

Re: Application for premises licence at 53 Stoats Nest Road

We are neighbours of the applicant. We have read his response to our objections but we are not reassured.-

On page 8 of his response to our first objection, Mr Thompson said the kitchen of his house will be used to make the vermouth.

According to London Fire Brigade website, 60% of fires in the home begin in the kitchen.

Mr Thompson admits that alcohol is flammable.

Vermouth he tells us is a type of fortified wine and most vermouths are around 15% to 18% ABV. Mr Thompson says: "as I work full time, this will be produced solely in my spare time." In other words, after a hard day's work, Mr Thompson will be brewing his vermouth in the kitchen when tired.

I attach an item from London Fire Brigade website which says; "Tragically, one in four people who die in fire have alcohol in their system."

"Fire chiefs are also concerned that people may not realise that inhaling alcohol increases the blood alcohol content in the same way that drinking it does."

I attach an item from London Fire Brigade website which says that on 12 May 2020 "four fire engines and 25 firefighters were called to a fire at a house on Lyndhurst Close in Croydon." The fire started in the kitchen. Included in the firefighters' top tips was the advice: "Not feeling 100%? Order a takeaway – if you're very tired or have been drinking alcohol, it's safer not to risk it."

I also attach an item from London Fire Brigade website which says two fires a day happen after Londoners have been drinking and one in four people who die in a fire has alcohol in their system "Young, well-educated professionals cause more than a quarter of all accidental house fires in the capital, with being under the influence being a contributing factor. The figures show that young professionals had 1,515 house fires last year." The article is dated 06/03/2013 but was updated on 09/07/2018.

Regarding the fire brigade's access to the rear of his property, which is the middle property in a terrace, Mr Thompson says the lane leading to the rear "is secured with a padlock which most homeowners with access rights have a key." If a fire were to happen, the fire brigade would have to go knocking on doors trying to find a key to the padlock, or be delayed by the time involved cutting the padlock. Mr Thompson has given some figures relating to the width of the lane and the width of a fire engine but we are not convinced. Even if a fire engine could drive up the first part of the lane, which is straight, it would then be confronted by a T junction which requires a sharp left turn, which I have difficulty negotiating in my 3 series BMW and which would be impossible for a fire engine.

Mr Thompson makes much of a business called Cladmaster at no. 47 Stoats Nest Road but does not know the history. When we moved into our property, the owner of no 47, [REDACTED] had a [REDACTED] living there as her [REDACTED]. He was very nice. But they quarrelled and her new [REDACTED] moved in. He had a business called Cladmaster, which was a nuisance. We paid £1,000 for legal advice and for a site visit by the [REDACTED]. About 4 times a year [REDACTED] would put a skip in the lane and we suffered noise while he filled the skip. The [REDACTED] said we needed to take photos of [REDACTED] skips over a period of time to prove that the skips were not for [REDACTED] personal use but were evidence of a business being conducted. We did this. Eventually [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] moved out.

Mr Thompson's application for a premises licence creates a similar threat of nuisance and, as it involves alcohol, a risk of fire, crime and disorder.