, to a place where many people come to drink, with little concern for locals.

I have been thinking for some time that I'll have to move away, but don't know if I'd be able to sell my house at a price which would allow me to buy elsewhere.

The Jack Murphy's application will only make the current situation more unbalanced, and make Uplands a less desirable and more dangerous place to live.

I agree with the comments above, especially the negative effect the number and type of bars is having on our children. Mornings with my children are often spent explaining why there is vomit or drink related litter on our streets. Such a shame for a residential area to be changed in this way.

LP There should always be a balance in local communities where all interests can be balanced, that balance has recently been lost and our lovely community is in danger of being destroyed.

I also object to this extension request and yet another drinking venue. Since Tesco's and Sainsbury's were allowed to set up shop the Uplands community spirit has declined. Local businesses have not been able to compete with such giants. The loss of the Chatterbox as a warm friendly venue for all ages was a blow to the community. The Uplands has become mainly the young - a second Wind street. There is less inclusion of all ages and more alcohol and 'party' venues. This is great for the student population and less for the wider community,

		meaning isolation for those others. I support the above stance and wish to see an inclusive Uplands where neighbours can meet and socialise, as well as the party goers.

After considering all this engagement and feedback, I have a further point to add, about Licensing and the Well-Being of Future Generations Act. The Licensing Objectives do not go far enough in upholding the seven Well-Being Goals, which Swansea council as a public body is nevertheless obliged to consider.

If the number of bars in Uplands keeps increasing, and children living nearby keep seeing that being drunk early in the day and late into the night is “normal”, this is an additional harm to children and furthermore we will not be pursuing a **healthier Wales**. If older people and families grow weary of the noise, nuisance and increasing sense of isolation and move away from the neighbourhood – as they already are – we will not be pursuing a **Wales of Cohesive Communities**.

Many thanks for considering this representation

Cllr Mary Sherwood

(by email, as agreed prior with Rachel Loosemore, Licensing Officer), 13.5.19