

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 December 2022 15:26
To: Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@haringey.gov.uk>
Subject: Objection to Licence application from Rakkas

[REDACTED]

We wish to object to the Licencing Act 2003 application from:
Rakkas
365-369 Green Lanes, Harringay, London, N4 1DY
Ward – Harringay

We are commenting by email as are unable to edit the PDF form, but have used the headings from the form.

General Comments

Rakkas already creates a number of problems for the area and local residents, and an extension of the hours as proposed would exacerbate these, over more nights and later in the evening.

It is true to say it has changed the nature of the area, so that what was a quiet cluster of three residential streets has become a great deal busier and noisier, into the late evening. It is also out of keeping with the look and feel of the other restaurants in Green Lanes, and adds no additional value to the local community.

Rakkas is described as a restaurant but comes over as much more than that. The website shows performances of (very lively-looking) live music, and features activities such as fire-eating, giving the impression of a nightclub and show in addition to food and drinks. Yet the application appears to simply extend hours for serving food and alcohol, and gives a different impression from a place which could be seen as encouraging rowdy behaviour. It is also a large set up, with a substantial rear extension which causes significant nuisance for local residents.

If this were simply a neighbourhood restaurant serving food and drink its scale and impact on the area and the local community would be considerably reduced, and we would be unlikely to object. But the massive extension, which actually touches the wall of the first house in the terrace and is only yards from the bedrooms of the adjoining ones, is of a scale and intrusion that it's hard to understand how it got planning permission at all.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The residential streets nearby are quiet and we are a stable community of families and older people, yet the Rakkas website directs guests to park there after 6pm. This leads to congestion (often late into the night at weekends) leading to recurring noise from vehicles and voices, and people speeding away. The visiting cars appear to be high end and could attract crime – I don't know if it's connected but there seems to have been some increase in damage to cars crime in recent months (someone attempted to steal the numberplates on our car a couple of weeks ago, unsuccessfully as it turned out, for the first time in 15 years).

I am also unhappy about the bouncers at Rakkas. It's hard to understand why a restaurant should need them, and few if any in the Harringay part of Green Lanes use them, and they leads to a sense of unease, if not danger. It could be arguable that they prevent crime, but the impression is to increase fear of this as they should not be required for something which is just a restaurant. They are also silent and surly (see point below about public safety).

The fact that Rakkas was found to be in breach of Covid regulations on more than one occasion (at a time when they also had bouncers) does not inspire confidence in their probity and good management, especially now that it has more than doubled in size.

Public Safety

As stated above, the bouncers could be seen as creating a sense of lack of safety rather than improving it. They rarely interact with members of the community (I walk past them most days) and are a stand-offish and hostile presence in the street, the very opposite of reassuring. And when they do interact it is negative – only a few days ago I was passing late afternoon with my sister in law when, on overhearing our conversation, they butted in rudely to say I was wrong; in fact they had misheard something I said about Rakkas (which was not derogatory, more a statement of fact). Apart from this being none of their business, when they realised the misunderstanding there was no apology, and they were generally surly. My sister in law, who was visiting, was extremely shocked by their behaviour and attitude and I am now apprehensive about walking past them. We are aged 72 and 67 so hardly likely to have come over as mouthy and loud; in fact were talking quietly, which is why they did not hear clearly what we were saying in the first place.

Nor do they seem to see their role as about public safety, but more about protecting Rakkas. At busy times the pavement by the entrance is blocked by large parties waiting to enter, or leaving and standing to chat and it can be difficult to pass without stepping into the road; the bouncers seem to make no attempt to manage this or show any regard for local people passing. This is also quite near a bus stop, which all adds to the congestion and tension.

More generally, the residential area adjoining the rear and side entrance to Rakkas is quiet and subject to traffic calming measures via restricted access, and the numbers and type of vehicles and people have changed the feel of the area and the street is much busier. It is clear from looking into the building that the demographics of the majority of the customers are people from outside Harringay, which is likely to be from Rakkas' marketing.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Rakkas casts a shadow over the whole area, whether we're walking along Green Lanes or in and around our own homes and gardens. I have outlined above some of the impacts in terms of parking, numbers of visitors (who come from other areas, hence the parking issues), and unpleasant street presence, with the counterproductive presence of the bouncers.

There is a sign asking customers to be quiet when they leave, but this is small and on the outside, which seems odd.

Apart from changing the atmosphere and usage of the streets, the noise from the premises is probably the single most negative effect on the neighbourhood. While we are half-way up Lothair Road North, and so not as badly affected as others closer to Green Lanes, the noise is still a disturbance, particularly interfering with our quiet enjoyment of the rooms overlooking the rear, and our use of the gardens. Over the summer months were aware of noise on several occasions late at night around 11pm; I have a recording from 28 July from my garden, where you can hear shouting and groups of men's voices chanting, but there were several other instances. This further confirms the concern that Rakkas is more of a club than a restaurant, with the noise sounding like rowdy behaviour; from what we hear this seems to particularly affect the rear of the premises with the new, massive extension – which seems particularly inappropriate only a few feet from the rear rooms and gardens of a street of domestic properties,

Rubbish and refuse is also a problem. The side entrance is in (residential) Lothair Road North and we now have to live with and walk past often smelly rubbish bins – there are around three as it is such a large place, and they are often overflowing. Rubbish very bad at first, with furniture packaging all over the pavement, and food. It remains not always well managed, with

overflowing bins and can be spread over the pavement. This general lack of care for the local area has been obvious from the start – several of the longest lorries we have ever seen turned into Lothair Road North to deliver the furniture, so cars had to be moved, with no notice or appreciation. And ahead of and upon opening we received no information or assurances about the approach of such a large and imposing social centre. There seems to be no notice, interest in or care taken by the owner/management regarding the impact on local people.

Protection of Children from Harm

Our street includes a number of families with young children, and some teenagers. So while the problems described above are quite general, the significant increase in traffic and footfall can be experienced as particularly negative for them.

Conclusion

There are two major issues with Rakkas. First it is out of keeping for both a residential area and for Green Lanes. Second the owners don't give a toss about the impact on the locality. Extending the licence as requested would only make this worse, and encourage their anti-social practices.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2022 22:24
To: Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@haringey.gov.uk>
Subject: Rakkas licence objection

I write to object to all further extensions of licensing at Rakkas on Green Lanes and request a review of its current behaviour.

Rakkas and its clientele have become a major issue for the residents of Lothair Road North and neighbouring streets. The main problems are people/car noise, litter, and parking. I was hoping now summer has passed that it would calm down but since that restaurant has expanded, the noise made by its patrons returning to their cars is intolerable. They shout up and down the road and litter. I went to speak to the manager of Rakkas and they pointed me to a sign they have facing the pavement about leaving quietly but it does nothing. I have to go out into the street and ask people to be quiet or turn off their engines at least twice a week. The inconsiderate nature of this restaurant's clients stems from the current licensing agreement and Rakkas does not do enough to regulate them.

The noise from the shisha garden was very loud over the summer and could be heard all the way to the New River end. I know of many residents nearer the site who have repeatedly objected to its current licensing arrangement.

I understand enforcement is difficult but if officers were to come any evening and they would witness the noise and litter they create. While I don't know if he was a customer of Rakkas or The Beaconsfield (certainly one) one man threatened to stab me when I politely asked him to turn his idling engine off.

It is making the street dirty and noisy and I'm threatened when I try to protect our environment and community. Please review Rakkas's existing licence and do not allow any extension.

[REDACTED]
Not for publication unless anonymous please.

From: [REDACTED] >
Sent: 11 December 2022 11:46
To: Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@haringey.gov.uk>
Subject: Rakkas extension

FROM:



We wish to object in writing to the Licencing Act 2003 application from:

Rakkas

365-369 Green Lanes, Harringay, London, N4 1DY

Ward – Harringay

We are unable to locate a computer form, hence the email.

General Comments

Rakkas creates noise, pollution and anti-social behaviour in the area and for local residents. An extension of the hours as proposed would worsen an already deteriorating situation.

Rakkas is described as a restaurant, which is clearly an inaccurate description. It has live music and live entertainment. It is more like a nightclub and the fact that the application is for extending the serving of food and drink does not make it a restaurant. We are fortunate in having many genuine restaurants along Green Lanes, and there is a sharp contrast between these high-quality eateries and Rakkas club.

Rakkas is already too large to be so near to residential areas. Its outside extension is noisy and difficult to clear. Its impact on the area and the local community would be considerably reduced if it were a genuine restaurant, with strict enforceable rules.

It made no attempt to liaise with the local community before or after opening, and simply expected local residents to inconvenience themselves when required.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

There has been a surge in criminal behaviour to do with cars. There have been stolen licence plates, broken windows and dangerous driving in the last 3 months. I have witnessed dangerous driving from someone who subsequently parked and entered the club, and I reported this incident to police in November 2022.

There has been a surge in parking pressure as the Rakkas website instructs visitors to park in our residential road. Residents are now finding it challenging to park from early evening on. My own drive is now continually blocked by visitors after 7pm.

There is an increase in people appearing to trade drugs in our road. This was already a problem before Rakkas opened but has worsened. I have had to move people off neighbours doorsteps where they are waiting. There are often high-end cars driving slowly around, having a brief meeting with a young person on the street, then driving on.

Bouncers - Restaurants don't need bouncers generally, they are clearly there to control and intimidate people. I have heard first-hand of one incident when they aggressively approached a passing member of the public, a lady of middle age who was left uncomfortable and scared.

Public Safety

The bouncers of Rakkas are employed by Rakkas and are not interested in protecting the wider community. At times the pavement by the entrance is blocked by large groups of young people waiting to enter, or standing to chat. Pedestrians are forced onto the railings or even stepping into the road. The management seem to have made no effort to instruct bouncers to manage this better or help accommodate the passing public.

The numbers and type of vehicles and people have changed the feel of the area and the residential street is much busier. It is clear that the majority of customers are people from outside Harringay Green Lanes, which is likely to be from Rakkas marketing. I have witnessed near misses and dangerous driving associated with arriving and leaving Rakkas club. I have witnessed a

young woman who works at Rakkas club being apparently harassed by a man outside my house.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

The noise from Rakkas club is likely the single most negative effect on the neighbourhood. It creates noise pollution for the mixed generations of our road, from the very elderly who have been living here since the 1960s, to disadvantaged young people living in the road, to families with young children. It ruins our ability to enjoy our previously quiet homes and in summer our gardens. The back extension of Rakkas is huge and full of people too late into the night so close to a street full of domestic dwellings. This would rapidly become unbearable if the extension to licensing is granted.

Rubbish and refuse is a problem. The side entrance is in Lothair Road North and we now have to live with and walk past smelly rubbish bins – there are around three as it is such a large place, and they are often overflowing. Rubbish is not well managed, with overflowing bins over the pavement. This general lack of care for the local area has been obvious from the start (see above in General).

Protection of Children from Harm

As a Foster Carer employed by Haringey, I feel it is paramount that we protect our Looked After Children from the anti-social activities we've noticed around Rakkas. We have at least two Looked After Children that I know of in the vicinity, possibly more. My own current foster placement is scared of the bouncers whom he has to pass every day on the way home from school. He experiences them negatively, finding them scary and intimidating. He has also been exposed to the drug-related and pollution-related behaviour in our road (see above). He has to scooter around Rakkas club's rubbish on the way to school.

There is a second foster placement even nearer to the club, and he is already battling to study for GCSEs when there is late noise coming from the club outside space on Sunday nights. How is it going to impact on school on if the extension is granted?! This is obviously re-victimising the most vulnerable members of our community, it is adversely affecting them and their future. It is unacceptable, especially when it is purely for the sake of commercial gain. Surely they deserve a more positive, family-friendly, residential environment in which they can make progress safely?

Best regards

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 December 2022 15:36
To: Licensing <Licensing.Licensing@haringey.gov.uk>
Subject: Representations on a Licence Application

Dear Haringey Council,

Please see below my representations in relation to the application by Rakkas of 365-369 Green Lanes, Haringay, London, N4 1DY to vary its licence.

Personal Details Name: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Licence application I wish to make a representation on

Application on behalf of Rakkas of 365-369 Green Lanes, Haringay, London, N4 1DY to vary its licence

Application Number

Not available on council website

Name of Licensee

Not available on council website

Name of Premises

Rakkas

Premises Address and Postcode (where the Licence will take effect)

365-369 Green Lanes, Harringay, London, N4 1DY

Reason/s for representation Under the Licensing Act 2003, for a representation to be relevant it must be one that is about the likely effect of the application on the promotion of the four licensing objectives.

Public Safety

There is already the serious problem of the venue's many refuse bins being left out, blocking access on the pavement, and causing unhygienic litter which fouls the atmosphere and encourages vermin. An increase in licensing hours will worsen this intolerable situation. Broken glass from people gathering outside the venue with bottles is an additional threat to public safety, as is the increase in traffic from customers, especially when these cars drive very fast along Lothair Road North, Venetia Road and Tancred Road.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

Increase in noise from the venue, causing disturbance to residents, the increased traffic from customers, and the smells and unhygienic detritus from the refuse bins which block the pavement.

The Protection of Children from Harm

The increased traffic, and speeding of customers' cars. The blocking of the pavement with refuse bins, forcing pedestrians and pushchairs onto the road. Unhygienic littering brings threat of disease, and broken glass is another hazard for children. The noise prevents children from sleeping.

I, [REDACTED], hereby declare that all information I have submitted is true and correct.

Date: 11 December 2022

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Date: Fri, 9 Dec 2022 at 10:32

Subject: Rakkas application for late night refreshment and sale of alcohol

To: <licensing@haringey.co.uk>

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to register my objection to the changes to licensing proposed by Rakkas restaurant.

Both the extension to opening hours proposed and the sale of alcohol will worsen the instances of public nuisance and anti-social behaviour that residents are already experiencing.

- The restaurant is situated on what used to be a quiet residential street
- The absence of evening and weekend parking restrictions on Lothair Road North, Venetia Road and Tancred Road mean these streets are used as a parking lot for visitors to Rakkas restaurant. This already means large gatherings of people outside houses, stretching all the way up to Tancred Road. The impact of this is already considerable; noise outside our homes, large numbers of cars (including on yellow lines and sometimes with their engines on for long periods) and litter left on the pavements.
- Later opening hours will mean later disturbance for the residents of the area, many of whom are young families.
- The sale of alcohol will lead to an increase in noise and anti-social behaviour.
- The combination of later opening hours AND the sale of alcohol will bring more people to the restaurant worsening the problems residents already have with noise, cars and anti-social behaviour.

I implore Haringey to consider the detrimental environmental impact of large numbers of cars on these small streets and the inevitable disturbance that will be caused to us by groups of people, many of whom will be drunk, spilling out late at night to find their cars outside our homes.

Please please introduce weekend and evening parking controls (an issue I raised just last year with local councillors) to protect residents from pollution and disturbance from groups who use our streets as a parking lot.

Yours,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



LICENSING ACT 2003 - REPRESENTATION FORM

To make a representation in respect of an application for a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate please complete the following form. For representations to be considered relevant they must relate to one or more of the four "Licensing Objectives" (listed below).

Please note all representations will be made available for applicants to view. If you make a representation objecting to the application it is likely that you will be called upon to attend a hearing and present your objection before a Licensing Committee.

Personal Details
Name.....
Address.....
Postcode N4 1ER.....

Licence application you wish to make a representation on
<i>You do not need to answer all of the questions in this section, but please give as much information as you can:</i>
Application Number.....
Name of Licensee.....
Name of Premises (if applicable) RAKKAS.....
Premises Address (where the Licence will take effect)..... 367-369 green lanes, Finsbury Park, London
Postcode N4 1DY.....

Reason/s for representation
<i>Under the Licensing Act 2003, for a representation to be relevant it must be one that is about the likely effect of the application on the promotion of the four licensing objectives. Any representations that are considered to be vexatious or frivolous will not be considered (please see Haringey Council's leaflet Variations, Representations and Appeals for Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates).</i>
<i>Fill in reason/s for your representation in the space provided under each Licensing Objective it relates to.</i>

