

**Interested part representations Application reference is 20/01169/LAPREM  
Giggling Squid Restaurant.**

Sent; Tue 25/08/2020 10:50

I am writing to tell you that I do not support the new application from the giggling squid for licence to use their garden for dining until 7.30pm. This is an invasion on our privacy being so close to their garden with regards to noise and vision and I thoroughly object to the further application!

**Pauline Baker**  
Pilgrim Mews

Sent; Tue 25/08/2020 09:31

Dear Sirs

Please accept this email as formal opposition to the planning application for the Giggling Squid to open up their rear garden.

We live in the adjoining flats at number Pilgrim Mews.

We understand that you are already aware of the ongoing issues, regarding the night time bottle disposal, and the food waste inviting the rats, however the additional noise just a few yards away will be too much. In addition there is no access to the Mews from their garden so that surely would be a problem if there was to be an evacuation of any kind.

Yours sincerely

**Martin Boon**

Sent; Wed 19/08/2020 16:46

Dear Lisa,

Further to my email of 3.7.2020 and our telephone conversation expressing concern about the application for a minor change to licensing at the Giggling Squid restaurant in Reigate, I now write in response to the full application as proposed in the blue notice currently displayed in the restaurant window.

I write as director of Pilgrim Mews, Reigate Ltd. Pilgrim Mews, located behind Reigate High Street and immediately behind the Giggling Squid restaurant, was established as a residential community of 10 properties in 2009. In 2011 the Giggling Squid restaurant was established and a new licence approved for the premises, with significant restrictions attached to recognise the impact on the residents whose properties are immediately to the side and the rear of the restaurant garden (something of a misnomer as it is in practice more of a back yard).

Regarding the new full application to remove the restriction on outdoor dining:-

1. To allow external dining would inevitably increase the noise and smell pollution for residents considerably. It would significantly change the status of what is currently a very well defined residential environment. At the time of the original licence approval, the restaurant owners acknowledged the need for the restrictions to respect the residential nature of the immediate area behind the restaurant. There seems no justification for a change to this.
2. Unfortunately, the restaurant is already in breach of two other restrictions attached to the original licence. Bottles and glass are stored in the external yard with nightly noise disturbance. Window closures are not managed according to the restrictions and this causes additional

unnecessary noise. Both these issues have been raised with the restaurant management but the problem remains.

3. There is already a rodent problem at Pilgrim Mews which, according to the vermin control contractor, has increased since the restaurant re-opened. External dining would obviously make the situation worse still.

We understand the desire of the council to support businesses trying to make the best of the current very difficult circumstances. However, approval of this application would significantly change the atmosphere of what is currently a quiet residential area. I hope that a site visit will be made in order to take full account of the impact this would have. It is also possible that there is already unused space internally for additional seating as I am not aware that the restaurant uses all the existing space in the building.

Your sincerely

**David Johns**

Director,  
Pilgrim Mews, Reigate.

Sent: 17 August 2020 13:57

I refer to the above application which you have received.

I list below the reasons why I object strongly to this application.

At present their license states not to have the restaurant doors open at the back of the restaurant but they continue to ignore this and have them open on a regular basis.

I feel because of this they will not abide to the 7.30 pm rule as no-one will be policing it and patrons will be in the garden well passed this time. We will have additional noise from the garden along with cigarette smells which will devalue the properties in Pilgrim Mews which the Giggling Squid garden adjoins and spoil our enjoyment.

My three year old grandson stays with me regularly and I think the noise will disturb him at night especially when it is hot and the windows are open. He goes to bed at 6.30 pm.

We have had a problem with rats from the various restaurants surrounding Pilgrim Mews. I think people eating in the garden so close to the houses and flats will make the problem even worse. (Your Environment Officer was informed of this).

Regards,

**Sarah Johnston**

Pilgrim Mews

Sent: 21 August 2020 11:08

Dear Lisa

I am writing again about the concerns the residents of Pilgrim Mews have regarding the application to withdraw the restrictions that were imposed on Giggling Squid when they originally opened. They were imposed for a reason – because Pilgrim Mews is a residential area.

The noise would greatly increase – at the moment, the noise of the bottles being thrown into a bin is extremely loud and often quite late in the evening.

As requested in my July email, the customers should stay inside the building, where they have several floors to serve customers.

Regards

**Wendy Percy**

**Sent:** 27 July 2020 11:34

Dear Lisa

I am a resident of Pilgrim Mews and my flat is one of the nearest properties to Giggling Squid's yard.

If the restrictions were removed on using the yard for customers, my concern is that the noise emanating from this area would be substantial and it would be at the expense of the Pilgrim Mews' owner's quality of life.

Nowadays, restaurants serve food and drinks all day and all evening, I appreciate that all businesses in the High Street are having a hard time, but Giggling Squid should keep the customers inside as originally agreed when they asked for change-of-use on the building.

Regards

**Wendy Percy**

Pilgrim Mews, Reigate

Wed 26/08/2020 20:16

Good evening,

I am writing to express my concern over application 20/01169/LAPREM relating to Giggling Squid using their outdoor space for dining until 7.30pm. I believe this will create additional noise for the residents near the restaurant, the restaurant already often has windows and doors open at the rear, which I believe is not permitted, and empties bottles both at the front and back of the property which causes loud noises for residents late in the evening.

Kind regards,

**Alex Standen**

Pilgrim Mews, Reigate

Tue 25/08/2020 10:58

Regarding the new application - Giggling Squid

External dining will increase the noise and smell pollution for residents. The existing ban is in place to acknowledge the fact that the rear of this part of the High Street is a residential area which pre-existed the establishment of the restaurant and the issue of its licence.

It will be almost impossible for the restaurant to adhere to the other existing restrictions of window closure and waste storage which they are currently in breach of anyway, adding to the current disturbances. Given this, there is a lack of confidence that the limitations of the new application will be respected.

Other issues: -

There is already a rodent problem at the Mews which we are having to deal with. According to the vermin contractor, the problem has returned since the restaurant re-opened.

The restaurant does not have rights of emergency escape from the garden to the Mews. Their designated evacuation route is via the restaurant onto the High Street.

We all want to support businesses trying to make the best of the current very difficult situation, but this would significantly change the atmosphere of what is currently a very well defined residential area. I think we would feel a distinct loss of control of our immediate environment if this goes ahead. At present I am only able to sleep in one bedroom in my four bed roomed home due to antisocial behaviour, unreasonable noise and lighting issue from The Bulls Head which is being investigated by Environmental Health. The doors were open the other evening and with a customer from the Giggling Squid who was sitting on the wooden balcony and was smoking. Which could also cause a fire hazard to Pilgrim Mews Flats and the noise from the customers was very loud.

I strongly object to the change of licence.

Best regards  
**Claire Trench**  
Pilgrim Mews

**Sent:** 13 August 2020 18:05

Dear Ms Mitchell,

Further to my earlier emails to you, and Ms Stevens, I understand that the Giggling Squid has submitted a revision to their earlier application, which was declined, for the use of the rear patio for dining.

They have now submitted an application to be able to use the rear outside dining area until 7pm, and for the tables to be vacated by 7.30pm.

Many of our earlier objections to the use of the outside dining area at all, still hold good for this application. The noise and smell pollution will still be a major problem for the residents of Pilgrim Mews.

It is also worth repeating the original conditions laid down prior to the opening of the restaurant.

- 1.No outside use of the rear garden was allowed.
2. The ground floor windows should remain closed at all times.
3. No bottles to be stored in the rear garden.

Sadly, the restaurant has had to be reminded on a number of occasions, where they have not complied with either of conditions 2 and 3.

There is no doubt that asking staff of the Giggling Squid to self police the 7pm and 7.30pm timings will prove impossible; if granted, will we be able to rely on the council enforcing the conditions at the times shown? Sorry to say, but the staff of the restaurant have frequently not been aware in the past, of any of the existing conditions noted under 1-3 above.

We have, sadly, also seen an increase in rodent activity since the restaurants reopened, the control of which is a costly process for the residents of the Mews. The use of the outside dining area would also increase this activity.

Finally, it may also be worth checking whether the restaurant is making full use of all of its 3 floors of existing internal space.

We appreciate that the council would like to support the High Street traders at this time, but this is a step too far- and, given the previous applications, any relaxation would no doubt be viewed by them as a thin edge of a wedge, to be exploited in the future.

I would appreciate your confirmation of the receipt of this mail, and would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience.

Thank you,  
**John Warbey**  
Pilgrim Mews

Email dated; 23.8.20  
Dear Ms Stannard,

Following my email to you of 20th August, I apologise for writing to you again, regarding the above application.

Aside from the concerns expressed in that email, there are two further matters which need to be noted.

You will see from the photos below, that the staircase from the restaurant to the proposed dining area, is very steep, and made of wood. I would imagine that this contravenes Health and Safety regulations.

This particularly as the second photos shows what is purportedly a fire exit. This is NOT a legal exit. There is NO access to Pilgrim Mews from the Giggling Squid property. The gate in the photo is supposed to be permanently locked, as it was erected in error by the Developer. This is why we have noted that any exit from the patio would have to be through the restaurant.

Two sheds have also been erected next to the proposed dining area; we are not sure what these are used for. At the time of writing, large containers of Rape Seed oil are also being stored in the rear garden area.

I feel it is also worth repeating the point made by David Johns; the restaurant has repeatedly ignored the existing restrictions on the use of the outside area, a recent photo shows the windows and door open, and a male smoking on the balcony. They are very unlikely to observe any restrictions on table times.

We very much hope that this application will fail.

Yours sincerely,

**John Warbey**  
Pilgrim Mews.

PHOTO 1 ; Warbey



PHOTO 2 ; Warbey

