

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Mckenna Lorna: H&F](#)
Subject: Morley's hearing: Further supplemental (news article from yesterday 3 July) 2-pg PDF
Date: 04 July 2023 09:14:50
Attachments: [MyLondonNews 3 July_2 pg.pdf](#)

Dear Lorna

Please include in a further supplemental this new press article, published only yesterday, 3 July. PDF attached.

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Neighbours blast Morley's Chicken plans to sell alcohol fearing it will lead to youngsters getting drunk

Morley's wants to sell alcohol with deliveries and in store until midnight

By **Adrian Zorzut** Local democracy reporter 12:16, 3 JUL 2023

<https://www.mylondon.news/news/west-london-news/neighbours-blast-morleys-chicken-plans-27231611>



The takeaway would sell booze with food including deliveries if the plan is approved (stock photo) (Image: Getty Images)

Residents have blasted plans by a popular fried chicken chain to sell booze on its street fearing it could lead to youngsters getting drunk. Morley's chicken shop in North End Road, Fulham, wants to sell alcohol in store and with food deliveries until midnight, seven days a week, council documents have revealed.

The well-known takeaway, with multiple branches mostly across South London, applied for an alcohol licence through [Hammersmith](#) and Fulham Council, which has since received 44 objections from residents and a representation from the council's deputy leader, councillor Ben Coleman.

They claim it will lead to underage drinking and worsen crime on the already troubled high street. In response, Morley's has promised not to sell hard alcohol and will place restrictions on the sale of drinks during match days at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge stadium. It has also vowed to make sure drinks aren't sold without a meal and it will keep a log of deliveries where the driver refused to hand over booze.

But the promises falls short for some residents who claim the shop's location in a family-friendly area makes it a hotspot for young kids. One complainant wrote: "The premises is in very close walking proximity to around 10 schools including Fulham Boys School, Fulham Primary School, The London Oratory School, Fulham Prep, St Thomas's etc.

"Chicken shops are known to attract young teenage male customers. Selling alcohol on and off premises raises the risk of underage drinking if an alcohol licence is granted." Another said: "The fact that alcohol will be sold on and [off] premises up to midnight may encourage late drinking on the street."

A third, who owns a flat above Morley's, said: "[I] am absolutely shocked by the possibility of the council allowing a fast food chicken shop to sell alcohol in the first instance... This will only bring about drunken antisocial behaviour which will put residents and particularly the many kids that live on Haldane Road in danger."

A fourth wrote: "In the last 12 months alone we had multiple incidents of breaking and entering from the previous restaurant clientele putting residents' safety and lives at risk. I personally have called the police 3 times in the last 12 months for aforementioned reasons."

Others have criticised what they claimed is Morley's "cavalier" approach to planning rules and are concerned about an uptick in litter. One objector said: "Although not a licensing matter it might give the sub-committee an indication of the cavalier approach that the applicant is taking towards H&F (Hammersmith and Fulham) Council in that he has replaced the attractive period left door with a bog standard ugly new bright red metal door, not at all in keeping with the aesthetic of the so well restored 1861 Building —and right in the centre of of the Regeneration of North End Road Market."

Another claimed Morley's installed a sign outside the store without council permission. A person living above the chicken joint said: "The signage has ruined the image of the entire road and building and goes strictly against the image that was shown to me when I bought my flat almost 5 years ago. I understand that the planning team is looking separately into this matter but just to illustrate how much illegal activity the restaurant tenant has been undertaking since signing the lease."

It comes as residents claim crime is rife in the area with front gardens used as spots to stash drugs and dealers allegedly disguising themselves as food delivery drivers. In 2018, Omar Hutson was jailed for life for murdering a rival drug dealer just off North End Road by shooting him at point blank range.

Meanwhile, businesses on the high street say the local McDonald's has become a hotbed of antisocial behaviour. Javad Tabeh, 50, who works at nearby Al Baydar grocers, said: "I have seen delivery drivers fight with each other, swearing and yelling." Aga Sznura, 47, a store manager at the charity Royal Trinity Hospice, said teens often kick off outside McDonald's in the evening. She said she's never witnessed any drug dealing.

Residents are worried takeaway shops are attracting the wrong crowd and are worried their plans to stay open will turn the area into a "Soho lite". One resident said: "The problem we have is there are too many shops trying to stay open into the early hours."

Morley's was approached for comment but did not provide one by the time of publishing. McDonald's said it was one of a number of businesses experiencing ASB issues in the surrounding area which it claims it being committed by one or two groups of teenagers.

The chain said its Fulham branch has been proactively working with the police and the Fulham BID (Business Improvement District) to try to resolve these issues. In the interim, the restaurant has introduced a temporary security presence to help maintain a family-friendly atmosphere and staff have also reached out to the local neighbourhood teams to see what else can be done.

The fate of Morley's alcohol licence will be decided during a licensing meeting at Hammersmith and Fulham Council on Wednesday evening (July 5).

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