

By email to Waverley Environmental Health

27 November 2017

Dear Sirs,

**Renewed Street Trading Consent for Kebab/ Burger Van in Cranleigh, outside Post Office**

My husband and I have been successfully operating a Bed and Breakfast in Cranleigh for three years. Our guests are mainly families visiting relatives in Cranleigh and they usually eat in the village in the evening at least once during their stay. Our guests are very complimentary about the village shopping, arts and restaurant experience and repeatedly return.

However, I have already had guests comment derogatively about the kebab van outside the Post Office. 'Not in keeping with the village' they say, as well as commenting on the litter around the van and the smell of chips and fat. I reassured them that the license was only temporary, and it would be unlikely to be renewed judging by residents' unhappiness with the van.

However, I notice that renewed consent has been applied for and I would like to register my strong objection. Cranleigh is extremely well served for eateries well into the night and there is no additional demand for such a van. Indeed, the economic climate has declined so much over the past year that our restaurants, pubs and cafes are already suffering. There is a risk that yet another café closes – we have seen both Maddalena's and Truffles close in the past year and others have too many empty tables. There is a risk that the High Street will lose its popularity as a destination for visitors who will choose to visit Horsham or Guildford instead.

I have also noted that the van is not well used judging by the times of night I have passed by. Indeed although they have a full week temporary license they have taken to positioning their van only on Fridays and Saturdays. Unfortunately, these nights are also likely to be more important to the direct competition in the High Street such as takeaways Subway and Seafare who both open late for pub leavers. And both of whom pay business rates unlike the Kebab/ Burger Van.

Cranleigh Village has been a quiet village in the evenings with families strolling to restaurants and pubs. Recently we have been experiencing some vandalism in the evenings – namely pellets being fired through shop windows, cars revving up unnecessarily and doing donuts. Indeed, last week one of our younger guests, a 23-year-old woman, was verbally assaulted by youths out of a passing car as she approached the ASK restaurant just opposite the Post Office. I believe that the presence of a scruffy kebab van will act as a point focus for such activity and may have done so in this case.

Kind regards,