



BURGER RELIGION

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contact jake@chompgrill.co.uk | 07771987881

Sarah Flower
Licensing Team
Princess House
Princess Street
Bedminster
Bristol BS3 4AG

19/12/13

Application for Street Trading Consent on Cathedral Walk on Fridays

I write in response to your letter dated 11 December 13 that I have only just received.

Please note that my home address has now changed:
Flat 3
8 Victoria St
Bristol BS1 6BN

It would be quicker and more efficient if correspondence could take place via email but I have also sent this document in paper form.

I submitted a document via email on 9/12/13 to which I had no acknowledgement so I include it again here for reference.

Here I will address the points raised in the two representations received:

Representation 1: Mark Wright

- NOISE FROM GENERATORS

We use latest generation Honda EU20i Eco Super Silent Generators. We made a deliberate decision to invest a lot of money in these, rather than far cheaper alternatives, as they are the quietest and most efficient generators on the market. The low noise design produces only 52db at a range 7m. This is the equivalent of the noise produced within a typical business office. We feel that to object therefore on the grounds of noise is unfair. This is a busy city centre location with major roads running near by and many different noise-creating activities occurring in the vicinity. We also feel that we have made every effort to address this issue by prioritising investment in clean, efficient, low-noise technology. We therefore propose that this objection is invalid.

- NO SHORTAGE OF FAST FOOD OUTLETS IN THE AREA

We don't actually consider ourselves fast food in the common use of the term as we have a very high-quality offering, which is often not the case with a lot of fast food outlets. Also, we're not always that fast as we cook our food fresh to order and at busy times customers will have to wait. This said, we don't accept anyway that there are 'no shortage' of fast food outlets in the vicinity. There is a Tesco Express, Costa Coffee, The Cuban, Pizza Express, and Steak of the Art - none of which could reasonably be described as fast food outlets. We would suggest that this objection is therefore invalid.

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Blue Teal Ltd | Registered in England & Wales 8119310 | Unit 4 Bristol Spaceworks, Easton, BS5 0HE

- TRAILER VENDORS PAY NO RATES AND COMPETE UNFAIRLY WITH FIXED PREMISES

Firstly with regard to this, we are not a trailer vendor, we are a self-powered food truck. We are therefore self contained and do not require a towing vehicle. We therefore pay all the necessary vehicle taxation and insurances associated. Secondly, we do pay rent and business rates on our fixed business premises. Where does this objection assume the truck operates out of? We also pay rent for our trading locations, as negotiated with the landlords who own and operate the property on which we locate. Whether rents are deemed to be 'high' or not is a relative commercial judgement and really not what is under question here. It is for each business to negotiate terms that it believes will allow it operate profitably. If there is an objection in principle to the existence of Street Trading, then that should be taken up with the relevant government or council department on a policy level, not form part of an objection to an individual application. We therefore submit that this objection is not valid.

Representation 2: Sally Holt

- THIS TYPE OF OPERATION IS OUT OF CHARACTER WITH THE AREA

This type of operation is slightly out of character with the area. It is a high-quality, independent business. The area is currently occupied with larger outlets that are part of big national and multi-national chains such as Tesco, Pizza Express and Costa Coffee. While we are certainly not arguing that there is anything wrong with these businesses, it seems odd to object to the presence of a new, enthusiastic, high-quality, independent, local Bristol enterprise on the basis that it might interrupt the 'character and vibrancy' provided by Tesco. We feel that if anything, it is businesses such as ours that are the ones that bring character and vibrancy, not those that are part of vast chain operations. We therefore don't recognise this as a valid objection, but rather think it is more an argument in support of us being on Cathedral Walk on Fridays.

- THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THIS TYPE OF OPERATION GENERATES MORE REFUSE THAN FIXED PREMISES

We simply do not recognise the logic behind this statement that causes it to be made with such apparent certainty. We are a self-contained unit, we provide bins for our customers, and we take away all our refuse with us at the end of service. We therefore in reality do not generate any refuse relevant to this site and require no refuse provision from the council. We dispose of all our refuse, at our business premises, in accordance with regulation, the terms of our lease/business rates etc and in the proper manner. We therefore suggest that this is not a valid objection.

- IT WOULD BE VISUALLY UNSIGHTLY AND OCCUPY AN AREA USED FOR 'GENERAL MILLING AROUND'

Our unit is a classic 1972 Citroen HY Van that was painstakingly restored and renovated this year to a very high standard. Of course the notion of unsightliness is greatly subjective, though there are often things upon which there is wide agreement as to their attractiveness or otherwise. The reason we decided to invest in a classic vehicle rather than a trailer, is for the exact reason that it would not be unsightly and that it would form an interesting and appealing, positive addition to a street-scene such as this one. It therefore seems a strange objection to make and we refute entirely that our unit is unsightly – rather we propose that it is quite the opposite, as is supported by the many passers-by who ask questions and take photographs of it. As for the argument that we will be occupying space used for 'general milling around', we again find that this is an invalid objection. Our unit is 4.5m by 2m, which takes up less than half of 1% of the open space on Cathedral walk. There is more than adequate space for plenty of general milling around. We therefore suggest that this objection is invalid.

We have above addressed all the points in full that were received in the two objections to this application, and will now move on to a brief summary in support.

SUMMARY IN SUPPORT

CHOMP is a new enterprise that started recently in Bristol and employs 4 people. This pitch on Fridays is vital to the success of the business. This is not council owned land and we have the full agreement of the property owners and the operators of the site. We have a loyal and enthusiastic customer base who are fully supportive of what we are doing, demonstrated by the fact that double the number of submissions were received in support than in objection. We abide by all regulations and have all the necessary paper work in place. We use modern equipment and have made choices to invest for the long, not short term. We place a heavy emphasis on local sourcing and high-quality produce. We are also only applying to be able to trade in this location during limited times, one day of the week. We have addressed all the concerns that were raised in objection fully and frankly. We feel that this is exactly the sort of enterprise that the council should be supporting and not dealing a massive blow to.

We will be pleased for all evidence to be placed before the Public Safety & Protection Committee and to attend a hearing in person. We are also happy to provide any other information required or to address/clarify anything else as required.

Kind Regards,

JAKE BLACK

Jake Black

CHOMP

07771987881

jake@chompgrill.co.uk