

City of Durham Parish Council response to Licensing consultation

Application Summary

Applicant: Odeon Cinemas Ltd.

Address: Odeon Luxe Cinema, Unit 15. The Riverwalk. Durham. DH1 4SL

License type: New premises license application

Consultee Details

Name: (on behalf of) City of Durham Parish Council – Adam Shanley (Clerk)

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1st May 2019

With reference to the above Licensing application, the City of Durham Parish Council wishes to object to this application under the objective of preventing a public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

The Parish Council wishes to highlight that this premises is within very close proximity to residential properties. The playing of live and recorded music until 1am (Sunday to Thursday) and 2am (Fridays and Saturdays) is therefore deemed to represent a public nuisance for nearby residents. Lambton Walk is a row of maisonettes with a river view on the exit route from the cinema towards North Road / Framwelgate Bridge. And there are 253 students living in Dunholme Court which surrounds the cinema. The Parish Council is aware of a number of complaints about construction noise this year and believes it is reasonable to infer that many of them will value not being disturbed in the small hours by cinema patrons on their way home.

The Parish Council notes the applicant's intention to sell alcohol on and off the premises and is concerned about the potential tipping of glass bottles after 11pm and the noise from this also likely representing a public nuisance to residents living nearby. The Parish Council therefore wishes to request that a condition be attached to this application that there be no tipping of glass bottles between the hours of 8pm and 9am.

The Parish Council is particularly concerned about the management of the night time economy; during which time a large proportion of alcohol and violence related offences take place. In respect of this application, the Parish Council is concerned that allowing Odeon Cinemas Ltd to operate into the early hours of the morning will set an unwanted precedent of other operators seeking similar conditions leading to a deregulation of hours and an uncontrolled expansion of the night time economy.

The Parish Council recognises the reasons for which Odeon Cinemas Ltd has requested the late-night operating hours up until 3am, however is concerned about the implications this will have on the protection of children (many new blockbuster movies having an age category of 12, 12A or 15). The applicant must ensure that the most stringent possible measures are in place to mitigate the sale of alcohol to anyone under the legal age limit.

Furthermore, in relation to the protection of children from harm, if Licensing are minded to approve this licence then alcohol should only be sold when cert 18 films are being shown. A cinema is a dark place and it would be very difficult to monitor proxy sales, i.e. an adult passing an alcoholic drink to a minor in the dark.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Shanley
Clerk to City of Durham Parish Council