

The Shad Thames Residents' Association wish to object to the premises (variation) licensing application from Ask, 34 Shad Thames, London SE1 2YE.

If this variation is granted it will mean that we shall have yet another "bar" in Shad Thames, which will add to late night noise. While we note that the license allows for the sale of alcohol "indoors", we would point out that as practically the whole of the front of Ask facing the river is made of up of doors and windows, which are open during the summer, there would be little or no containment of the extra noise made by extra late-night drinkers, who would be attracted to the premises. Persons leaving other premises in the area, which close earlier, will gravitate to a premises which remain open until 00.30.

Our objection is therefore on the grounds of prevention of public nuisance. An increase in the number of persons using the premises as a bar will mean there will be additional noise from the premises, affecting residents living in close proximity to the premises, as well as dispersal noise from persons leaving licensed premises at 00.30. This will disturb residents' sleep, as well as the peaceful enjoyment of their homes. We sincerely hope we have the right to respect of our homes and private lives as stated in the Human Rights Act 1998.

We presume the applicant is aware of the latest Guidance to the Licensing Act, which states that the four objectives should be paramount considerations at all times. As mentioned, we would highlight the third objective - the prevention of public nuisance – which states that licensed premises can cause a range of nuisances, impacting on people living, working or sleeping in the vicinity of the premises, and one of the principle concerns relates to noise nuisance.

We would therefore repeat that it is on the grounds of preventing an increase in public nuisance – noise – that we are objecting to this application.

We are also objecting to the request for the premises to be licensed for off-sales. Even though we understand that off-sales means that alcohol may only be sold in closed containers, ie bottles, it is likely to mean that in the summer months persons leaving the premises will see this as an easy way to continue drinking in the area. If off-sales were allowed until 21.00 at the latest, this might go some way to limiting late-night alfresco drinking along the Riverside and in adjoining streets.

The objection to this premises (variation) license was agreed to by the Core Group of the Shad Thames Residents' Association by exchange of emails between members.

Jilly Frisch
Secretary, STRA

