

Dear Madam/Sir,

Alcohol Licence Application:
39 Bridge Street, HD7 5JN; "Lock 22"

I am extremely concerned at the prospect that the Lock 22 café (39 Bridge Street HD7 5JN) might become a café that serves alcohol and food; and may have entertainment.

I wish strongly to object to the proposal and in particular to the alcohol licence application.

Such a development would be bound to worsen the somewhat difficult parking conditions that already exist in Bridge Street, particularly in the vicinity of my house and those houses close by, on both sides of the road.

During Monday to Saturday, cars and vans will be parked on both sides of the street and often stretch past the large mills. On the latest Saturday evening, for example, I struggled to extract my car from its parked position and to turn it around owing to the number of non-local cars in the street. As that situation occurred at 10:45pm, I dread to think what the street would be like with a new alcohol and entertainment dispensary just there doors away. (And that situation arose when alcohol sales should have ceased by 10pm)

Slaithwaite already suffers considerably from drunkenness at weekends. Anti-social behaviour is a serious concern and lay behind the pharmacy's decision to install a window hatch; and staff at the local Co-Op have in the past told me how awful some customers can be on weekend evenings. The Commercial public house in Carr Lane already causes me to suffer noise pollution on Friday and Saturday. To have a drinking venue in even proximity is an horrific prospect.

Worse still, is the potential for drunken persons to be wandering along the canal towpath, [REDACTED] Noise would certainly be a big issue; but quite possibly also the dropping of rubbish, smoke pollution and other anti-social behaviour. All such externalities would occur during many hours of the day and may worsen in the evenings. [REDACTED] I am likely to suffer very considerably. Yet there are many well-established drinking venues across Slaithwaite.

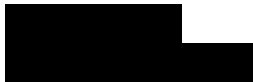
None of those problems has arisen from The Little Bridge Wine Bar and Restaurant (TLB) located a little farther west along the canal (and on Britannia Road). That is because their site is far more suitable for such a venue than is 39 Bridge Street. TLB is much farther from residential accommodation and has a wider outdoor area between the canal and its building. Unlike the area near Lock 22 and my house, TLB does not have exposed earth and grass between itself and the canal: tarmac is a better deterrent to anti-social, alcohol-fuelled behaviour. And the dip in the towpath area as the canal passes TLB helps to minimise noise transmission with some shielding provided by the bridge itself.

A couple of years ago I was extremely disappointed when Kirklees Council required the best restaurant between Slaithwaite and Brighouse to be permanently closed (the Watermill, a restaurant located to the rear of the Commercial public house). That decision seemed to be

primarily based on noise pollution suffered by a small number of residential properties (and emitted from refrigeration equipment rather than users of the venue). Development of Lock 22 would involve serious noise pollution but also several forms of anti-social behaviour stemming from alcohol consumption close to residential accommodation and with close access to an idyllic canal.

Please do not allow Lock 22 to develop in the ways proposed; in particular not to serve alcohol. To me, the case for not allowing the proposal seems entirely compelling.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.