



**CITY OF DURHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**

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Licensing Team
Durham County Council
Annand House
8RP, John Street North
Meadowfield
Durham
DH7 8RS

City of Durham Parish Council
Office 3 D4.01d
Clayport Library
8 Millennium Place
Durham
DH1 1WA

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Dear Licensing team,

**Application to grant a club premises certificate for Durham University - John Snow College,
South Road. Durham. DH1 3TQ**

With reference to the above licensing application, the City of Durham Parish Council wishes to object to this application under the objectives of preventing a public nuisance and preventing crime and disorder.

This application includes the sale of alcohol (inside and outside the premises) and the playing of both live and recorded music (inside and outside the premises) until 02:00am Monday to Sunday.

It should be noted that this premises is based near to the developing residential area of Mount Oswald and is within 250m of Nickleby Chare on the Merryoaks estate. An application for the same form of license has also been submitted by the neighbouring College bar which is situated in the same postcode as this premises.

The Parish Council Licensing Committee considered this application at its meeting on 14th February 2020. In reaching its decision, the Parish Council Licensing Committee had regard to the Licensing Act 2003, the Section 182 Guidance and the County Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 to 2024. The Parish Council Licensing Committee feels that, should this application be granted in its current form, it will fail to uphold two of the four licensing objectives. Each of which are addressed in turn.

Prevention of public nuisance

Firstly, it should be noted that this application is in breach of the County Council's Licensing Framework hours (*Durham County Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 to 2024*) for this category of premises (i.e. "premises licensed for the sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises e.g. pubs, social clubs and nightclubs") which are 07.00 to 00.00 weekdays and 07.00 to 01.00 on weekends.

The Parish Council is unclear as to why the applicant is requesting permission for this license until 02.00am, as this is not in line with other Durham University College bars. This is not only in conflict with the County Council's Licensing Framework hours but also the University's work on the resident led "Shh...11pm-7am" campaign. This application causes real concern regarding the potential of a public nuisance in the form of late-night noise to local residents. Durham is a small, compact city centre with many residential streets in very close proximity to one another. The Parish Council believes that full consideration should be given to the risk of disturbance to residents and possibly to businesses when the playing of live or recorded music continues late at night and into the early hours of the morning. As such, the Parish Council objects to this club license and its proposed operating hours in the interests of preventing a public nuisance.

The proposed operating hours for this premises must be set in line with the County Council's Licensing Framework hours for this category of premises and this application must be supplemented with a fully worked through noise management plan; similar to that provided for the application for the Ustinov College bar (*Cundall Environmental Noise Assessment – Common Room / Bar, doc ref: 1008007-RPT-23*).

Moreover, potential noise from groups of smokers must be overseen by bar management and additional signage must be provided to remind customers to be considerate of neighbouring residential properties.

Bottle disposals must also not be carried out after 9:30pm or before 07:00am.

Whilst the Parish Council welcomes the proposed support and back up from the College porter and University security staff, the Parish Council feels that this should be supplemented with a dedicated telephone number for the premises being provided to local residents in order to allow any immediate concerns of nuisance to be raised.

A 20 minute drinking up period ahead of the premises closing must also be put in place. Bar staff must be instructed only to sell alcohol to customers that could be consumed in the 20 minutes drinking up period. Requests for excessive volumes of alcohol must be refused.

The prevention of crime and disorder

This application includes the sale of alcohol (inside and outside the premises) until 02:00am Monday to Sunday. The Parish Council wishes to object to this in the interests of preventing crime and disorder.

Incidents of alcohol-fuelled, late-night crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour are increasing in Durham City (*Durham Constabulary report on alcohol related ASB incidents in Durham City centre, Durham City section data at December 2019*). The Parish Council feels that this application, together with the same form of application from South College, being granted in its current form would further exacerbate this issue. The Parish Council feels that

both College applications; which seek to service a high concentration of people in a small compact area would have a further cumulative impact on crime and disorder taking place.

Authorised staff, employed by Durham Police, must be given free access to all parts of the premises, at all reasonable times, for the purpose of inspection to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the club premises certificate and to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives.

A performance management framework must also be in place to ensure scrutiny and oversight of the bar operation and its management.

Furthermore, whilst the Parish Council welcomes the provision of CCTV capable of delivering pictures of evidential quality in all lighting conditions, it is unclear from the operating schedule where this CCTV would be positioned. The Parish Council feels that CCTV must encompass the inside and outside of the main entrance and exit to the premises and all areas inside the premises where the sale and supply of alcohol occurs. The CCTV should also incorporate a battery backup system to enable 24 hour continuous recording in case of any power blackout/failure.

The license holder must also ensure at all times that an appointed member of staff is capable and competent at viewing and downloading CCTV footage and this be made available to the appropriate authorities in a reasonable timeframe to be determined by the authorities and the College bar management.

The College must ensure that students are aware that incidents of anti-social behaviour caused by patrons of the College bar will not be tolerated. The porter, supported by the University security staff where necessary, must provide an immediate response onsite and any incident of anti-social behaviour must be dealt with via the University's internal non-academic misconduct procedures.

For all of the reasons above, the Parish Council feels that this application should be refused in its current form.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Shanley
Clerk to the City of Durham Parish Council