

Dear Sir/Madam,

SCG wishes to OBJECT to the licensing application at Efes Express, 79 Brick Lane E1 6QL for Late Night Refreshment until 0200.

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 Old Spitalfields Market is situated.

Food takeaway at late hours 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 food takeaway fuels this disgusting phenomenon.

Local residents and businesses are also increasingly concerned at the growing problem of litter and food waste associated with an excess of takeaway outlets and food stalls in the area. Waste bins are routinely overflowing or disregarded, with packaging and leftover food dumped without consideration. Rats are endemic in the neighbourhood.

For the above reasons SCG objects to the licensing application at Efes Express, 79 Brick Lane.