

Reference: LN/000014244 (WK201927323) - The Bank, High Street, Amesbury

License Change Objectives

1. To remove the condition that states that the entrance shall be relocated to the side door.
 - 1a. **I wish this condition to remain as there is an area for customers to queue at the side door away from the pavement and passing pedestrians. There is also a lobby area within to “buffer” customers for security checks and searches.**
 2. Include a condition that the front entrance (*currently a Fire Escape*) can be used when there is no *recorded music or live music performed* on the ground. Otherwise the side door must be used.
 - 2a. **I disagree with this proposal. No mention is made of the front entrance currently being a designated Fire Escape. What alternative arrangements have been made regarding evacuation of the building if this exit is now to become a general entrance?**
 - 2b. **I disagree with this. This is an Events Venue; other acts/events/stage shows take place e.g. cinema, bingo, comedy nights etc where, it is assumed, a host will use an amplified sound system and an will be audience present. Any “noise” from these events will be able to escape through the open front doors into the High Street. I suggest that if this License change *is* passed that this section, includes the phrase “any amplified event” – **not** just music.**
 - 2c. **The front doors open outwards over the pathway as they are currently a Fire Escape with a crash bar exit mechanism. With queuing customers being checked and searched and the likelihood of people congregating at this proposed entrance chatting and smoking, the pathway could be blocked make passing difficult for pedestrians and wheelchair users and necessitate them moving into the road to pass. (This has already been a problem at the existing main entrance side door where there *is* more room).**
 - 2d. **I already have to put up with the noise from the current side door entrance as customers arrive and depart and are allowed to congregate here to smoke even when there is a dedicated smoking area to the rear of the venue. Using the front doors as entrance will now put customers nearer to my property (around 20 metres), especially Beechwood Court residents and hotel guests opposite. We all suffer with the noise from the *existing* entrance until around at least 02:30 hrs so we certainly do not want them any closer.**
3. To include a condition that the first floor be limited to background music only.
 - 3a. **This would *appear* to be beneficial to myself and other residents and would seem more in keeping with a Cocktail Bar i.e. no drum and bass / dance music. However, no definition is given of what constitutes “background music” i.e. maximum DB levels. Will the volume limiters remain installed and ensure a “background level? Surely there will be no need for a DJ Booth and powerful sound system or a dance floor if “piped” background music is being played.**
 - 3b. **I can only assume opening and closing times for the proposed first floor bar will remain the same as they are currently for The Bank.**

4. To update the floor plans.
 - 4a. It is difficult to see what updates or changes are proposed on the supplied plans without a comparison of with the previous plans. Also, are the plans only being “updated” or is the building being changed to reflect the change of use? See 3a above - no need for a DJ Booth and sound system or dance floor, perhaps just rearrangement of furniture and fittings?

5. The current License states that 5 Security Staff should be present when the venue is open.
 - 5a. I assume this will still apply if only the first floor open for business. Also, no mention has been made of how I.D. checks and searches will be made at this entrance. I can only assume, again, that similar equipment will also be used at the front entrance.

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Following advice on making my Representation, my objections above are based concerns by me and others that using the front doors for an entrance/exit would create problems in the High Street and likely more disturbances (statutory noise nuisance) for local residents especially related to statements 1, 2, and 3 below.

1. Prevention of crime and disorder
2. Public safety
3. Prevention of Public Nuisance
4. The Protection of Children from Harm Based on Evidence

Wiltshire Council, with input from the Wiltshire Police stated previously “The entrance of the building will be relocated to the side doors at all times”. (Refer to Southern Area Licensing Sub Committee Meeting 10th September 2018 Para 2.9.2.). There must have been a good reason for this and my concern is that Licensing may now overrule this decision. The front doors of The Bank are designated as a Fire Escape only, it was soundproofed and should remain closed except in an emergency; I imagine that Wiltshire Council Planning and Emergency Services risk assessments also contributed to this. (The overlap between Licensing and Planning decisions does seem rather vague at times).

I believe Amesbury Town Council (Amenities Meeting) made a recent decision to pass this Licensing Variation. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend and make my objections to them.

For once, I appeal to Wiltshire Council to actually overrule the Town Council’s decision and not pass this Application.

I have no concerns with making our Town Centre quieter and introducing a true “cocktail bar environment” with a lounge area and background music; my concerns are primarily with the use of the front doors for the reasons stated above. The side door (current entrance) has been used since the venue opened yet no reason has been put forward as to why this entrance is *still not suitable* even if changes are made in the use of first floor.

Regards,

Mr. S.D. Hedge

Member of Amesbury Residents Committee (ARC)