

STATEMENT

What is Tom Dick and Harry's?

- We are a local restaurant, for local people and every Tom, Dick or Harry.
- 95% of our customers are local, attracting families during the day and mainly over 50's in the evenings.
- We pride ourselves on serving exceptional food, giving good service, in fantastic surroundings, keeping people local rather than travelling into London to eat out.
- We have outside seating areas that our customers use 6 months of the year because of the weather.
- We are NOT a nightclub; Nubar (2006 and 2018) was a nightclub and used to attract 300 young people, we are a restaurant and have seating for only 50 customers inside (and 50 outside)
- Aura (a few meters away) is a nightclub, bar & lounge serving food, they boast an impressive sound system, DJ space and bespoke dance floor. They target a young audience who want to party. The venue has capacity for 365 people (65 restaurant ground floor with open bifold windows/doors, 100 bar and 100 lounge on the top floor with a retractable roof for al fresco dining and music). They have double the outside area with a licence for music and entertainment. They have an alcohol licence to 00:30 (Fri & Sat).
- We are only applying to extend our current licence by 1.5 hours per week (1/2hr Thurs, Fri & Sat).
- We also want to add live music to our evenings in an aim to keep our customers in our restaurant longer – for just one last drink or dessert and to potentially enable us to accommodate 3 evening sittings at the weekends.
- We understand the local residence are concerned, but we do not want to cause annoyance or nuisance to the local people, especially as they are our clients.
- Having a later licence at the weekend, just an extra ½ hr (Thurs to Sat) will allow us a chance to make the restaurant profitable.
- The hospitality industry has faced some very challenging times with the pandemic, Brexit, cost of living crisis, recession and now fuel. Fuel alone has increased by 300% i.e. from £25k to £91k and increase of £66k from any profit we would have made.
- We need to give ourselves as much chance as possible to ensure our business survives and we don't end up with a High Street full of empty, boarded up shops.
- There have been no licencing issues, on our premises in the 4 years trading our DPS (Designated Premises Supervisor) and current business partner, Manos never had any issues with his licence at the Olive Tree restaurant (at the other end of the High Street) which he owned for 12 years. He also had regular live music evenings
- We just want the flexibility to be able to have a licence, to serve our customers outside and inside playing background music, live and amplified for our guests to enjoy - when we need it without having to submit applications for temporary licences, which we have been doing for some time.

Objections:

We have read and considered all 18 objections to our licence application;

- 88% are from local residents and only 3 of them are the same people that objected in 2018, proving that the majority of objectors in 2018 are no longer concerned about our business.
- Majority of objectors, still mentioned NuBar and the issues from over 6 years ago, which is unfair and irrelevant to our business.
- Concerns about bottles, rubbish, cans etc – can not be attributed to Tom Dick and Harrys as we do not serve drinks in bottles or cans.
- Concerns about parking – at this end of the High Street, we are the only restaurant, bar or pub with their own parking (on the side road, back of the building and underground car parking) – so these issues cannot be related to our customers.
- Concerns about anti-social behaviour – there have been no issues raised to us by the authorities that would suggest that our customers behave in such a way, especially as we attract families and over 50's.
- Concerns about late night noise – we appreciate the concerns local residents have, but we have been operating for the last 18 months with music inside and outside of our sister restaurant, next door, called Gods Own Pizza, without any issues raised to us from the licencing department.

We are of course prepared to compromise but hope that allowances will be made because of our impeccable licencing history.

We aim to ensure that the local residents are not affected by our restaurant, we are approachable and respected business people, who run a global events and publishing operation in the offices above Tom Dick and Harry's, we are hands on and are always willing to work through issues with the authorities or individual local people to reach a compromise that suits all.

It is unfair that we have had licencing restrictions imposed on us because of the individuals that occupied the site over 6 years ago, which is why we applied for a new licence in our own right and based on our own trading history.

We just want you to operate on a level playing field to our new competitors, just metres away who have a later licence and music in a covered back garden , that is much closer to local residents than our premises.