

Appendix F

Response from Jennifer Hardman-Varley, Fat Olive, Ormskirk on 24 April 2013

From: Fat Olive Restaurant [mailto:info@fatolive.co.uk]
Sent: 24 April 2013 15:10
To: Licensing Enquiries
Subject: FAO: Paul Charlson re: Early Morning Restriction Order Response

Good afternoon Paul,

Thank you for including us in your initial consultation process regarding the idea of an Early Morning Restriction order.

I must admit I was a little concerned on reading your letter, especially as it was dated so close to the one weekend a year that my business applies for its early TENS licence to coincide with Grand National at Aintree.

I would also like to know what has prompted this decision and what the 'prescribed area' is likely to be?

We are a family run business that are struggling to pay the large bills associated with running a restaurant especially VAT and our business rates, which in my opinion are very high. We are currently in the process of appealing our rates calculation through a third party as we have, in the past, received no help or % reduction in rates due from WLBC when we have struggled to pay these large bills despite being very concerned that we may have to close our business.

The nature of our business is very much dependent on 'Special Occasions' and annual events, one main occasion being the Grand National breakfasts. We plan our large supplier bills around these weekends in order to stay afloat. We open at 10am on Grand National weekend and offer race goers the option of purchasing champagne and other drinks to consume with their breakfasts.

I can understand how early licences when used by pubs can promote a dangerous 'All day' drinking culture with patrons not being limited in their consumption of alcohol. I can see first-hand that this can lead to occasional problems around Ormskirk town centre with litter etc. and we have personally been affected by vandalism from a drunken student, whom we managed to successfully apprehend using CCTV.

However, if all businesses are limited by the same restriction orders, how on earth do the council expect family businesses who conduct themselves responsibly and with their customers welfare at heart to survive?

If the order is eventually passed, I would be happy to see WLBC consider different restrictions for different businesses, for example, if food is ordered then alcohol can be consumed with meals etc.

I feel that, if this restriction order is passed and responsible small businesses are limited and challenged further with the reduction on TENS early morning opening applications, I would expect WLBC to see a significant increase in empty premises around the town. Alternatively I can foresee a town take over from even more betting shops, cheap boozers and charity shops which are the only type of business able to pay the ridiculous rent in these very tough times.

Regards

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