

Dear Councillors Patten, Plenderleith and Richards and South Derbyshire Licensing Department,

Thank you for hearing our application for a variation to our existing licensing hours and conditions.

The Liberal Club has been in the heart of Melbourne since the 1890's. In 1956 the club minute book details that the police were called because of disturbances from Teddy Boys. The Liberal Club also used to hold Battle of the Bands - it has always been a live music hall, event venue and bar, serving the local community. Following its refurbishment, it is now a much more conservative restaurant, wedding location and celebration venue. No doubt people are dancing and singing and having fun at the weddings we conduct, but they are all in line with the purpose of the building. Deciding to buy a house or live next to a venue with this purpose should always be taken carefully.

Having read through the objections to our application we have summarised the concerns to be as follows:

1. Rubbish bins being emptied very early in the morning
2. Noise
3. Garden Hours
4. Taxis
5. Bottle Bins
6. Our staff

To address some of the concerns of local residents. We would like to note in detail the actions we have taken.

1. Rubbish Bin Emptying

Amalfi White's bottle and bin collection is arranged by Rainbow Waste. In September 2015 until February 2016 they sub contracted the Melbourne run to Veolia who changed the collection time without approval from us to early in the morning. When we discovered this we complained to Rainbow Waste who have since fired Veolia and now collect, on our instruction, after 9am to ensure local residents and children particularly are not disturbed.

2. Noise

In our policies and procedures and in anticipation of this application we have a Duty Manager assigned to be the Environment Control Officer at every event, Friday or Saturday night to specifically control noise from 11pm. They also try to ensure guests waiting for taxis stay indoors and those leaving the venue do so respectfully.

We have had no police complaints. Ever. Environmental Health have also never had any log sheets returned regarding noise. Thankfully because of that, we have their support, as they have ours.

3. Garden Hours

Guests do stay and eat and drink and smoke in the garden. Typically it gets cold by 10, but on occasion in the summer guests do want to stay in the garden later. Those who are smoking only can stay out there... but we do ask all customers to stop drinking by 10 pm outside. The Alma is open outside until 11. We are only asking for a fair equitable ruling.

4. Taxis

We have written to the taxi firms we use (Village Cars and Elite Cars) and have told them under the threat of being fired that they must switch off their engines while waiting. Any other taxi company that visits the venue will be told the same once we have their details.

5. Bottle Bins late at Night

It is another of our policies to not empty the bottle bins after 7pm. Our staff do not do this after this time and we have CCTV evidence to prove this. We have shown this footage to the Licensing officer.

6. Our Staff

Our staff work very hard and are entitled to take their breaks and smoke on our premises. They are extremely considerate and respectful neighbours. Our Head Chef lives in Melbourne just behind the Alma, and our Manager has grown up in Melbourne and still lives in the village.

Amalfi White has many customers who are local, (and many who aren't... but are still very considerate.... It doesn't seem to be a uniquely Melbourne trait) ... who drink cocktails. That is true. Kat and Ben know them all. They are pretty regular even some of those who have objected!

We run a legal and considerate operation. The photos submitted and observations are Amalfi White at our worst, and we consistently do all we can to improve. It really looks pretty tame.

We are glad that both the police and environmental health have no objection to the application as, firstly we have had an excellent record over the past 3 years and secondly the application mirrors most of the Alma Inn's license conditions. We are a good, fair and considerate operation.

One difference between the Alma's current licence and what we ask is that we have live music extension from 11pm until 12 midnight on only Friday and Saturday night. We are currently entitled to this with notice, 24 times a year anyway until 12.30am.

Thank you

Amalfi White Board