



## North Laine Community Association



6 April 2007

Licensing Guidance Review Team  
Tourism Division,  
6th Floor  
Department of Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London SW1Y 5DH

Dear Sir or Madam

We write on behalf of the North Laine Community Association to comment on the licensing guidance to be issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The North Laine Conservation Area of Brighton is a close knit community of small terrace houses, mostly two stories, very narrow residential streets and small businesses.

Historically the area has a considerable number of public houses but more recently more and more cafes, cafe bars, and restaurants have opened all selling alcohol. The number of licensed premises has escalated and with the new licensing laws are all asking for late opening hours which are being granted. We are not aware of any applications being refused.

1. Our Local Authority, Brighton and Hove City Council, have not adopted cumulative impact into their local policy. We have been told at licensing hearings that cumulative impact could not be taken into consideration. We would like to see Licensing Guidance alter this.
2. We would like to see no new applications being considered by the Licensing Panel until planning permission has been granted. Also, that the Licensing Panel do not go beyond the conditions laid down by the Planning Committee. All too often we see different conditions, particularly regarding opening hours, being granted by the two committees.
3. Many residents have been told by the Licensing Panel that their objections are not valid because "they do not live in the vicinity"  
We would like the Licensing Guidance to include a larger area for objections to be allowed. As we have already stated our community is very close knit and somebody who lives in the next street or further up the road from the application should be allowed to object. This is not the case at the moment.

We trust you will take our comments into consideration.

Yours faithfully

G. Villermet  
pp Roy Skam

Roy Skam , NLCA Licensing Coordinator

Gabrielle Villermet, NLCA Environment and Planning Coordinator