

Dear Sir/Madam,

Spitalfields Community Group (SCG) objects to the licence application for Time Out Market at 106 Commercial St, E1.

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. In accordance with this focus, SCG has supported the adoption of a cumulative impact zone for the Brick Lane area, within which 106 Commercial St is situated.

Despite this, our members continue to suffer from the effects of the night-time economy on the area. Anti-social behaviour – shouting, screaming, urinating and vomiting in the street – is common-place. Drug dealing pervades our neighbourhood. The CIZ has, so far, done nothing to reduce the scale of these problems.

The proposal from Time Out Market can only add to the cumulative effect of these problems. The plans will introduce several hundred additional spaces for drinking into the area – larger than several of the biggest pubs in the area combined. Moreover, the plans are such that the food outlets are relegated to the upper floors. The most accessible ground floor has just 4 of the kitchens and one giant bar. This will set the tone of the premises as a drinking establishment. We firmly believe that this additional drinking capacity will prove to be a real problem to local residents and will exacerbate the problems they already suffer due to alcohol-fuelled antisocial behaviour.

Our representatives met with Time Out and left with the impression that alcohol would only be served with food. However, there is no mention of this in the licence application nor in the company's Operational Management Statement. Indeed, given the nature of the establishment, with the serving of food and drink being separate, there seems no way this could ever have been achieved. This strengthens our view that the premises will become primarily a drinking establishment, something our area has to saturation point.

A major problem in the area is people drinking in the streets. In the summer months this causes additional noise and anti-social behaviour for residents, often late into the night. Time Out Market are keen to stress that all their food and drink will be served on crockery and using cutlery and glass-wear. This does not fit with their application to make off-sales of alcohol, an aspect we strongly oppose. This component of the application alone has the scope to significantly increase anti-social behaviour problems in the area. It will also invariably lead to an increase in litter, already a real problem. The Operation Management Statement does not explicitly rule out takeaway food and this will also add to the litter problem. Some photographs taken in the vicinity 106 Commercial St and given below illustrate the extent of the current problem.

Finally, it is not clear to us why a food-led operation needs special dispensation to open all night (and therefore cause problems for local residents all night) on New Year's Eve.

We urge you to consider the cumulative impact that this application would have. The last thing Spitalfields needs is further drinking capacity, especially on this scale. We urge you to reject the application.

