

## **Committee report to North Hertfordshire District Council's Licensing Authority**

### **Re: Hitchin Town Centre License variation**

Subject: Application for a variation to a premises licence by Mr Tom Hardy on behalf of Hitchin Initiative Limited (ref: LIC/5105)  
Name: Ms Liz Devere  
Job Title: Commercial Team Manager, Environmental Health

### **Introduction**

I am making an objection in respect of this variation to a premises license application under the licensing objective of "public safety".

The application is to vary a premises license to include alcohol sales from Hitchin Market, Market Place, Bancroft and Bancroft Gardens. I have concerns that under the public safety objective the applicant has stated he will send details of events to the Safety Advisory Group for comment. It is not the role of the SAG to decide if the events that a licence holder plans are safe. It is the license holder's responsibility to ensure that they promote public safety. This is totally inadequate as he is proposing to be reliant on SAG to offer guidance on public safety. I have the following concerns

### **Public Safety**

1. The applicant has failed to show how crowd safety will be managed. They will be unable to limit the number of people attending as the premises proposed is a public space and the area included has multiple entrances and exits.
2. Bancroft and Market Square are both busy shopping areas throughout the week and at weekends. The applicant has failed to show members of the public who do not wish to attend an event will be provided with safe access to their destination be that a shop or other service such as the doctor or dentist.
3. The applicant has failed to show how members of the public will be protected from those attending the licensed event
4. The applicant has failed to demonstrate how they will safely separate vehicles driving through the Market Place, along the High Street and Bancroft from pedestrian customers particularly when these areas are usually busy with shoppers. There is a concern that pedestrians could be forced onto highways.
5. The applicant has failed to demonstrate how they will control what people bring with them to an event, and so folding chairs and similar could reduce the available circulation space and cause obstruction
6. The applicant has failed to demonstrate how they will prevent people bringing alcohol into the licensed area.
7. The applicant has failed to identify how he will provide food (including alcohol) safely as there is no running water to the market pitches.

### **Recommendation**

That the variation is refused on the grounds that the applicant has failed to promote public safety.

Ms Liz Devere

**Commercial Team Manager**

North Hertfordshire District Council

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020