



Mr Robert Smith
Senior Licensing Officer
Runnymede Borough Council
Civic Centre
Addlestone KT15 2AH

23rd November 2023

Dear Mr Smith

Surrey Police would like to lodge a representation to the application for a premises licence at Café Ultimo, 166 Station Road, Addlestone, KT15 2BD for the following reasons, unless the application is withdrawn:

1. Business Model

The description of the business at Part 3 of the application form states “***The premises trades as a coffee shop, offering the sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises, along with late night refreshment.***” This application was lodged on 27th October 2023 with the last date for representations on 24th November 2023. Following a visit from Environmental Health during the consultation period, it was noted that the kitchen was not fully equipped and could only offer snacks and sandwiches and not full meals. As a result of this information, Police sent an email to the applicant on 16th November asking them to further expand on how the business would operate and asked if vertical drinking be allowed at the venue. The applicant responded on 21st

November stating ***“The premises is not a café/ coffee shop in respect of people needing to purchase food to consume alcohol. This will be operated in the style of a micro pub/ wine bar in the evenings, with no requirement for food to be taken along with a drink.”*** A further email later on the same day from the applicant stated ***“The premises still operates as a coffee shop during the day, but as the demand for such an outlet diminishes in the evening the change to small pub/ wine bar kicks in to maximise the business opportunity for the space.”*** This information about how the business is proposing to operate was only shared with Police on day 25 of the 28 day consultation period.

The Licensing Policy of Runnymede Borough Council at section 7.2 states that applicants should provide as much information as possible in the operating schedule. This is essential to enable other parties and responsible authorities to assess the impact of the licensable activity on the licensing objectives and demonstrates that the applicant understands and appreciates objectives.

2. Sale of Alcohol

The operation of a coffee shop that sells alcohol as a business model verses the operation of a pub/wine bar are very different entities and as such require different approaches, different skills and most certainly additional information on the operating schedule. Surrey Police feel that the general description of the business on the application is not as comprehensive as it could have been and it is clear that the premises will operate as a public house or wine bar during the evenings. Surrey Police Licensing Enforcement Officer Joan Grant visited the premises during the consultation period and the business owner Mr Mula stated that the venue could cater for 50 people and potentially more if the furniture by the entrance to the garden is removed. It is understood that only one member of staff will be on duty during opening hours and possibly two if the premises is busy.

It is proposed that alcohol is stored and sold from an area which is currently used as a store cupboard which is shown on the plan directly opposite the main entrance door and a serving hatch will be installed opening into the garden. At the time of the Police visit, Mr Mula had not undertaken his personal licence course and has no previous experience working in a licensed premises.

There will therefore be two serveries at the venue which are not adjacent to each other; one for the coffee shop products and one for alcohol and Mr Mula has proposed that the staff member on duty will have to move between the two serveries depending customer requirements. Police have concerns regarding the practicalities of exactly how this will work. Mr Mula states that the alcohol servery will serve a full range of alcoholic drinks including cocktails and will be locked when not in use. If the alcohol servery is accidentally left unlocked or unattended whilst staff are distracted, there is the potential for crime and disorder if access to the alcohol is gained by customers, particularly if only one member of staff is on duty.

3. Public Safety & Nuisance

The rear garden is fully enclosed with no fire exit. The Licensing Policy of Runnymede Borough Council states at 9.4 it is recommended that all new applications and variations (excepting variation of a DPS) are accompanied by a Fire Safety risk assessment as required under the regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This will assist Surrey Fire and Rescue in assessing the application.

Whilst there is a garden to the rear of the property, during the visit by Police Mr Mula said he could not prevent customers from going out onto the public footpath to smoke. This will especially be the case if the only member of staff on duty is in the alcohol servery and cannot see the entrance / exit door to the venue. Also of note, there is a bus shelter directly outside the venue which means that even a small group smoking on the public footpath will cause an obstruction. Adjacent to the front of the property there is alcove which allows access to the flats above the commercial premises. There is the potential for noise nuisance and litter if smokers use this area to shelter.

The plan shows only one toilet at the venue and Police are concerned that if customers become irritated or annoyed at having to queue for a long time, this has the potential to cause a disturbance at the venue.

4. In conclusion

It is the view of Police that the business model (running the premises as a micro pub / wine bar) was not fully explained in the application form and Police were not in possession of the full facts during the consultation period. Police also have concerns about the separate alcohol servery which will not be staffed at all times when the premises is open.

Furthermore, the blue notices and public advertisements required under the Licensing Act 2003 do not refer to the operation of the venue as a micro pub / [REDACTED] and therefore the public and other responsible authorities were also in possession of the full facts during the consultation period.

Contact Joan Grant at [REDACTED] if you require further information.

Sincerely

T/INSP ROGERS 4730

RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COMMANDER

On behalf of the Chief Officer of Police for Surrey