Bridgetown Monroe
Appendix Fa - Representations by other persons Opposing the Review of the Premises Licence
Omitted from Appendix F – This representation was disclosed in the hearing

Susie Deiana - 97a The Green, Stotfold, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 4DG

I would like to express my support for Monroe's in relation to the current review of its premises licence. I know Monroe's very well and have spent time there on many occasions, including during its later evening hours.
For transparency, my husband is the resident DJ, so I have also had plenty of opportunity to see the venue operating at different times, when it is quiet and when it is busy.
What I think is important to understand about Monroe's is that it comes from a genuinely positive place. It has created a community around a shared love of good cocktails, music and people. It is not simply somewhere people go to drink. It is a welcoming, sociable venue where an unusually broad mix of people feel comfortable spending an evening. That is one of the things I value most about it. On any given night you can find people of different ages, backgrounds and walks of life enjoying the same space together.
There is a real sense that everyone is welcome, and the atmosphere is friendly, inclusive and safe. In my experience, that culture actively supports the licensing objectives around public safety and the prevention of crime and disorder.
I have been there during later trading hours and have not personally experienced excessive or unreasonable noise, disorder or behaviour associated with the premises that has caused me concern.
I completely understand that somebody living nearby is entitled to raise concerns about noise and that those concerns should be properly considered.
Equally, I think it is important that the review considers the wider experience of the venue and the many people who use it regularly without incident.
Where there are specific concerns, I would hope that Monroe's and its neighbours can find practical ways of addressing them and continuing to coexist.
Monroe's has become a valued part of Hitchin and its contribution to the town was recognised when it was named Best Business in Hitchin last year.
I appreciate that an award is not itself a licensing consideration, but I do think it provides useful context.
This is an independent business that has worked hard to create something people locally value and want to be part of.
Hitchin benefits from having independent venues with personality and character. Monroe's brings people together through music, cocktails and a genuine sense of community, while providing a space in which a very diverse group of customers can feel welcome and safe.
I therefore support Monroe's retaining its premises licence.
I hope that any specific concerns identified through the review can be dealt with constructively and proportionately, allowing the needs of nearby residents to be respected without losing something that makes a positive contribution to Hitchin and its community.