

**COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS
24 June 2011 at 10:00am**

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Part A

(open to the public including the media)

Pages

5. Application under the Licensing Act 2003

6 - 45

Tin Pan Alley
7 Queen Street
Colchester
Essex
CO1 2PG

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA

Part B

(not open to the public or the media)

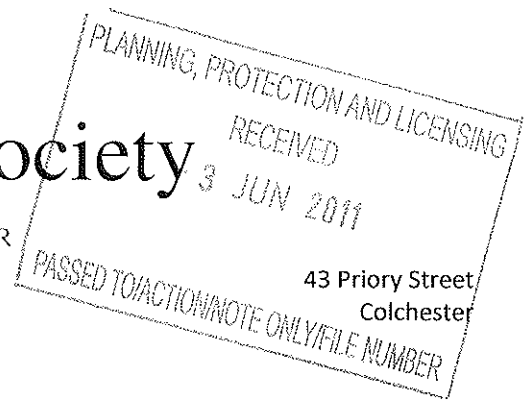
Pages

There are no Section B Items



Colchester Civic Society

c/o BARCLAYS BANK, 9 HIGH STREET, COLCHESTER



Sarah White
Committee Services (Licensing)
Licensing Specialist Unit
Environmental and Protective Services
Colchester Borough Council
PO Box 889
Rowan House
33 Sheepen Road
Colchester CO3 3WG

3rd June 2011

Dear Sarah

Objection to Licensing Application - Tin Pan Alley, 7 Queen Street, Colchester

Colchester Civic Society wishes to object to the application to vary the licence for Tin Pan Alley. This is another application for premises within the "Stress Area". We understand that applications for new licences or variations to licences for such premises should only be granted when the applicants can demonstrate their award would have a positive effect within the "Stress Area". We feel that the applicant has not done this.

We have a number of concerns. Perhaps the most serious is one of safety. The premises are so small that large groups tend to gather outside, on the very narrow pavement by the main door, on the pavement on the other side of Queen Street and often in the road between. The road is a main thoroughfare but is not at all wide at this point. Car drivers coming round the corner from High Street suddenly find themselves surrounded by revellers who make little effort to get out of the way. It would only take one person to step backwards into the path of a car for a fatal accident to occur and the later the hour, the more likely this is. People become less aware of danger the more they drink and the more excited they become! Unfortunately, it is not just Tin Pan Alley customers at risk, but also passers-by, who have to step into the road to get through the crush.

Tin Pan Alley is extremely close to residential properties in High Street, Culver Street and Queen Street itself. Our President owns one of these and has confirmed that the noise emanating from the premises can be very disturbing. Yes, one can still hear music but it is also loud voices, laughter, squeals and the chink of glass that prevent residents from sleeping, something that must, surely, be considered a basic human right. I can also confirm that the noise levels are intrusive, having experienced them first hand. Several of our members have, incidentally, commented on the noise coming from the front of the bar when it is warm and the windows are open. They consider it unacceptable.

The premises are also close to three proposed hotels. However good the glazing, guests at the hotels are sure to be disturbed by the vibrancy of the current night-time economy. Shouting, shrieking revellers, arguments, fights, the sirens of emergency vehicles, the vomit - and worse - are not going to encourage visitors to return to our town. We are hoping to gain a Purple Flag. Granting another late night licence in the "Stress Area" would surely not fill the judges with confidence in our ability to make the town centre welcoming to people of all ages and interests.

Queen Street and St Botolph's Street have long reached saturation point in terms of bars and other late night facilities. We would ask the Committee to think long and hard about this application, however popular the bar and however good the music. It is, unfortunately, just in the wrong place!

Yours

Jo Edwards
Chair, Colchester Civic Society.