

Dear Sir/Madam,

Spitalfields Community Group OBJECTS to the licensing application for the supply of alcohol at Chillies, 76 Brick Lane E1 6RL, from 1000 to midnight Mon – Sat and 1200 to 2330 on Sundays .

Spitalfields Community Group (SCG) was founded in 2011 with the aim of representing those who live and work in Spitalfields, enhancing their quality of living, and improving their sense of community. To that end, we have sought to represent the consensus view as demonstrated in our latest survey of members' priorities, which highlights continued concern about the detrimental effect of the excessive number of licensed premises in the area on our domestic and working lives. Indeed, we gave our active support to the adoption and implementation of the Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ), which recognizes the negative impact on residential amenity of the dense concentration of licensed premises in our community. The premises at 76 Brick Lane is within the CIZ.

We understand that Chillies was subject to a Section 51 review as recently as February 2015, triggered by the Metropolitan Police. This review was on the grounds of violence by restaurant staff against customers. It was only cancelled as it transpired that the premises licence had already expired. This clearly demonstrates the poor chances that the premises, still in the same ownership as at the time of the proposed review, would uphold the key licensing objectives, in particular the prevention of crime and disorder. Chillies was also subject to licence reviews in previous years, in 2012 and 2013.

ASB caused by excessive alcohol consumption in the Brick Lane area is well documented, with many recent reports by residents of problems caused by drunken patrons at night and throughout the weekend. These problems include noise nuisance (screaming, shouting, swearing, singing, playing music etc) litter and vandalism to cars and homes, street urination and defecation, vomiting, and aggressive and intimidating behaviour. Patrons leaving Brick Lane for transport hubs on Bishopsgate and Commercial Street pass along residential streets causing unwanted mayhem and misery.

The CIZ was set up to address these problems, but has had little impact as the LBTH licensing sub-committee has consistently failed to cite it as grounds for refusal of applications. The overwhelming majority of applications, since the adoption of the CIZ, have been granted. The application for Chillies is a clear-cut case for refusal, and we urge LBTH to implement its own policy robustly and effectively.

For the reasons above Spitalfields Community Group OBJECTS to the licensing application for Chillies, 76 Brick Lane E1 6RL.