

[REDACTED]

To: Farhana Zia
Subject: RE: Royal Oak license variation decision

From: Gmail [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 June 2019 13:02
To: Farhana Zia
Subject: Re: Royal Oak license variation decision

Dear Ms Zia,

Please include the below email exchange and photos as evidence.

My best,

Kristin

Kristin Perers
Photographer

[REDACTED]

On 12 Jun 2019, at 16:22, kristin perers <[REDACTED]> wrote:

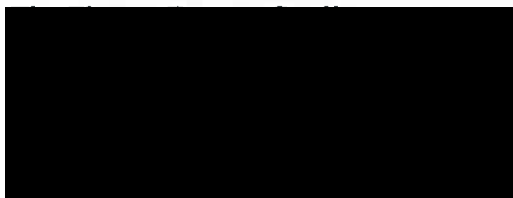
Dear Farhana,

An overbite you should have been cc'd in here. Best,

Kristin

KRISTIN PERERS

Photographer



Begin forwarded message:

From: kristin perers <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Royal Oak license variation decision
Date: 12 June 2019 at 16:15:32 BST
To: Kathy Driver <kathy.driver@towerhamlets.gov.uk>
Cc: John Pierce <john.pierce@towerhamlets.gov.uk>, Simmi Yesmin <simmi.yesmin@towerhamlets.gov.uk>, MARK.J.Perry@met.police.uk, SNTHT-Weavers@met.police.uk,

Thomas.Ratican@met.police.uk,
nicola.cadzow@towerhamlets.gov.uk, Peter Pritchard
<peter@pritchardthemis.com>, Christopher Kul-Want <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>, William Taylor
<[REDACTED]>, Farhana Zia
<farhana.zia@towerhamlets.gov.uk>

Dear Kathy,

I am following up on our conversation of March 5 at the committee meeting for The Royal Oak pub and again in May about your offer for licensing to convene a meeting with residents and publicans at the Royal Oak, Printers & Stationers and Campania in order to seek solutions to the ongoing problem of noise pollution and public disturbance on Ezra Street. This is largely caused by customers spilling out and drinking / hanging out on the street. We now face another application from Printers & Stationers as well as the Nelson Head (just at the top of this street) to extend their license.

I would ask the licensing body, Tower Hamlets council, environmental health and police to take on board the cumulative effect and how seriously this problem is already affecting many local residents.

The pavement down Ezra Street is very narrow and people sitting on the curb are invisible to passing cars and pedestrians are forced to walk in the street. This raises health and safety concerns for the public. Please note all but four of the drinkers in these photos are out of sight of the Royal Oaks bar (which is the front four windows only) and to quote their manager its a situation that is 'very difficult to control'. Please be reminded that the Royal Oak pub also has a large back garden open to the sky (a source of continued noise until closing) as well as using the street as an extension of its bar.

Given the difficulties to control this situation by the publicans, council and the police it does pose the question why drinking on this street be allowed at all? Being the source of noise pollution, public disturbance and health and safety concerns that are ongoing and seriously affecting our lives as local residents.

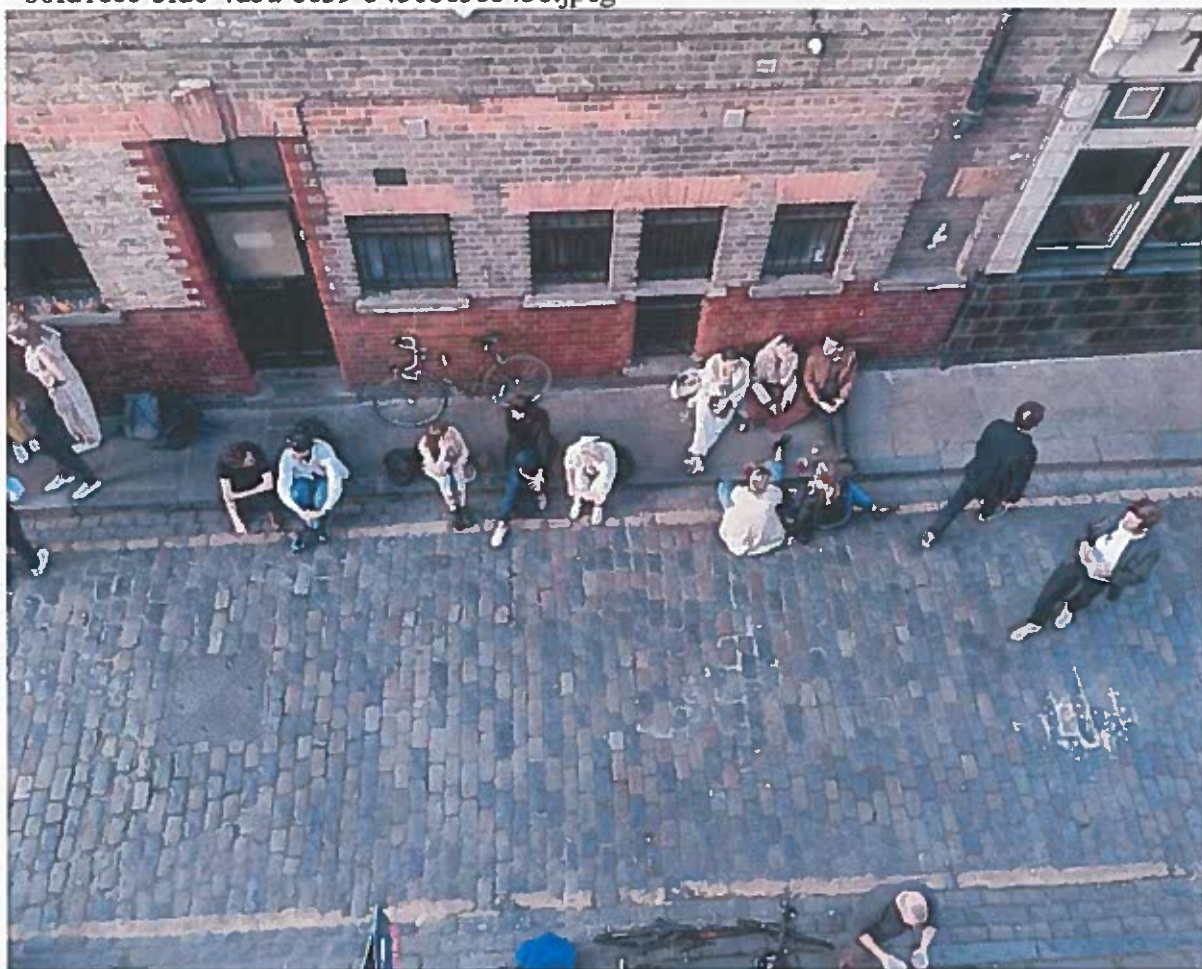
When we spoke you said June would be a good time to meet and as the summer is upon us the situation gets markedly worse. I have attached for you photos from last Friday June 7th at 8 pm. Eighty three customers drinking down the length of Ezra Street. This is a fairly typical sight and sound and it is noted Printers & Stationers are closed although their license doesn't allow drinking on the street (their application is going to committee on Tuesday) typically tables for customers are in front and the doors to the bar are wide open (there is no glass or barrier to muffle sound). This adds significantly to the question of who's drinking at which establishment and who exactly is responsible?

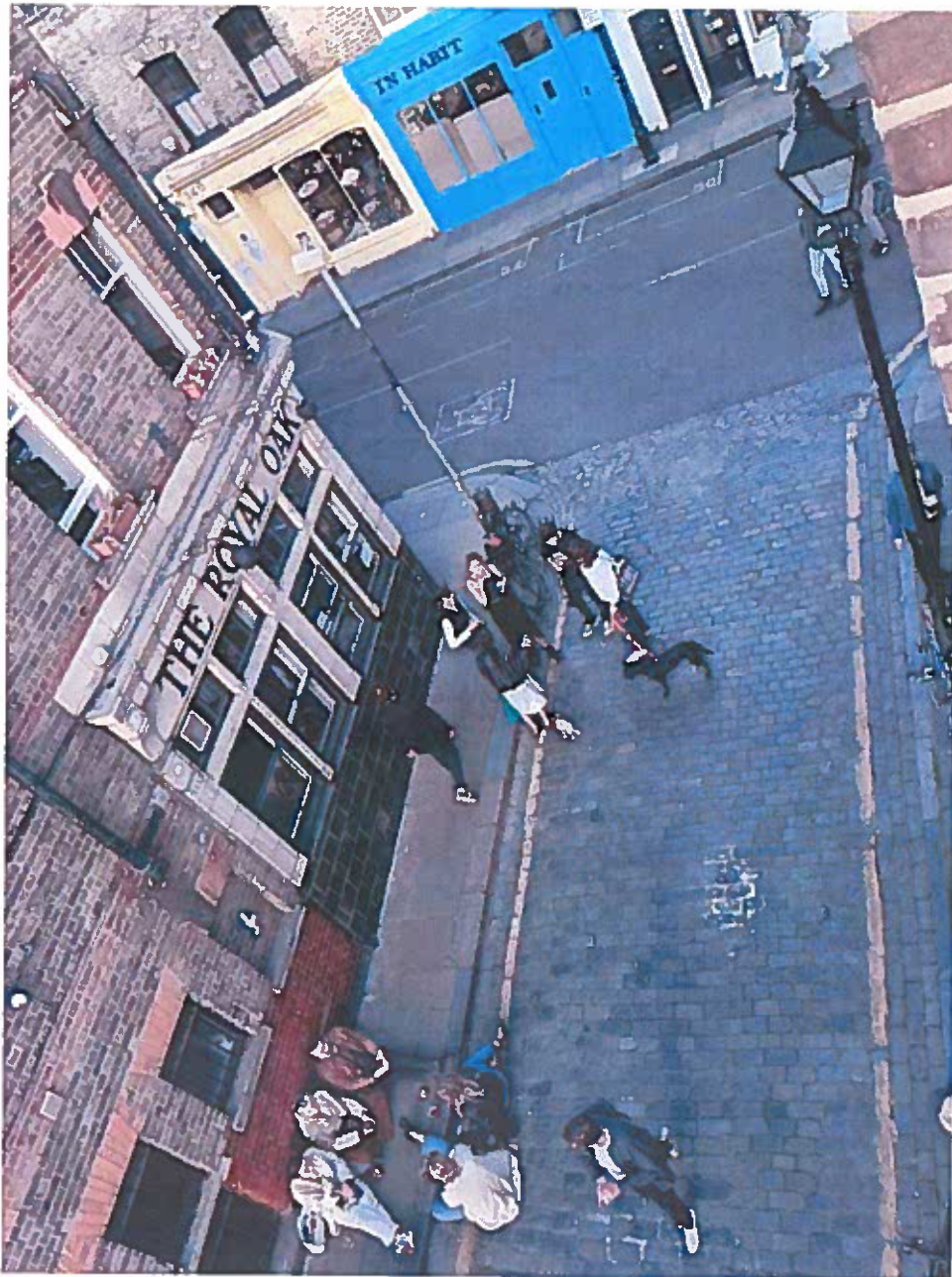
Your thoughts on moving forward and seeking lasting solutions would be most welcome. I look forward to hearing from you.

My best,

Kristin

<80fd1eee-bfde-4d5a-be39-5450be5c6458.jpeg>





KRISTIN PERERS



On 8 May 2019, at 21:08, kristin perers
<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Kathy,

Thank you for your time on the phone with me today and for agreeing to facilitate a meeting with the Royal Oak Pub. The street drinking outside the Royal Oak is an ongoing source of noise pollution at stressful levels. I would really welcome suggestions for how this can be resolved and I think a meeting

could be very constructive. Naomi and Neil both seemed open to this after the hearing in March.

On the phone today we discussed asking other premises to be involved but the Royal Oak is the only premises that has a license for street drinking in the immediate area. There was a lot of drinking in the past few years that got really out of control from Campagna & Printers & Stationers spilling out onto the street as well as the Oak. One of the problems being that there were no clear boundaries for who was responsible (our licensed). Ezra street quickly become a sort of 'gully' for drinking if allowed.

Thankfully last year this was addressed by your office and the situation has improved. However the drinking from the Oak down the length of Ezra Street continues and as quoted by the pubs managers 'It's really hard to control'.

As an initial meeting the most focused may be just with the Oak and residents involved? It is a unique street and situation so meeting at the pub and / or my flat (across the road) would give a much better view of the situation and save a lot of time. I host our local ESCRA(Ezra Street Courtyard Residents Association) meetings here and would be happy to facilitate.

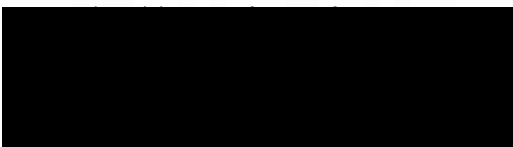
Again thank you for your time I know you are busy. My hope are that with good conversation now we can head off problems later. Environmental Health have always pressed that the solution would be a licenses review but I would like to make sure we explore all options before that. I'd much rather do this in a neighbourly way I like the pub and it means a lot to me to keep good relations.

My best,

Kristin

KRISTIN PERERS

Photographer



On 7 Mar 2019, at 17:32, kristin perers

<[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Kathy

Many thanks to you and Simmi for your help on Tuesday in navigating the licence variation matter with the Royal Oak. Below is the summary I sent out yesterday to fellow residents.

We felt the outcome was positive and we look forward to working with Naomi and Neil on ways to manage the situation and we welcome your offer of help - what are the next steps?

As my photo evidence to the committee showed one of our outstanding concerns is the use of Ezra Street and Columbia Road as an extension of the bar. This is something that we would like the council's help in addressing - what are our options?

Another is the closing time of the pub, 1.5 hours after drinking up time (and are we right to assume that the security staff required by the committee will be employed until the pub is actually closed) - would this, for example, be a matter for a licence review?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Kristin

KRISTIN PERERS



Begin forwarded message:

From: kristin perers

<[REDACTED]>

Subject: Royal Oak license variation decision

Date: 6 March 2019 at 19:20:21 GMT

To: Ezra Street

<[REDACTED]>

Dear all,

Given the level of opposition to the application, last night the Tower Hamlets licensing sub-committee met to decide on the licence variation that the Royal Oak Pub has been seeking in relation to its "private" dining room.

Although the application was passed, the sub-committee recognised the concerns of residents. Given the powers available to them they imposed a number of conditions on the Royal Oak's licence that go some way to addressing the public nuisance that many experience in relation to pub.

These conditions include:

- sound proofing to the proposed private dining room
- no "vertical drinking" in the private dining room and alcohol only to be consumed with food
- the private dining area is to be licensed only until 9.30 pm and
- registered security staff are to be placed at the entrance to the Royal Oak pub on Thurs, Fri and Sat from 9.30 pm until closing

Those who opposed this application welcomed these measures as a first step to addressing their concerns and also, short of seeking a full licence review, the offer of council officers to meet with the licensees and residents to find ways of addressing the on-going problems around noise pollution locally, which all parties acknowledge to be a problem.

Opponents stated on the record that their objection wasn't to the Royal Oak per se, which is valued as a local amenity, but to the way that noise pollution has worsened as the pub has become a "destination pub" and not just a "community pub".

Although this private dining room is a particular concern to the pub's immediate neighbours (whom the Council encouraged to commission an independent noise report) it was acknowledged that noise pollution may be part of a wider problem of premises seeking licences in the neighbourhood. It was suggested that the cumulative impact should also be looked at.

These concerns may in due course need to become the subject of a full licence review for the Royal Oak - which would also give residents an opportunity to look at some of the anomalous features of the pub's licence which became apparent in this committee hearing, such as the 1.5 hour "drinking up" time afforded by the current licence.

Thank you for your support - we will keep you posted so that you can be involved in these on-going discussions.

Kind Regards

Kristin