

Representation 1

Comments: 26/10/2023 2:19 PM

I have lived in this house for 31 years. Our garden wall separates us from 'Ermines'. When we moved here it was for the peace and tranquility of a rural village. No.39 was a village shop with a duck pond in the garden. In recent years it was converted to a shop/cafe with 2 picnic tables outside on the grass area next to No.37. This area has now been covered with stone and there are a large number of tables and chairs. Already this can get quite noisy, especially in the Summer. This application would change the use again, with extended opening hours, alcohol consumption and live music until midnight. The property is not a suitable music venue. Ermine Street is a residential conservation area. The facilities being applied for are perfectly served by the Feathers PH and Maltons Bar/Restaurant, both a couple of hundred yards either side of Ermines Cafe. Both have large indoor and outdoor seating areas and their own car parks. Ermines does not have a car park. All residents of Ermine Street are blighted by the lack of parking space in the Street for themselves and their visitors. Most properties not having off street parking, to the extent that many have to park in the school yard overnight. There is no public car park in the village. Where would additional customers park? If live music were played in the venue, even with the doors and windows closed,(unlikely in the Summer months) the noise would reverberate between our garden walls, causing a lack of enjoyment to our property and garden. People leaving the venue late at night, passing under our open bedroom windows, would also be a noise nuisance. For these reasons I totally object to this application.

Representation 2

Comments: 26/10/2023 4:15 PM

I should like to express my views on the application.

I broadly support the principle of allowing our rural venues a degree of flexibility, however I do not think the timings here are conducive to avoiding a Public Nuisance.

I should like to reserve the option of presenting to the Lic Sub Committee on this.

Representation 3

Comments: 26/10/2023 5:00 PM

Impossible to park anywhere in Ermine Street from 5pm until 8 am.

There are mostly terrace houses with no off-road parking, therefore the road is very narrow.

Music would be a problem for the residence of Ermine Street especially at night. Vehicles will need to reverse into Old Church Lane which is very dark in order to exit towards Ware.

There will be a noise problem with vehicles and people driving to and exiting from Ermines Cafe.

Representation 4

Comments: 27/10/2023 4:24 PM

As residents of Ermine Street we object to the sale of alcohol and music proposals. The associated late night noise and inconvenience would to us be unacceptable. Clearly any noise in the dip of a valley travels and the parking in an already limited parking area would be wholly unfair on residents. There are many older people living in the village who deserve some respect, peace and quiet in their advanced years including my mother in law who is 91 and visually impaired. Her bedroom is overlooking the back of Ermines. There are also people in our village with long term illnesses as well as young families with babies and young children who will be disturbed at that time of night not to mention the effect on pets who will be aggravated by late night noise and will thereby be adding to it!

The shop has clearly been a lifeline to the village and it's community but this proposal of live music and recorded music 12 times a year is detrimental to the Ermine Street community.

We don't have a problem with domestic party arrangements but this commercial venture is fraught with problems.

We ask that all of this is taken into consideration before making any decisions

Representation 5

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The shop has clearly been a lifeline to the village and its community but this proposal of live music and recorded music 12 times a year is detrimental to the Ermine Street community.

We don't have a problem with domestic party arrangements but this commercial venture is fraught with problems.

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Representation 6 (no contact details included)

27/10/2023 8:48 PM

I am a carer who visits Ermine street regularly and a outside venue with music and alcohol would severely disrupt the lives of many elderly people in the street. Antisocial behaviour, keeping residents awake and the lack of parking which exists already will only compound the situation with cars double parking making access for emergency vehicles impossible. I sincerely hope this application is rejected as not in keeping with a quiet residential street. Thank you

Representation 7

Comments: 28/10/2023 11:35 AM

I live at **REDACTED** Ermine Street, which shares a boundary with Ermine's Café. Although I have no particular objections to them selling alcohol, I do have major concerns about the grant of a late night music licence and lack of parking in the Street as Ermine's do not have a car park and there are no car parks in the village. We have, on many occasions, been unable to access/leave our driveway due to inconsiderate parking by their customers. I hope this will be taken into consideration. I therefore object to this application.

Representation 8

Comments: 28/10/2023 11:51 AM

I am 36 years of age and, due to disability, I have to live at my family home at **REDACTED** Ermine Street, which borders Ermine's Café.

I have Asperger's Syndrome, which is on the Autistic Spectrum, and I have severe Epilepsy, which is uncontrolled by medication. My seizures can be triggered by many things including stress, anxiety, and lack of sleep amongst other things. I am worried that late night activities outside my bedroom will be disturbing. My bedroom is only a few metres away from Ermine's building. I object to this application.

Representation 9

Comments: 28/10/2023 5:56 PM

Public Nuisance: The application to play live and recorded music and the increased opening hours will prevent Ermine Street residents from the quiet enjoyment of their own properties and gardens.

Parking: There is little off road parking, and no car park at Ermines Cafe. At busy times it will be impossible for residents to park near their home. Older, vulnerable people will need to walk some distance.

Public Safety: It is not appropriate to grant a PL in the heart of a quiet, residential community with several families with young children.

Anti social behaviour is likely as drinking alcohol can lead to aggressive behaviour.

Only one toilet is available to customers, some may relieve themselves in the street.

Does Ermines cafe have an emergency exit?

It is valuable for the community to have a local shop and cafe open during the daytime. My objection is to the threat to the well being of local residents if a Premises Licence is granted.

Representation 10

Comments: 29/10/2023 10:44 AM Public Nuisance

The shop seating area is directly in front of our house, seats less are than 1m from our window, customers can see directly into our garden and kitchen, which they frequently peer into. It is not uncommon for there to be 20-25 people outside, a huge increase from the 8 indoor seats in the original planning.

The noise is already loud, we cannot have doors or windows open in the summer, we can only use the garden in the evenings when the shop is shut due to the level of noise, negatively impacting our wellbeing.

The proposal to extend hours to 8.30pm 7 days/week, with a further 12xper year extended to 12am, with live/recorded music playing will inevitably cause further public nuisance & noise will escalate further.

Majority of seats are outside, & therefore the majority of the patrons are outside; this inevitably means the majority of the consumption of alcohol, any live or recorded music would also be outside drastically increasing the public nuisance late into the night, potentially 7 days per week. This would impact ALL local residents, but particularly those who live closest.

We already experience frequent littering; ice cream & sweet wrappers are thrown into our garden.

The newsletter notice doesn't convey the full extent of the application only references the application for premises license, not mentioning the proposal for extended hrs or recorded/live music.

There has been no engagement with next door neighbours.

When the current seating was created outside, assurances were given by the owners that they would take measures to minimise the impact on us by parking their cars next to the fence, ensuring there were no seats outside our home. We have not experienced this & they immediately put tables where they said cars would be parked. If any such assurances were given about how this license would be operated, we could not have any faith that the owners would abide by any self imposed restrictions.

Representation 11

Comments: 30/10/2023 12:07 PM

We wish to register our objection to the application by Ermines Cafe for:
Premises Licence

Extended opening hours 7 days per week + addition 12 x per year events until Midnight to include live/recorded music and alcohol. As residents of Ermine Street **REDACTED** for 30 years, 3 areas concern us regarding the above.

Parking. Already an issue due to the increase in visitors going to Ermines for coffees, visitor dog walkers increased during & post covid and the daily school run. Parking on pavements, restricting access for emergency services + residents. No off street parking for the majority of residents and Ermine's has no car park for patrons. Extending Ermine's hours will mean the above is magnified further throughout the whole day and into the evening, restricting residents parking in the day and on return from work.

Noise. Living close to Ermines at lower end of the street, noise from the music will be heard by residents as is already the case when they use their garden. It is unclear what live music is planned, whether this to be a band and where this will be set up? If in their garden outside this will be a concern, we already hear live music coming from The Feathers in the summer, they being several hundred metres away, Ermines is surrounded by residents and therefore the sound will be magnified bouncing off the surrounding premises. The footprint of Ermines does not lend itself to a music venue. How many patrons does it intend selling tickets for their evening events?

This could be a safety issue if a fire broke out as the shop only has one exit. Anti social behaviour through patrons leaving at midnight, car doors banging, engines revving and noise of people leaving, plus, we already get abuse from visitors challenged when they park on the pavements they believe it is their right as they pay tax. We have many elderly residents + a number of families with very small children that could get woken/disturbed.

Representation 12

Sent: 02 November 2023 15:35

To: Housing & Health Services - Community Protection

<Community.Protection@eastherts.gov.uk>

Subject: Ermines Objections to application for 23/ 1450/PL

Ermines a successful small cafe and store gaining a licence to sell alcohol will be popular

Extending opening hours however raises concerns

Ermine Street, designated a conservation area , is narrow and parking is an issue. Residents particularly in the Grade 2 listed terraced houses have no off road parking. Evening opening of Ermines will add to the problems for residents trying to park near their homes. Access for emergency vehicles is an on going concern.

Extending hours to midnight with live music and alcohol sales at times during the year raises noise disturbance issues for neighbours.

The venue is very small, customers are likely to spill out onto the limited outside space.

Residents have chosen to live in this quiet village , the shop and village hall contribute to its popularity. Nearby Feathers Inn and Maltons restaurant already provide evening venues both with ample parking and outside space.

Representation 13

With regard to the application for a licence at Ermines, 39 Ermine Street, Thundridge I wish to object to the sale of alcohol in the evening or for event nights due to its proximity to residential housing. It will exacerbate the parking problems for residents and I am concerned about noise if events are held outside.

Representation 14

Comments: 03/11/2023 10:26 AM

I have concerns about the impact these proposed changes will have on the residents living near Ermines cafe/shop and object to this application.

The street is of historical significance due to the number of listed buildings on it, and it is in a conservation area. There is already limited parking on Ermine Street as the majority of houses are small cottages with no front gardens, and only on street parking available to them. Since the cafe expanded its floorspace by offering outdoor dining, (after removing a tree and covering one of the only green spaces we had with gravel without any consultation), the increase in cars parking in the street and blocking access has increased hugely. On numerous

occasions I have had to move my car fully on to the pavement to allow delivery lorries going to the shop to manoeuvre their lorries around the cars of the patrons of the shop, which have been parked in such a way as to block access. The increased traffic from the shop makes the formerly quiet and safe street very unsafe for our children and those who attend the village school. The residents observe the speed limits and drive carefully, whilst the non-residents often speed up the street when leaving.

Due to the layout of these old buildings, my bedroom window overlooks the garden and side/back of the cafe where their seating area is, noise from live music will directly negatively affect me.

The increased litter and noise from the customers, particularly during the summer months, disrupts the residents enjoyment of our quiet little village. Allowing the shop/cafe to serve alcohol, be open until 8.30pm, and to have live music until midnight 12 times a year will have a hugely negative impact on residents due to the extra noise, littering, anti social behaviour, and the increased parking and traffic in an area that cannot accommodate it.

These changes are wholly inappropriate for the location and setting of the premises.

Representations in support of the application

Representation 15

Comments: 26/10/2023 8:18 PM

Ermines is a huge asset for our village. We believe this will only enhance the service they provide and allow further opportunity for social events that bring our community together.

Representation 16

Sent: 31 October 2023 15:03

To: Housing & Health Services - Community Protection

<Community.Protection@eastherts.gov.uk>

Subject: [External] Drinks licence SUPPORT

To whom it may concern

I write regarding the application for a drinks licence and music licence at Ermines Cafe Thundridge SG12 0SY

My wife and I regularly walk our dogs or ride our bikes from Wareside to Ermines Cafe for coffee and cake or lunch More often than not we bump into friends there or arrange to meet friends there.

We would love to be able to have a glass of Prosecco or a cold beer - it would be the icing on the cake!

We understand they would like to have a guitarist indoors occasionally in the evening which sounds perfect and would get such great support

The cafe has become a great hub for us locals - it's so lovely to see people of all ages enjoying the friendly atmosphere both indoors and on warmer days in their little garden Although the Feathers pub is along the road - and is very good - it attracts a different customer and has a very different atmosphere We really hope both licence's are granted

Representations neither objecting or supporting the Licensing Application

Representation 17

Stance: Customer made comments neither objecting to or supporting the Licensing Application

Comments: 30/10/2023 3:51 PM

The Parish Council considered the application and had concerns on the following grounds

The application to play live and recorded music and the increased opening hours may have a detrimental effect on local residents.

Parking: There is little off road parking, additional opening hours may make the situation worse

Anti social behaviour, late opening hours may cause anti social behaviour with noise and banging of car doors late a night when leaving the premises.

The Parish Council values the shop and community Cafe and wishes it to thrive, and appreciate some diversity may be required, but this should not be at the detriment of local inhabitants.