

Alto Lounge, Church Street, Caversham

Statement to be read at Licensing Committee Meeting

CADRA is very grateful to Robert Botkai for making contact with us, and it is helpful to confirm the conditions agreed to date. We are sure the Alto Lounge will appreciate that the potential for noise disturbance late at night 7 days a week, combined with noise in the very early morning, is an unreasonable burden for residents living close by.

As this is not a town centre location but a mix of homes and retail, where conversions above shops to apartments has been encouraged, further measure to limit disturbance both late at night and in the morning would be very welcome.

Original objection sent

We are aware of plans for Alto Lounge to expand into the neighbouring property and to apply for later opening hours up to midnight for alcohol sales and 00:30 for other refreshments. This will receive considerable support locally.

However, it should be recognised that residential properties, including Rectory Road with very short back gardens, as well as Hemdean Road and the flats in Church Street, are very close to the Alto Lounge. Residents there already experience some disturbance from the facility. This is relevant to Licensing Objectives to prevent public nuisance and to prevent children from harm as children risk disturbed nights.

For this reason, while welcoming the facility, we object to the application unless action can be taken to reduce disturbance caused by:

- staff talking outside late at night
- noise from refrigeration, air-conditioning and kitchen extractor units
- deliveries at 5am

The combination of disturbance after midnight and in the very early morning is an unreasonable burden, particularly for those with young children or health problems.