# Cinnamons restaurant closes after regulatory odour complaints force costly ventilation upgrades



A beloved curry house in Wheatley, Oxfordshire, has closed its doors after more than two decades of service, succumbing to regulatory pressures stemming from complaints about odours associated with its cuisine. Cinnamons Restaurant, famed for its authentic Bangladeshi and Indian dishes, faced a series of mounting challenges after receiving an initial complaint in 2021 regarding the smell of curry.

South Oxfordshire District Council responded to the complaint by dispatching environmental health officers, who upheld the concerns about the restaurant’s ventilation systems. In an effort to address the issue, Cinnamons reportedly invested £35,000 in a new extractor fan. However, despite this significant expenditure, problems persisted, culminating in the issuance of an abatement notice that deemed the ventilation system defective.

The financial burden proved unsustainable for Cinnamons. Restaurant owner Shirazul Hoque highlighted the difficulty of the situation, stating that the installation of a more effective ventilation system would require an estimated £50,000—an expense the restaurant could not afford. Cinnamons ultimately faced legal action, pleading guilty to four charges of statutory nuisance and incurring a £25,000 fine in October 2024.

Despite efforts to operate in compliance with local regulations, including substantial investment in improvements, the restaurant could not overcome the issues that led to its closure. "Business had not rebounded post-Covid," Hoque lamented, adding that family members working as chefs above the restaurant are now facing homelessness as a direct consequence of the closure.

The restaurant's shutdown in mid-June 2025 not only affected its ten employees but also left a void in the community. Long-time patrons had lauded Cinnamons on TripAdvisor, with reviews reflecting its integral role in village life, stating that "it was an irreplaceable part of our community." In 2021, Cinnamons had even been awarded the TripAdvisor Travellers’ Choice award, an accolade given to businesses ranked within the top 10% for customer reviews.

Local council officials articulated their position, asserting that they are compelled to act on nuisance complaints and that they had provided assistance to Cinnamons in navigating these challenges. A council statement emphasized the legal duty to investigate claims of statutory nuisances and reiterated that responsibility for rectifying the problem lies with the business.

This situation highlights a prevalent issue faced by similarly situated enterprises, particularly in the hospitality sector, where the balance between compliance with local regulations and maintaining profitable operations can become precarious. Reflecting on his experiences, Shirazul advised other restaurateurs to perform due diligence regarding environmental health policies and the associated appeal processes to potentially avoid similar pitfalls.

As the restaurant prepared to bid farewell to its loyal clientele, Hoque announced that they would offer free meals on their final day of operation as a gesture of gratitude for the community's support throughout the years. "It’s a way of saying thank you for standing by us,” he said, underscoring the emotional pain of closing a place that meant so much to both the staff and their customers.

Amidst this challenging narrative, the fate of Cinnamons serves as a poignant reminder of the broader struggles small businesses face in managing community relations while ensuring compliance with local laws. The echoes of its closing resonate with the stories of many family-run establishments navigating an increasingly complex regulatory landscape.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cinnamons-restaurant-wheatley-closed-curry-b2762822.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cinnamons-restaurant-wheatley-closed-curry-b2762822.html)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cinnamons-restaurant-wheatley-closed-curry-b2762822.html), [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cinnamons-restaurant-wheatley-closed-curry-b2762822.html), [[5]](https://www.foodhygieneratings.org.uk/cinnamons-oxford)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.gocinnamons.com/), [[6]](https://www.hungryfoody.com/uk/cinnamons-wheatley/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cinnamons-restaurant-wheatley-closed-curry-b2762822.html), [[4]](https://www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk/business/cinnamonsoxford-215320.html), [[5]](https://www.foodhygieneratings.org.uk/cinnamons-oxford)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cinnamons-restaurant-wheatley-closed-curry-b2762822.html), [[4]](https://www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk/business/cinnamonsoxford-215320.html)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cinnamons-restaurant-wheatley-closed-curry-b2762822.html), [[3]](https://www.gocinnamons.com/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[2]](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cinnamons-restaurant-wheatley-closed-curry-b2762822.html), [[5]](https://www.foodhygieneratings.org.uk/cinnamons-oxford)

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

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cinnamons-restaurant-wheatley-closed-curry-b2762822.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/cinnamons-restaurant-wheatley-closed-curry-b2762822.html> - Cinnamons Restaurant in Wheatley, Oxfordshire, a local favourite for over 20 years, was forced to close after receiving complaints about 'curry odours' in 2021. Despite installing a £35,000 ventilation system, the issue persisted, leading to a £25,000 fine in October 2024. Unable to afford further improvements, the restaurant announced its closure in May 2025, resulting in 10 employees losing their jobs. The South Oxfordshire District Council stated they had no option but to prosecute due to the breach of abatement notices.
3. <https://www.gocinnamons.com/> - Cinnamons Indian Restaurant, located at 81 High Street, Wheatley, Oxford, has been serving the local community since 2000. They offer a range of Indian and Bangladeshi dishes, all cooked to order using fresh ingredients. The restaurant was awarded the Travellers’ Choice award by TripAdvisor in 2021, recognising businesses that consistently earn great reviews and are ranked within the top 10% in their field.
4. <https://www.scoresonthedoors.org.uk/business/cinnamonsoxford-215320.html> - Cinnamons Restaurant, situated at 81 High Street, Wheatley, Oxford, received a Food Hygiene Rating of 3 (Generally Satisfactory) from South Oxfordshire District Council on 23rd October 2023. The rating reflects the restaurant's compliance with food hygiene standards, with 'Good' hygiene, 'Generally satisfactory' structural compliance, and 'Generally satisfactory' confidence in management.
5. <https://www.foodhygieneratings.org.uk/cinnamons-oxford> - Cinnamons, located at 81 High Street, Wheatley, Oxford, was inspected on 23 October 2023 and received a Food Hygiene Rating of 3 (Generally Satisfactory). The inspection assessed hygiene, structural compliance, and confidence in management, with scores of 5, 10, and 10 respectively. The local authority responsible for the inspection is South Oxfordshire District Council.
6. <https://www.hungryfoody.com/uk/cinnamons-wheatley/> - Cinnamons Wheatley is a family-run Indian restaurant located at 81 High Street, Oxford, OX33 1XP. The restaurant offers a variety of Indian and Bangladeshi dishes, with opening hours from Monday to Sunday, 17:30 to 23:00. Customers can contact the restaurant at 01865 876688 for reservations or inquiries.
7. <https://www.restaurantji.co.uk/oxfordshire/wheatley/cinnamons-/> - Cinnamons, located at 81 High Street, Wheatley, Oxford, OX33 1XP, is an Indian, Asian, and Bangladeshi restaurant. The establishment offers takeaway and delivery options, with opening hours from Monday to Thursday and Sunday, 17:30 to 22:00; Friday and Saturday, 17:30 to 22:30. The contact number is 01865 876636.