

Katya Mohsen

12 Trafalgar Street

Cambridge, CB4 1ET

To: Cambridge Licensing Authority

Re: Licence application for Othersyde Ltd 'Alcademy' Venue at 54-56 Chesterton Road
Reference: 279321 Alcademy

5 June 2024

Dear sir/madam:

I write to inform you of my OBJECTION to the above licence application.

I accept to have my contact details published with my objection with the exception of my email address that I wish to have redacted from any/all publications.

Although some of the activities this new venue wishes to run sound nice and like a good community space. I have strong objections to the alcohol license requested and the impact it will have on our neighbourhood, both the residential areas and the people and community who reside in it.

Selling alcohol from 11am to 10:30-11pm will certainly lead to increased nuisance from noise and anti-social behaviour as we already experience from all the other surrounding venues serving alcohol.

The block where this venue is opening has already seen several alcohol licenses granted in a very short period of time: Taste of Hungary x 2 (shop first, then restaurant), Grape Britannia, La Dispensa, Thirsty are all on this one small block that backs onto our garden. We also have several pubs running in our area and many other events held on midsummer common and Jesus Green. We have more than enough alcohol licenses in our neighbourhood as is and certainly more than enough on this one block on Chesterton road. The cumulative impact on our neighbourhood and living conditions is already felt negatively. This is worse in summer with longer days, people out later and on foot more, Noise nuisance is also felt more in summer due to our need to keep windows open.

We have seen an increase in foot and car traffic on our roads. Trafalgar street and Road are both very short and narrow. Narrow enough that many drivers choose to drive on the pavement to drive down.

We get noise coming through from patrons outdoors and live entertainment (music, comedy, quiz night) made worse if any windows or doors of the premises are left open. Patrons existing these venues can be loud and we have had many instances of people urinating, vomiting on our property (through our side iron gate) and in the back alley that is between us and Chesterton road where Alcademy will be located. This is more than a nuisance. We have also witness people using and selling drugs in/around our streets, including in the alley way.

Here are some of my objections relating directly to the application:

Prevention of Crime and Disorder:

'Though SIA door supervisors are not considered necessary for the day to day business operation, an ongoing risk assessment will be undertaken to ensure at during licensed hours

where it is considered necessary, sufficient SIA registered security officers will be employed by the License Holder.'

The need for private security or the thought of this need is concerning. Although it is in part a prevention, having a venue that requires security at the door does not belong in a residential area and tAlcademy is back directly and neighbouring directly only a residential area.

'Staff will take reasonable steps to ensure that customers do not take partly consumed alcoholic products or drinking receptacles away from the premises.'

This is unenforceable as patrons will be able to sit and drink outdoors, and therefore could leave with drinks in hand and also, as we regularly experience, litter our streets with drink containers.

Any off sales will only be sold in sealed containers.

This cannot prevent patrons/clients from opening their drinks and consuming on our streets.

The outside seating area will be carefully monitored by staff to ensure it is being used in a responsible manner as not to cause a disturbance to local residents.

Once again, this can only be enforced directly in their seating area but won't prevent disturbances around the premises, the alley and our roads.

Staff will be busy serving and catering to their clients, not policing them.

Conditions offered - Public Safety:

'We have crowd control measures in place for busy events to prevent overcrowding and maintain safe egress routes.'

Where are these safe egress routes? Where will these crowds be queuing to enter the premises for an event? How will they be managed leaving the premises following events? If there are crowds and any issues were to arise, this will certainly have an impact on the neighbourhood from a safety and nuisance point of view.

Conditions offered - Prevention of Public Nuisance:

To prevent public nuisance ...

'robust noise control policy'.

'ensure that patrons leaving the premises do so quietly and respectfully, particularly during late hours.'

This is unenforceable, certainly beyond their door step. In our experience to date, for example with Thirsty on Chesterton road,, staff are busy serving and selling to their patrons and do not have time or interest in policing them or upsetting them to ensure they return for more. We know from our experience with the other premises that patrons, especially those who have been drinking, do not leave quietly, We hear them on foot speaking loudly, singing, shouting. Trafalgar Road and Trafalgar Steet, we hear them slam their car doors parked on our streets. Those who don't drink are also a nuisance on our roads driving on Trafalgar Street against the one way traffic direction/no entry sign that is signposted and park on double yellow lines and in spots that their vehicles do not fit in; all reducing safety on our roads and access on our for cars, cycles, pedestrians and emergency vehicles on our street.

Per the their above statement in Public safety about crowd control, how will they manage noise and nuisance from crowds who are queuing for an event or leaving following an event. Where will these crowds queue? How about toilet facilities? They have a total of 4 toilets and no urinals at all., Where

will people go to urinate during busy events, busy evenings with so few toilets, plus outdoor seating and in an environment where people can drink all day and evening. Leaving after any busy event will create long queues and patrons will choose to leave and use our streets and properties and our alley way as their public toilet. Especially the men, as they are already known to urinate where and when they want, especially when inebriated. We already have this problem in our neighbourhood. See next paragraph for more on this.

We also experience, urinating, vomiting, and defecating on the alley way between Chester Road and Trafalgar Street and on our properties. I have personally had to clean up urine from my side passage/front of house most recently on 1 June after at least two people who took the liberty to urinate through /on my iron gate. I have also witness drug use and what I suspect was drug dealing in the alley way and in front of 14 Trafalgar Street, and between 4 Trafalgar Street and the back of the butcher. Allowing this premise to serve alcohol will only make this worse for our living conditions.

Based on the above. I re-iterate that I fully object to this licence application. This will impact our living conditions and will increase the impact we have already started experience in the neighborhood to the many licences that have been approved over the past couple of years.

Sincerely,
Katya Mohsen