

Our Place

16th June 2020

To:

Residents in the vicinity of 20-22 Toynbee Street

London

E1 7NE

Dear Sir/Madam

I write in relation to our application to vary the premises licence at our Farm Shop at 20-22 Toynbee Street, London, E1 7NE (premises licence number: 26265).

I note the concerns raised in your letters to the London Borough of Tower Hamlets Licensing Team but would urge a considered approach to trying to thwart local businesses who are seeking to develop and improve the social fabric of the local neighbourhood, specifically in and around Toynbee Street.

As I would hope you might know if you have visited our premises, we operate a markedly different type of establishment to those outlets which have a track record for causing ASB issues. To the best of our knowledge, there has never been an ASB issue recorded or alleged in relation to our premises and we have every intention of things staying that way. Our prime trade is coffee, cake and vegan cheese, hardly the stuff of local residents' nightmares! Alcohol forms a very small part of our offering, but going forward, and in a post-COVID environment, we would like to offer cheese and wine tasting evening events and private dinners, hence the application to extend our licensing hours beyond the current 1800h limit.

Ironically, it will be operators such as us who will play a key role alongside residents and local law & order bodies to drive ASB from the surrounding areas. We have invested significant sums in improving what was a derelict shop front into the Farm Shop that occupies the site today, bringing in turn consumer footfall to a street with a long track record for ASB. Furthermore, we are the owners of the large development site on the other side of the road, so have undoubtedly the largest single investment position on the street and arguably the most to gain from purging ASB from the local area.

In an effort to find compromise, we have approached the LBTH Licensing Team and asked them to remove evening OFF premises sales of alcohol from our application as we understand your

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legitimate concerns here. I hope this move will allay your worries over any increase in ASB in the area and demonstrate that as an interested local stakeholder we value your input and opinions.

I would ask you to drop into the Farm Shop when it opens post COVID-19 and experience the relaxed and family-friendly atmosphere and food & drink offering for yourselves. We are all stakeholders in the local neighbourhood and I would hope we can find a suitable compromise to minimise any perception of increased ASB whilst at the same time encouraging private operators such as ourselves to own and invest in viable and attractive businesses which will go a long way to improving the area and lower rather than increase incidents of ASB.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Stratton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward Stratton, Commercial Director, Our Place.