

# Representations

## Representation 1

Name: Folkestone Town Council  
Address: Town Hall, 1-2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone  
Commenter Type: Town Council  
Stance: Object  
Reason: Prevention of public nuisance

Comments: Object due to live music every night until midnight, this is too late and should only be allowed until 11.30pm as it will disturb local residents.

## Representation 2

Name: Tracy Salisbury  
Address: 3 New Street, Folkestone  
Commenter Type: Resident  
Stance: Object  
Reason: Prevention of public nuisance, Public safety, Prevention of crime and disorder

Comments: I wish to lodge an objection to the above licensing application to turn 37 Grace Hill, CT20 1HQ in to Tofts Cafe Bar and grant it alcohol and music licence.

My objections are for the following reasons.

- 1) This is a residential area, with families with children.
- 2) There are residential properties adjoined to the venue.
- 3) The inevitable drunken and loud noise disturbances that would occur from people going to or leaving the premises and the live and recorded music that they want to play 7 nights a week until midnight.
- 4) The potential for damage to parked cars from drunken individuals leaving the premises.
- 5) This is a permit parking area so there would be little to no parking available for users of the establishment and it could also impact on parking available for residents that have purchased a parking permit.
- 6) Health and safety grounds. Looks like there is only one exit in the event of a fire.
- 7) The property is on a one-way street, which would make it difficult for emergency services
- 8) The one way system is quite treacherous as cars speed round the corners in to Foord Road and New Street. Crossing the road is very difficult at times. An accident

is more likely to happen with greater foot fall in the area, especially if people are impaired by alcohol when crossing the road.

9) The applicant has not posted any details to any of the residents in the area about their application. They have just put up a poster on their property.

10) Potential detrimental impact to property values in the area and difficulty in being able to sell my property in the future, as people will be concerned about noise and drunken disturbances. I would not have bought my property if I had any idea that this license could be granted.

In summary, I strongly object to the above mentioned license application PR202305-90241 and request that the license not be granted. It has not been a licensed property for decades and there is already a multitude of licenced properties in the centre of town.

I would be grateful if you would acknowledge receipt of this email and give my objections proper consideration and get back to me with your response as soon as possible.

### **Representation 3**

Name: Kimberley Freeland

Address: 7 New Street, Folkestone

Commenter Type: Resident

Stance: Object

Reason: Prevention of public nuisance, Public safety

Comments: I believe that the granting of the licence would lead to Public Nuisance & Public Safety Issues.

It is an unsuitable place to have a café/bar situated at Grace Hill for the following reasons;

1. The area surrounding is populated by elderly, disabled/sick and many young families live on and around Grace Hill. As proposed on their application they would ask customers to vacate quietly. We know they cannot control this and the noise from the drunks and the smokers outside the front would disturb residents on a regular basis. Not only noise disturbance but also increases the changes of unwanted fights in our street like the one late last year when a man died.

2. The proposed smoker area is unsuitable. The proposed smoker's area would be situated at the front of the property. This would be the main narrow public pathway into town, which would affect pedestrians in three ways; unable to use the crossing safely, navigate through the smoke and potentially block the pathway especially for the disabled who use scooters and families with young children and pushchairs. They cannot promise the litter from the smokers i.e. cigarettes will not litter surrounding streets. New Street will be littered with this as it is directly in front.

3. It would devalue the surrounding houses. It would make it harder for residents like ourselves to sell their homes if they wish, as nobody would want to live in earshot. When we bought our house there was no proposal of a café bar to be situated at the top of our road.

4. Taxis would be a nuisance to residents and other vehicles due to unsuitable places of drop off and pick up. Already we have taxis that toot their horns all hours of the night. The property is close to the bend, which means taxis and other vehicles would also park outside resident's home causing noise disturbance. As a resident of new street, I often see vehicles drive up and on pedestrian pathways.

5. They propose the customers will use the public pay and you go car park, Foresters way parking. Parking here cannot be guaranteed. Customers will use any parking most convenient for them, which will be streets closest to the Tofts Café Bar. The area is of permit bay parking only 8am-8pm with other vehicles able to park for 1 hour only and no return within 2 hours, rules lifted after this time. This will have a huge impact of residents potentially unable to park near their homes at all times of the day, unable to find parking in any zone G and forcing disabled badge holders to park on double yellow lines. We already share parking with customers of the guitar shop and F51 skate park.

6. Unsuitable place for deliveries & band equipment drop off. It appears to have no clear access to the rear of the property, which suggests all deliveries would be made at the front. This has a huge impact on road users and pedestrians. It would block pedestrians being able to access the island crossing safely and could case a fatal accident. Front access situated on a main road, one way, Y junction, deliveries could block access to the road for road user's particularly emergency services.

7. Fire safety concerns. There is no clear access to the rear of the building, which would suggest evacuation from the rear unsafe. The rear access from the main road is gated which I believe is shared with other residents of the street. This would suggest there is only one suitable exit towards the front of the building.

Tofts was a nightclub many years ago, it was at a time when the area was not as heavily residential and there was not as much traffic. When I talk to people who used to visit, it has only just dawned on them how they never thought of the impact it had on the residents when they left loudly.

If this is allowed to go ahead how is this fair to residents for alcohol to be served and late hours 7 days a week. Residents have work, work shifts and children have school.

It was recently an electrical shop but it was more of an online shop and did not have a big impact on residents or road users.

As a resident of New Street, we understand we are a through road from the town centre where we already experience difficulty in parking near our homes, the odd

drunk person walking home singing at the top of their lungs and shouting at all hours, vehicles exceeding speed limits and driving up onto the path directly outside our homes. Nobody is happy with this as it is.

Having Tofts Café Bar located at 37 Grace Hill would seriously have a huge impact on residents and moral be at an all-time low.

It would be better suited if Tofts café bar was located at a more suitable location.

#### **Representation 4**

Name: Helen Tucker

Address: 13 Gurkha Way, Folkestone

Commenter Type: Resident

Stance: Object

Reason: Prevention of public nuisance, Public safety

Comments: It distresses me to read the application to read the proposal of a Cafe/Bar application at Grace Hill.

My daughter and granddaughter live in New Street. Extra vehicles will make it more difficult for me to park nearby using my blue badge. My daughter has a rare disease which also requires her to park quickly near her home when she's unwell. My small granddaughter needs sleep, peace and quiet.

Already New Street has to suffer cars driving at high speed, car horns late at night, excessive rubbish at the front of properties and noise from people returning home late at night.

This will inevitably attract late night drinking and fights, not to mention more serious crime as previously experienced.

This not only devalues the properties that young people are struggling to retain but again will cause further sleep deprivation to hard working families with young children.

I would ask consideration of all these factors.

At no time during recent house purchases did this type of establishment feature in the searches and has no place in a residential area.

There will also be obstructive parking from loading vehicles which will affect all traffic in that area, making it difficult to cross the road safely.

#### **Representation 5**

Name: Mrs L Forbes

Address: Basement Flat, 15 Copthall Gardens, Folkestone

Commenter Type: Resident  
Stance: Object  
Reason: Prevention of public nuisance

Comments: I write to raise my objection to the above application for a music license for the property formally known as Toffs in Grace Hill.

My property shares conjoined walls to the property in question .I have grave concerns that due to this I will be disturbed by music and noise travelling through the walls ruining my right to peace and quiet in my own home.

I aware that in the past that music license for these premises have been denied due to this very reason.

## **Representation 6**

Name: Victoria MacMahon  
Address: 32 Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone  
Commenter Type: Resident  
Stance: Object  
Reason: Prevention of public nuisance, Public safety, Prevention of crime and disorder

Comments: Music licences have been sought and denied in this area of Folkestone for some time. Those that have been issued have either been revoked or had strict time stipulations applied to them due to complaints made by residents, one example would be from a few years ago with Googies. I don't understand why a music licence is now being granted for music to be played until midnight, no other premises have managed this recently in this area.

I also find it unacceptable that music should be allowed until late at night in a solely residential area, there is a block of flats for older people just across the road. Even if the premises is sound proofed effectively, the noise from event goers would be detrimental to the locals, especially the older people.

The premises is situated on a very dangerous bend in the road. Decades ago this may not have been an issue as there was significantly less traffic in Folkestone. Now however, this bend and the road into New Street is nothing short of a death trap, it is amazing that no one has been seriously hurt to date. The cars come down from the roundabout and round to either Foord Street or New Street at great speeds. Crossing the road there in daylight and sober means taking your life into your hands, at night after a few drinks to impede vision and decision-making processes, there will no doubt be serious accidents. There have been no traffic calming measure put in place in this area, despite cars coming off the road and hitting residential properties. It would be utterly remis of the Council to allow increased foot traffic, especially at night from a premises with an alcohol licence.

## **Representation 7**

Name: Withheld

Address: Folkestone

Commenter Type: Resident

Stance: Object

Reason: Prevention of public nuisance

Comments: My main concern is the noise levels outside the building during business, especially on exiting and close of business at this premises. There is already quite a high noise level along the public footpath. The pathway itself is very narrow and would possibly lead to a large spill out of customers along the pathway, staying, standing, shouting, arguing and possibly fighting directly along windows and doors of residents.

There will no doubt be forms of such anti social behaviour right in front of residents homes, especially if drink and drugs have been consumed. No amount of reasoning will work with such individuals and lead to many confrontations i feel leading to violence and nonstop Police intervention.

I really fear that there will be substantial noise and non stop problems in an already problematic area of Folkestone, with the possibility of noise all through the night because of people not leaving the area quickly and quietly, loitering, continued drinking, taking drugs and sexual misconduct with no thought or care of disturbing anyone else. I live directly on the corner where there is steps leading up to another street. This will no doubt become a place for ASB..unless a strong working CCTV presence is clearly seen.

Live music, recorded music will no doubt draw all types of patrons. Some will be very respectful of the area. Some will not give a damn and its those i am fearful of causing a massive problem leading too very poor sleep and anxiety for all the residents.

As i have already stated, the problems will arise not from within the premises, but outside which will not be controlled by door staff beyond the actual entrance to the premises. I cannot see this as being a safe, viable premises for the use as any type of music venue without considerable anxiety and loss of sleep to all us local residents, because of where it actually is situated and therefore strongly object to the use of these premises as a Bar 7 days and nights a week.

## **Representation 8**

Name: Michelle Avery

Address: Folkestone

Commenter Type: Resident

Stance: Object

Reason: Prevention of public nuisance

Comments: I would like to register an objection to the above Premises Licence application for 37 Grace Hill.

I am the joint landlord for 29-33 Grace Hill and was made aware of the licence application by one of our tenants who happened to see the application in the window. I personally feel that this is a completely inadequate way to advertise the application as it was only by chance he saw the letter in the window, surely local residents should be contacted if such a fundamental change is proposed for a property? As far as I can see, from FHDC website, there has been no planning application for 37 Grace Hill since Y03/0282/SH 2003-03-14 which was an application for change of use to a shop and a residential flat above. Should a planning application have been made first for change of use to a bar before a licence application was made? On walking past 37 Grace Hill yesterday it would appear that the property already has a bar area in place and tables set up.

This area is completely unsuitable for a licensed premises as it is a densely populated residential area and late night licensed premises create anti social behaviour and noise. Some of our tenants, including a family with young children, have bedrooms that face the road and people leaving the proposed venue are likely to be intoxicated and therefore not respectful of their surroundings. I am concerned that our tenants may feel that they no longer wish to live in our properties as they originally moved to a residential area and not an area with a licensed premises. If this happened to be the case I am also concerned that we would have difficulty finding new tenants that want to live so close to a late night venue.

I therefore feel that this application for a Premises Licence should be refused.

## **Representation 9**

Name: Kenneth Freeland

Address: 7 New Street, Folkestone

Commenter Type: Resident

Stance: Object

Reason: Prevention of public nuisance.

Surrounded by dense residential housing.

Concern of noise from people late at night.

Noise from vehicles, taxis, deliveries and such.

Possible dangers when driving with a bar located on such a narrow path.

Not sure how this business could safely unload deliveries of food and alcohol.

Permit zone is already at it's limit, spaces extremely limited in Zone G.

Concern of litter and various mess this could bring to the area

Dangers of customers smoking out the front and also generally being in the way.

## **Representation 10**

Name: Planning Officer

Address: Folkestone

Commenter Type: Responsible Authority

Stance: Object

Reason: Prevention of public nuisance

Comments: On behalf of the planning team, we object to the premise license at the above address contrary to third licensing objective (prevention of public nuisance) due to the late opening hours and playing of live and recorded music in a highly residential area outside of the town centre.