# Residents express concerns over Rotherham restaurant's alcohol licence application



Residents of Rotherham have voiced their concerns about a restaurant's application for a licence to sell alcohol, fearing that such a move could turn them into "prisoners in their own homes." The establishment, which currently operates under a bring-your-own (BYO) policy for patrons, is seeking permission to serve alcohol daily from 12:00 PM to 10:30 PM. The applicant argues that granting the licence would enable them to better control alcohol consumption on the premises and serve patrons in a responsible manner.

The restaurant has proposed a number of measures to address community concerns, stating that no children under 18 would be allowed without an accompanying adult and that a Challenge 21 policy would be in place to prevent underage drinking. The venue is monitored by CCTV cameras both inside and in the surrounding areas to enhance security.

Despite these assurances, the proposal has met with significant opposition. Seven objections have been submitted to the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, alongside a petition signed by 24 residents who oppose the application. Although the petition does not detail specific reasons for the opposition, one local resident expressed anxiety over the potential increase in disturbances, stating they would feel like a "prisoner in my own home" if the licence were granted due to a worsening of their mental health conditions.

Local councillors Marnie Havard and Dominic Beck have also raised objections. Councillor Havard expressed concern over the safety of local residents, particularly children who may play or walk in the area, highlighting the potential for increased noise levels, late-night disturbances, and anti-social behaviour stemming from an influx of customers. Councillor Beck echoed these sentiments, underlining the risks posed to children by late-night crowds and intoxicated patrons.

In response to worries regarding parking congestion—an issue previously identified in the area—the applicant acknowledged the existing problems and noted that other establishments contribute to similar issues. To mitigate parking challenges, they have agreed that the restaurant manager will vacate their designated parking space to make room for delivery drivers, and delivery personnel have been instructed to refrain from parking on the side street.

In their written response, the applicant contended that parking on the side street is comparable on days when the restaurant is closed and questioned why their establishment is singled out for parking complaints. They suggested that, should the alcohol licence be granted, fewer patrons would drive to the restaurant if they are local and intend to enjoy an alcoholic beverage with their meal.

The applicant also expressed surprise at Cllrs Beck and Havard's concerns regarding child safety, pointing out that a pub exists near the village hall where children's activities take place, including parties and dance classes. They argued that the proximity of other alcohol-serving venues should not render their restaurant's application a higher risk.

Regarding noise concerns, the applicant referenced a noise assessment conducted during renovations, which indicated no significant nuisances associated with the property. They committed to further reducing noise by instructing kitchen staff not to play any music and positioning all speakers to face inward.

The Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council's licensing sub-committee is scheduled to review the application on March 25. The outcome of this meeting will determine whether the restaurant will be permitted to move forward with its plans to serve alcohol.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/premises-licence-application-forms> - This URL provides information on applying for a premises licence in England and Wales, which is relevant to the restaurant's application to sell alcohol. It outlines the process and requirements for obtaining such a licence.
* <https://www.gov.uk/comment-on-an-alcohol-licence> - This URL explains how residents can comment on an alcohol licence application, including the issues of crime prevention, public nuisance, child protection, and public safety, which are central to the community concerns in Rotherham.
* <https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/licensing-regulation/apply-alcohol-entertainment-licence/2> - This URL provides specific guidance on applying for an alcohol or entertainment licence in Rotherham, aligning with the process the restaurant would follow. It details the necessary steps and forms required for applicants.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/licensing-act-2003> - Although not directly mentioned, this would typically cover the broader legal framework under which alcohol licences are granted in England and Wales, including aspects relevant to the Rotherham case such as public safety and nuisance.
* <https://www.courts.michigan.gov/492eca/siteassets/publications/benchbooks/evidence/evidbb.pdf> - This URL discusses the legal aspects of evidence, which might relate to documenting community concerns or assessing the impact of alcohol licence applications, though it specifically pertains to legal procedures rather than licensing.