

Dear Sir/Madam,

Spitalfields Community Group OBJECTS to the application for a late-night refreshment licence at Shawarma, 84 Brick Lane E1 6RL. The application is completely excessive, for late night refreshment until 2am seven days a week.

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 latest survey, conducted earlier this year to identify priorities for action, highlighted the continuing problems faced by locals as a result of the existing dense concentration of licensed premises in the area, exacerbating the negative impact of the night time economy. Indeed, the three factors found to be most adversely affecting quality of life in Spitalfields were directly attributable to the night time economy. In accordance with this focus, SCG supported the adoption of a cumulative impact zone for the Brick Lane area, within which the premises at 84 is situated.

ASB caused by the night time economy in the Brick Lane area is well documented, with many recent reports by residents of problems caused by 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 inevitably pass along residential streets causing unwanted mayhem and misery.

Residents already put up with these problems to the early hours. The excessive hours applied for in this application would only extend these problems throughout the night, further inhibiting the amenity of local residents. There can be no justification for making refreshments available for consumption until 2am throughout the week. Shawarma will inevitably become a magnet for drunken behaviour and general anti-social behaviour. The high crime incident rate in the Brick Lane is fuelled, at least in part, by premises with late licences. The strain on police and public health resources is unacceptable.

This is the second licence application from Shawarma in the last few months, the previous one having been rejected. Since that application the premises has been open late on several occasions under TENs. We have received complaints from our members that several of these events have continued beyond the hours permitted by the TENs. These are not the actions of a responsible licence holder. In addition there have been reports of drugs use both inside and outside the premises.

Our members who live close to Shawarma report that there is a long history of noise problems with the premises, from customers queuing in the street, from the serving window which opens directly onto the street, from customers playing loud music in their cars as they wait for their food, from drunk customers outside the premises and in other doorways, and from takeaway delivery drivers waiting with their scooters. Allowing the premises to operate daily until 2am will make the lives of those who live within earshot unbearable.

The applicant has clearly not overcome the rebuttal assumption of the Cumulative Impact Zone. We therefore ask you to reject this application.