

Dear Sir/Madam,

SCG wishes to OBJECT to the licensing application at Sakana Sushi, 43a Commercial St, E1 6BD for late night refreshment and sale of alcohol.

Spitalfields Community Group was formed in September 2011 with the aim of promoting and protecting the quality of life of people living and working in the ward of Spitalfields and Banglatown. We have over 200 members and are growing. Our current survey, conducted to identify priorities for action, highlighted the growing problems faced by locals as a result of the existing dense concentration of licensed premises in the area, exacerbating the negative impact on us of the night time economy.

The provision of late-night refreshment clearly encourages excessive drinking and associated nuisance including noise and antisocial behaviour. There is an unfortunate provision in Brick Lane of late night alcohol off-sales which exacerbates this problem, and the misery caused to surrounding residents. There has been a recent upsurge in antisocial behaviour in the residential streets adjacent to Brick Lane, in which visitors loiter causing a disturbance late at night. A particularly unacceptable facet of this is the number of instances of vomit on pavements, in doorways, light-wells providing light to residential basement kitchens and on cars. Excessively late hours for late-night refreshment fuels this disgusting phenomenon. We believe the hours applied for here are clearly excessive and will only exacerbate the problems in the area.

In addition we have concerns about the granting of a further alcohol licence in an area that is clearly saturated with such licences. The premises lie within the CIZ which was introduced by LBTH in recognition of the scale of the antisocial behaviour problem. The applicant is not clear as to whether he wishes to make off-sales from the premises. These are a particular problem for the area and we strongly oppose the introduction of any further capacity for people drinking in the street late into the night.

For the above reasons SCG objects to the licensing application at Sakana Sushi, 43a Commercial St, E1 6BD.