emery PLANNING

1-4 South Park Court, Hobson Street
Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 8BS
+44 (0) 1625 433 881

Regus House, Herons Way,
Chester Business Park, CH4 9QP
+44 (0) 1244 732 447

Ms Holly Wright
Manchester City Council
Planning Department
PO Box 532
Town Hall
Manchester
M60 2LA

2 June 2025
EP ref: 25-146
By email

Dear Holly

Re: Planning Application 141642/JO/2024 - 9 Edgerton Crescent, Withington, M20 4PN

Emery Planning have been instructed by the applicant, Mr Nigel Tobias, to assist with the above planning application which was submitted on 2 December 2024.

This application, at the time of submission sought a variation to condition 3 on planning application 123650/FO/2019 which refers to the opening hours of the unit.

The details now provided seek to address not only the concerns raised by officers with regard to the proposed variation to the opening hours controlled by condition 3 on planning application 123650/FO/2019, but also vary/discharge the remaining outstanding planning conditions 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 on the same application. A new application form accompanies this letter for completeness.

Current Business operations

'Something More Productive' (SMP) is a small independent coffee shop/café, serving cakes, pastries and sandwiches. No hot food preparation/cooking of products take place on site, only heating of pre-prepared products. Generally, the property is open during the day between the hours of 09.00 – 17.00, albeit the current planning permission allows the unit to remain open until 21.00 every day.

The applicant operates a small number of events in the evening. These include quiz nights, wine tasting and jazz nights. The number of events are limited and all operate on a ticket only basis. Currently the quiz and wine tasting evening operate within the current permitted opening hours granted under planning permission 123650/FO/2019 and finish by 21.00. The jazz nights, which generally take place once a month, involves a local four-piece jazz band. Due to the size of the venue no amplification is required, and the band play two sets in the evening – these are from 22.00 – 21.00 and then 21.30 – 22.30 - a maximum of 2 hours in total.

The proposed variation in the opening hours is to enable these evening events to take place and allow more flexibility on times and number of events.

Planning Background

Planning permission 123650/FO/2019 was granted for the conversion of an existing retail unit (class A1) to a mixed use of retail and bar (sui generis use); this application was submitted by the owner of the building.

It is understood that the first tenant of the building, following the granting of the above planning permission was 'Wilderness Records' who were a small independent record shop but also operated a small coffee shop from the premises. Neither this tenant or landlord sought to discharge the pre-conditions on planning approval 123650/FO/2019.

The current tenant, 'Something More Productive', was not aware of any outstanding planning conditions until the submission of this planning application (141642/JO/2024). This letter and accompanying supporting documents seek to address the proposed variation to condition 3 and the remaining outstanding matters.

Current planning application 141642/FO/2024 – Variation to condition 3 on planning approval 12365/FO/2019

Planning application 141642/FO/2024, was submitted to seek a variation to the current approved opening hours.

The application sought to vary the opening hours on Sunday through to Wednesday to 08.00 to 22.30 and then 08.00-01.00 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. However, due to concerns raised by the planning officer these times have been modified so that the proposed current opening times are now 08.00- 22.30 from Sunday to Thursday and 08.00- 00.00 on Friday and Saturday only.

The change in opening hours is required to allow evening events such as the jazz nights to take place and to support the business.

There is significant local support for the business, we understand from the planning officer at the time of writing that 180 letters of support have been received. An online petition was also set up via www.change.org which raised in excess of 1,250 signatures in support. Please see appendix EP1. Also attached at appendix EP2 is a letter of support from the local Labour Councillors Becky Chambers and Chris Wills.

We understand, again via the planning officer, that 8 letters of objection have also been received. It should be noted that neither ourselves or the applicant have been able to view the public comments submitted to the Council, although the planning officer has provided a summary of the letters of support and objection. These are as follows:

Summary of 180 letters of support:

- Something More Productive is an amazing addition to Withington.
- Extending their opening hours will enable them to continue providing an inclusive, calm, and wholesome space for the community.
- We should support local businesses.
- SMP has made a consistent effort to act for the benefit of the community - it is a refined and respectable business.
- SMP is a cornerstone and positive addition to the community.
- There are far more problematic businesses nearby that have no issues securing late licenses.
- The Council should focus on antisocial behaviour, speeding, and littering from cars as well as HMO expansion.

- Extending the hours of SMP would enhance the local social scene and provide a safe and well-managed environment for residents who want a later-night option.
- SMP has a strong track record of responsible operation and positive community impact.
- The extended hours will bring a valuable addition to the area and ensure this business' longevity.
- Full support for this important community, cultural hub.
- SMP brings high-quality services and non-disruptive provision to Withington.
- SMP is a small business who supports numerous other local businesses and contributes enormously to the economic and cultural life of Withington.
- Restriction of SMP's opening hours would have a disproportionate negative impact upon the business and on Withington

Summary of 8 letters of objection:

- Errors made on the submitted application form including the 'date of decision' for the original consent 123650/FO/2019.
- Concerns in relation to Ownership Certificate B and serving the requisite notice to the landowner's correct address.
- The business has been operating beyond its approved hours of use, opening from 08:00 until 22:30, rather than from 9:00 until 21:00.
- The business has announced that this application had been approved before its consultation had closed.
- 1am closing times have been in operation since Friday 3rd January.
- Allowing more late-night businesses in the area would exacerbate existing issues relating to noise disturbance, late-night loitering, anti-social behaviour, lack of respect for the neighbourhood, littering and broken glass.
- The proposal would increase the strain on residents, compromising their ability to rest, and deteriorating the overall quality of life in the neighbourhood.
- The wellbeing of the community should be prioritised over the convenience of additional nightlife venues.
- Egerton Crescent is a residential street and there is no need for a café to be open until 1am on a Thursday night.
- People leaving a bar at 1am are not quiet and residents already experience enough noise from the high street currently.
- The 1am closing time would have a material detrimental impact upon the quiet enjoyment of the residential area.
- As the venue is small, it is likely that the outside area would be heavily utilised which would exacerbate the noise issue.
- There is a car park with a real litter problem nearby. Such a late closure is likely to lead to higher levels of intoxication which would contribute to the litter issues.

- 1am is much later than the nearby Red Lion, which may encourage more people to enter the residential streets at later hours, causing further disturbance.
- There is no precedent for late nights in this area on such a residential street.

We provide clarification on the above concerns where appropriate below:

- The correct date of the original decision and the correct landowners address has been used.
- The unit has opened until 22.30 when jazz nights have taken place but these have taken place generally once a month.
- The unit has never opened until 1am.
- Reference is made to disturbance to local residents. The applicant has never received any direct complaints about noise and if they had these would been addressed immediately. It is assumed that if complaints had been made direct to the Police/Environmental Health then these would have been raised directly with the operators as well as being formerly considered as part of the consultation for the alcohol licence application. We understand that no complaints were considered as part of this process.
- As referred to above the venue currently operates a jazz night once a month. The music stops at 22.30 and once patrols have left and clearing up has taken place, the unit is generally closed by 23.00. For any objector to state that late night disturbances are coming from this small unit at 1am is unfounded. The possible disturbances that are being referred to may well be noise from people leaving other venues on Wilmslow Road or beyond and are using Egerton Crescent as a short cut through to Parsonage Road and beyond. As we have not been able to view the objections made we are unable to comment on these points any further.

We trust the above details helps to clarify matters in more details and request that should officers have any further queries regarding any point above then please get in contact.

Supporting information to vary/discharge remaining outstanding planning conditions on application 123650/FO/2019

Condition 5

This condition requires details of opening hours of the external seating area and details of seating layout to be submitted and approved.

Attached at appendix **EP3** – is a marked-up site plan (extract taken from approved plans for application 123650/FO/2019). This indicates the location of the table and chairs for the external seating area. In total 18 covers are provided on 3 tables seating 2 people and 3 tables seating 4 people . A long bench seat has been constructed against the boundary fencing with the tables located in front of this along with free-standing chairs. Also attached at **EP4** are two photographs showing the empty seating area and one showing the seating area in use.

In relation to opening hours for the external seating area it is proposed to operate between the hours of 08.00 – 21.00. In the evening, no glass bottles or glasses are permitted within the external seating area.

We therefore request that the following variation to condition 5 is agreed as follows:

> The details provided regarding the external seating in the letter dated ****, including photographs and plan, which indicate that 18 covers are to be provided within the approved external seating area are acceptable. All works will be carried out in accordance with these details and will be permanently so maintained unless further amendments are sought and agreed with Manchester City Council.

We trust the above details attached plans and photographs are sufficient and condition 5 on 123650/FO/2019 can be varied accordingly.

Condition 7

This condition requires details of any externally mounted plant/equipment to be submitted and approved along with any associated acoustic measurements/details etc.

We can confirm that no external plant has been installed on the premises therefore no details are submitted.

Condition 8

This condition requires details of a scheme for refuse storage and waste bin collection to be submitted and agreed.

The applicant confirms that appropriate bin storage and waste facilities are provided by a private contractor.

In this instance the refuse collection for all waste products from the venue are handled via a Directive Waste Service Agreement with B & M Waste Services.

The waste is stored in the following bins;

- Mixed municipal – 110ltr bin
- Glass – 240ltr bin
- Cardboard – 240ltr bin

All bins are stored at the rear of the unit with access gained via the private access to the north of the building – see attached photographs at **EP5.**

All glass is emptied into the bins during the working day to avoid disturbance to neighbours in the evening.

We therefore request that the following variation to condition 8 is agreed as follows:

> The submitted details regarding the scheme for waste disposal as provided within the submitted photographs at **EP5** and both the Noise Management Plan and Noise Assessment provided at **EP6** are acceptable. All storage and disposal of waste shall continue to operate in accordance with these details unless further amendments are sought and agreed with Manchester City Council.

We trust these details are sufficient and will enable condition 8 to be varied accordingly.

Condition 9

Condition 9 requires details of the boundary wall to be submitted and agreed prior to installation.

The approved details for planning permission 123650/FO/2019 indicated that the boundary wall would be replaced with a new brick-built boundary wall.

However, it is understood that the previous tenant constructed the new boundary wall using timber planters/posts to a height of 800mm and then clad the road site elevation in corrugated metal and the internal wall clad in vertically boarded timber with a flat timber top which was stained/painted a dark colour.

The applicant has continued to use the same boundary treatment and has painted the external walls a dark green which blends with the overall colour scheme of the unit. As this boundary treatment works well there is no intention to change anything, other than repaint when necessary.

We therefore request that a variation to condition 9 is approved and read as follows:

> The submitted details in relation to the boundary treatment which shows a metal and timber boundary fence to a height of 800mm and painted dark green are acceptable. The boundary details shall remain the same unless further amendments are agreed with Manchester City Council.

We trust these details are sufficient and will enable condition 9 to be varied accordingly.

Condition 10

Condition 10 requires a scheme for the acoustic insulation and treatment to limit any noise outbreak to be submitted and approved.

Please find attached at EP6 copies of a Sound Level Assessment and Noise Management Plan undertaken by Sarah Williams a freelance sound engineer. The report provides details of all measurements undertaken and suggested mitigation measures.

The reports conclude that 'noise generated by the premises is minimal compared to traffic and industrial noise from nearby Wilmslow Road'. Subject to the recommended mitigation measures and implementation of the Noise Management Plan, the reports support the current proposal. Consequently, condition 10 has now been complied with and can be discharged.

Additional information

As can be seen from the Noise Management Plan great care is taken to ensure that any noise outbreak is limited, no drinking is allowed outside after 21.00 and patrons are encouraged to disperse quietly so to avoid any disturbance from neighbours.

It is therefore respectfully requested that the variation of conditions 5, 8, and 9 can now be agreed and that condition 10 can be discharged.

Should officers have any further queries regarding any of the above matters then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely
Emery Planning

[redacted]

Appendices:

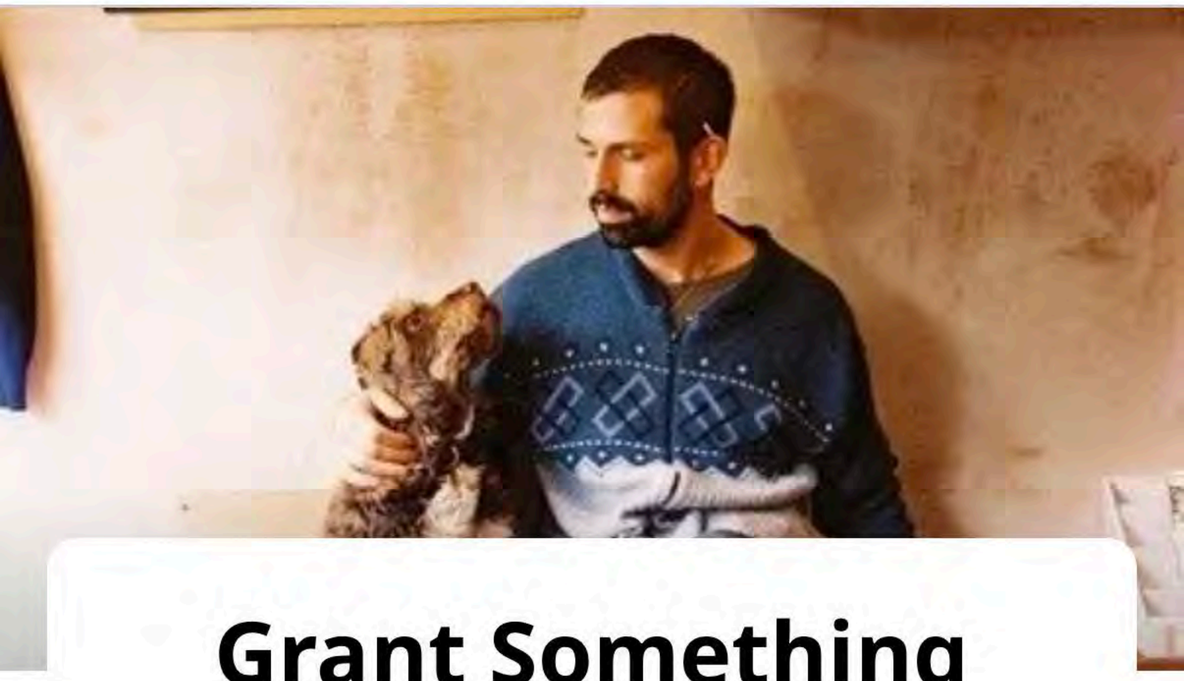
EP1 – Screen shot of online petition with 1258 signatures
EP2 – Copy of letter of support from local Labour Cllr Becky Chambers and Cllr Chris Wills
EP3 – Marked up seating plan
EP4 – Photographs of external dining area
EP5 - Photographs of waste bins and access
EP6 - Noise Management Policy and SMP Noise Assessment

EP1

18:14 4G 49

Instagram
www.change.org

change.org Start a petition



Grant Something More Productive's Friday & Saturday Evening Service!

Sign petition

1,258

Verified signatures

Diana Hepworth • 4 hours ago

Joel Hepworth • 8 ho

EP2

withwardlab
Withington

Cllr Becky Chambers Cllr Chris Wills

Labour Members for Withington Ward

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

Telephone +44 (0)7971 384 543 (Mobile)
cllr.becky.chambers@manchester.gov.uk

Telephone +44 (0)7970 395 030 (Mobile)
cllr.chris.wills@manchester.gov.uk

To MCC Planning,

We are writing in strong support of the planning application 141642/JO/2024-9 submitted by Something More Productive (SMP). Please note the omission of our ward colleague Councillor Angela Gartside, who sits on the planning committee and is therefore precluded from commenting on planning applications publicly.

Since SMP opened in October 2023, it has been a welcome addition to Withington. The café's owner, Theo, has gone to lengths to ensure that the business is operating responsibly and is a benefit to the local community.

Theo has constructively and proactively engaged with residents and residents groups to agree on the proposed hours. He has also engaged extensively with the council's planning and licensing departments throughout this process. Becky has been supporting him since summer 2024 and it is clear that he is keen to work with the council responsibly to reach a positive solution for all.

It is worth noting that as councillors we have never received any representations or correspondence from residents that might indicate any issues - whether that be noise disturbance, waste issues or operating hours. On the contrary, we have had many conversations with local residents and groups who have enjoyed the café and hope to see it remain in Withington for many years to come.

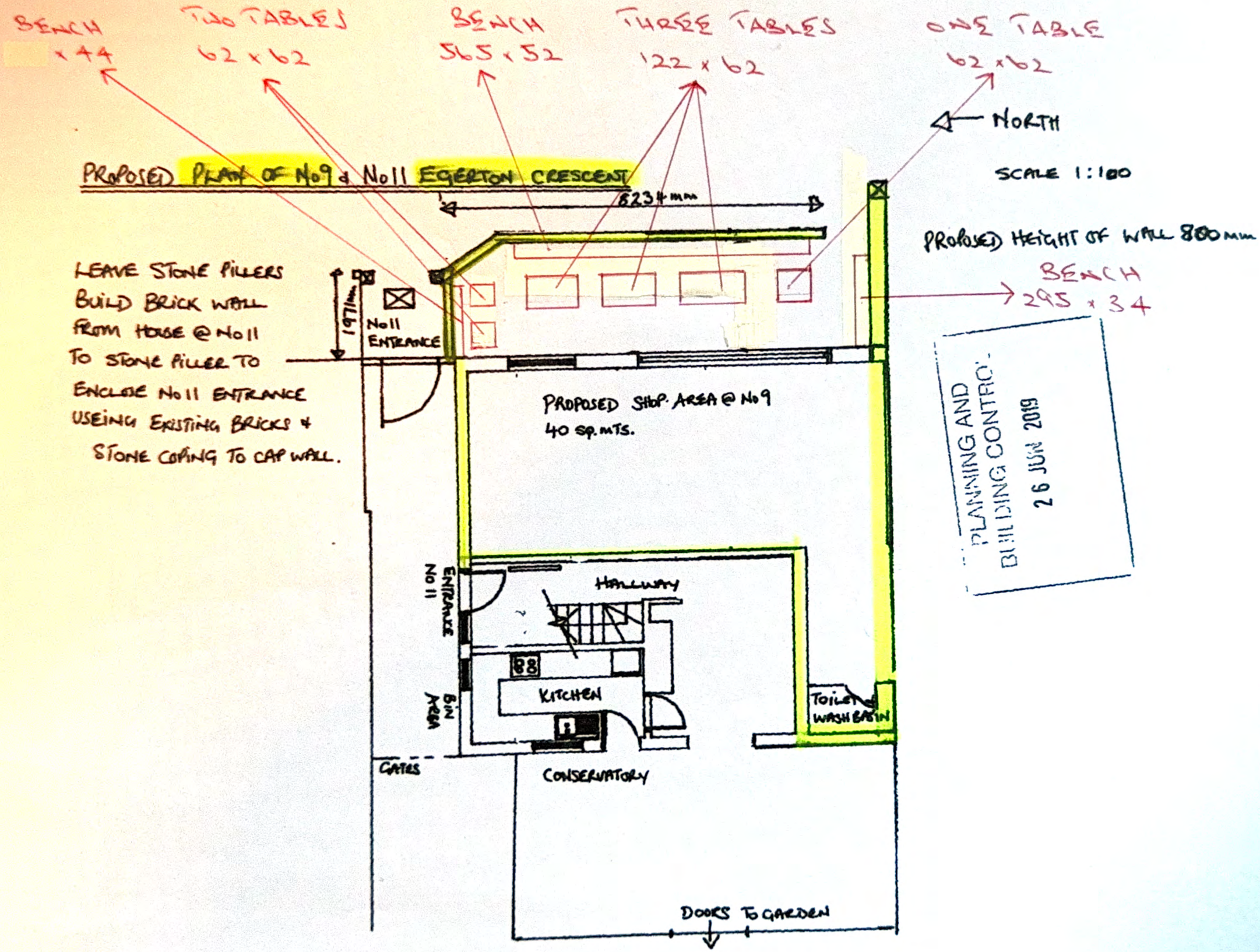
SMP's feasibility as business and the retention of staff relies on this modest extension to operating hours and permission has already been granted in licensing terms. They make a positive contribution to the local economy, culture and community in Withington.

We strongly support this application.

Kind regards,

Chris and Becky

EP3


BENCH
x44
TWO TABLES
62 x 62
BENCH
565 x 52
THREE TABLES
122 x 62
ONE TABLE
62 x 62
NORTH
PROPOSED PLAN OF No9 & No11 EGERTON CRESCENT
SCALE 1:100
6234 mm
PROPOSED HEIGHT OF WALL 800 mm
BENCH
295 x 34
LEAVE STONE PILLERS
BUILD BRICK WALL
FROM HOUSE @ No11
TO STONE PILLER TO
ENCLOSE No11 ENTRANCE
USEING EXISTING BRICKS &
STONE COPING TO CAP WALL.
1971mm
No11
ENTRANCE
PROPOSED SHOP AREA @ No9
40 sq. mts.
PLANNING AND
BUILDING CONTROL
26 JUN 2019
No11
ENTRANCE
HALLWAY
KITCHEN
No9
WAY
TOILET
WASH BASIN
GATES
CONSERVATORY
DOORS TO GARDEN

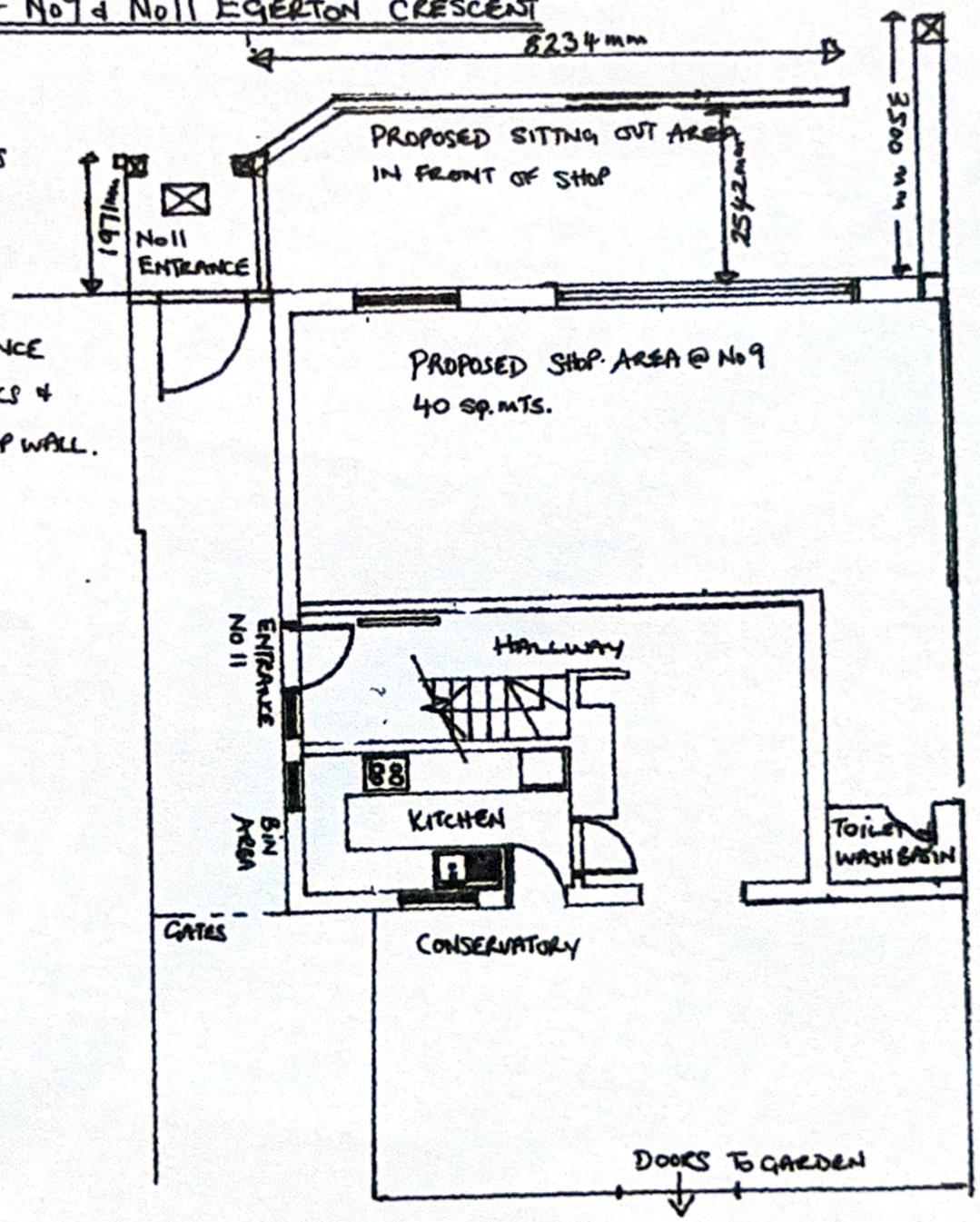
PROPOSED PLAN OF No9 & No11 EGERTON CRESCENT

NORTH

SCALE 1:100

PROPOSED HEIGHT OF WALL 800 mm

LEAVE STONE PILLERS
BUILD BRICK WALL
FROM HOUSE @ No11
TO STONE PILLER TO
ENCLOSE No11 ENTRANCE
USEING EXISTING BRICKS &
STONE COPING TO CAP WALL.



PLANNING AND
BUILDING CONTROL
26 JUN 2019

EP4

EP5

EP6

Noise Management Plan (NMP)

Something More Productive (SMP)

9 Egerton Crescent

Withington

M20 4PN

Prepared with Sarah Williams

26 March 2025

Contents

1 Introduction 2

1.1 Objectives 2

2 Noise Mitigation Strategy 2

2.1 Internal Noise 3

2.2 External Noise 3

2.3 Waste Management 3

2.4 Operations 3

3 Noise Monitoring and Response 4

4 Conclusion 4

1 Introduction

This Noise Management Plan (NMP) outlines the measures and procedures that will be implemented to minimise and manage noise arising from Something More Productive (SMP) and tries to ensure that the surrounding community are not overly impacted.

The plan supports the planning application to extend SMP's opening hours, as outlined in the table below. (SMP received approval for an extension of its licensing hours in December 2024.)

	Current	Proposed
Monday	09:00 – 21:00	08:00 – 22:30
Tuesday	09:00 – 21:00	08:00 – 22:30
Wednesday	09:00 – 21:00	08:00 – 22:30
Thursday	09:00 – 21:00	08:00 – 22:30
Friday	09:00 – 21:00	08:00 – 00:00
Saturday	09:00 – 21:00	08:00 – 00:00
Sunday	09:00 – 21:00	08:00 – 22:30

SMP takes seriously its responsibilities, regarding nearby residents, to mitigate disturbance and antisocial behaviour from an extension of its night-time opening hours.

This plan is accompanied by a voluntary Noise Assessment, which forms part of the business's ongoing noise monitoring intentions. The assessment includes internal and external noise measures and notes that although Egerton Crescent is zoned as a residential area, it is already subject to noise from adjacent Wilmslow Road businesses.

1.1 Objectives

The key objectives of this Noise Management Plan are:

- To identify potential sources of excess noise from the café's operations.
- To implement measures that minimise noise impact on nearby residents.
- To continue liaising with the local community, Withington society groups, Councillors and the GMP.

2 Noise Mitigation Strategy

Several noise mitigation strategies are already in place at Something More Productive. The following plan includes existing measures and provides additional recommendations to further manage any operational noise the business generates. It also suggests measures to lessen the impact of noise on the adjacent residential area.

2.1 Internal Noise

Acoustic Treatment

SMP already utilises soft furnishings to minimise internal reflections. The banquette seating features thickly padded seats, and the seat backs are relatively absorbent, rough-hewn wood. The café also employs wooden flooring, which has a comparatively high acoustic coefficient. Rubber feet will be added to tables and chairs to reduce the noise produced by moving furniture across the floor.

Coffee Machines & Kitchen Equipment

All mechanical equipment, such as refrigeration units, coffee machines and kitchen appliances, will be regularly maintained to ensure they operate at minimal noise levels. When equipment needs replacing, preference will be given to the installation of quieter appliances and machinery, including lower-noise coffee machines.

2.2 External Noise

Customer Behaviour

Customer noise is managed through courteous staff service, with customers exiting later in the evening encouraged to leave calmly and quietly, showing respect for neighbours.

Outdoor Seating

Customer service and signage will manage noise levels in the outdoor seating area. Noise levels will be managed during later openings by not extending the outdoor seating. The external area shall be cleared of customers by 22:00 on Sunday - Thursday and 23:30 on Fridays and Saturdays.

Doors & Windows

To further reduce external noise, doors and windows will be closed by 22:00 on weeknights and 23:30 on Fridays and Saturdays.

2.3 Waste Management

SMP has a Directive Waste Service Agreement with B&M Waste Services, for the weekly removal of Mixed Municipal (1100 LTR), Glass (240 LTR), and Cardboard (240 LTR) waste types.

The three B&M waste bins are located to the rear of the premises, through a lockable gate. To further reduce noise disturbance, glass recycling will be kept inside the café between the hours of 23:00 and 08:00.

2.4 Operations

Staff Training

Staff will receive training to uphold a professional and reasonably quiet atmosphere, especially during late-night or early-morning operations, including receiving deliveries. The training will include the importance of noise control, and they will be instructed to avoid shouting or raising their voices while communicating with customers or other staff.

Music

The only music source at Something More Productive is a single Sonos speaker behind the bar, which only operates at moderate volume to avoid excessive disturbance to nearby residents.

SMP occasionally hosts acoustic music performances. These are not amplified, are held inside the premises and the performance rarely lasts more than two hours. The infrequent nature of these events is designed to avoid excess disturbance to residents and these live music performances will finish no later than 23:00.

3 Noise Monitoring and Response

Noise Monitoring

SMP management will periodically monitor internal and external noise levels to ensure that they are within acceptable limits.

Complaint Handling Procedure

Since opening in late October 2023, no complaints, even on an anonymous basis, have been received by SMP.

A clear procedure will be implemented to handle any noise complaints from the local community. The procedure will include a dedicated point of contact for noise complaints (e.g., an SMP manager) and an investigation of any complaints, with follow-up actions where necessary

SMP will also maintain its regular engagement with residents, and community groups, such as Withington Village Regeneration Partnership and Withington Civic Society, the Ward Councillors and GMP, almost all of whom have expressed support for the planning application made by SMP.

SMP aims to continue to be regarded as an asset to the local community and will respond to any concerns promptly and sensitively.

4 Conclusion

Something More Productive is committed to operating in a manner that minimises disturbance and maximises value and harmony to the local community while maintaining a welcoming and enjoyable customer environment.

The measures outlined in this Noise Management Plan will be implemented as part of Something More Productive's commitment to sustainability, local relationships, and compliance with agreements, and management will regularly review this plan to ensure it remains effective and responsive to any changes in the operating environment or community concerns.

04 | 2025

Noise Assessment

Something More Productive

Prepared by Sarah Williams sarahwilliamsaudio@gmail.com

Table of Contents

Introduction 03

Measurement Locations 04

Findings: Daytime 05

Findings: Evening 06

Noise Mitigation Recommendations 09

Conclusion 11

Introduction

Something More Productive (SMP) has recently applied to extend its opening hours. The business received approval to extend its licensing hours in December 2024, and now seeks to extend its planning hours to match. SMP recognises concerns about the potential impact night-time operating hours may have on its residential neighbours. This noise assessment is undertaken to aid the development of an ongoing noise management plan, which seeks to ensure the café's activities do not adversely affect the surrounding community.

This assessment measures operational noise from both daytime and evening to provide a balanced view of SMP's potential noise impact. The results are provided alongside a series of noise mitigation recommendations.

Methodology

LAeq readings were taken using a Casella CEL 620B Class 1 sound level meter calibrated to 1 kHz at 114dB. Outside measurements were taken in both LAeq and LCeq as an indication of environmental noise or vibration.

Sound pressure levels (SPL) were measured during both daytime and evening operation. The daytime readings represent much of SMP's operation, including evenings.

The evening measurements were taken during SMP's monthly jazz night. This was selected as an appropriate event because it will likely be the loudest that SMP hosts. Noise on a standard night will likely be significantly less; however, it may be used as an indicator for the upper noise threshold for evening trading hours at Something More Productive.

Measurement Locations

The assessment includes internal and external noise measures, taken at five locations in and around SMP.

1. Inside - Seating Area
2. Inside - Behind Bar
3. Outside - Seating Area
4. Outside - Residence Opposite
5. Outside - Rear Residential Car Park

Although Egerton Crescent is zoned as a residential area, it is already subject to noise from adjacent Wilmslow Road businesses. The outside peak levels taken during both daytime and evening operation were generated by traffic or businesses on Wilmslow Road.

Findings

Standard Daytime Operation

Measurements were taken at 3pm on Tuesday 15th May.

Although the café was busy, the level of ambient noise inside was extremely quiet. Customers conversed at a low volume. The only music source at Something More Productive is a single Sonos speaker behind the bar, which only operates at a moderate volume.

	LAeq	**LC Peak**
1: Inside - Seating Area*	57	72
3: Outside - Seating Area	58	61
4: Outside - Residence Opposite	56	62
5: Outside - Read Residential Car Park	50	59

*There was not a substantial difference between the seating area and bar, thus location two was not included.

LAeq is the average value at each measurement position. These are essentially a 'rolling average' over the duration of each measurement.

LC Peak is the instantaneous peak exposure at each measurement position; the maximum short-duration high-energy noise event that a person may be exposed to, measured in Pascals (Pa) or dBC.

Findings

Evening Operation

Measurements were taken on Friday 28th February 2025. SMP's 'jazz night' was selected as an indicator for the upper noise threshold for night-time events at SMP. These events are unlikely to take place more than once a month.

The event was an unamplified music performance with a jazz band, The Ted Branson Quartet. The four-piece band consisted of drums, keyboard, electric bass, trombone, and trumpet, and it was set up on the floor in front of the window. The bar was in use throughout the evening. At the busiest peak of the event, there were approximately 25 people inside and 20 people outside. The event was ticketed, and staff monitored capacity at the entrance to the premises.

Measurements were taken at intervals before and during the event to compare the level of ambient noise and pre-recorded music with the unamplified performance. The band performed two sets, each around an hour long: 20:05-21:00 and 21:30-22:30. Measurements were taken before the performance (19:00-20:00) and in the interval (21:00-21:30) for comparison.

Location 1: Inside - Seating Area

	LAeq	**LC Peak**
Before Performance	69	81
During Performance	90	95
Interval	62	81

Before the performance, the only music source is a single Sonos speaker behind the bar, playing at a low background volume. The conversational volume is low but still exceeds that of the loudspeaker. During the performance, the level of conversation is louder than the band itself, especially in the 2-5 kHz range.

Findings

Evening Operation

Location 2: Inside - Behind Bar

	LAeq	LC Peak
Before Performance	79	82
During Performance	90	94
Interval	80	87

Location 3: Outside - Seating Area

	LAeq	LC Peak	LC Peak
Before Performance	64	67	75
During Performance	72	74	79
Interval	68	72	79

Before the performance, the volume of chatter outside is low. During the performance, the chatter remains low and is louder than the sound of the band, even with the open windows and doors. The loudest sound in the seating area comes from an industrial fan at the back of Manjaros, opposite. The maximum LC Peak readings are from passing cars.

Findings

Evening Operation

Location 4: Outside - Residence Opposite

	LAeq	LC Peak	LC Peak
Before Performance	62	73	83
During Performance	66	72	79
Interval	65	71	77

Measurements were taken outside the nearest residence, directly opposite the premises. Before and during the performance, noise from SMP was minimal. Noise from passing cars, an industrial fan, and ambient noise from Wilmslow Road was considerably louder.

Location 5: Outside - Rear Residential Car Park

	LAeq	LC Peak	LC Peak
Before Performance	57	62	62
During Performance	53	61	64
Interval	53	58	61

At the residential car park at the rear of SMP, the noise levels from the café were surpassed by the sounds of cars and an industrial fan. Throughout the performance and during the interval, the chatter from the outside seating could be heard. Notably, the LAeq reading was lower before the performance than it was during the performance, indicating that SMP is not the most significant source of external noise.

Noise Mitigation Recommendations

Several noise mitigation strategies are already in place at Something More Productive. The following recommendations include existing measures as well as suggestions for further limiting operational noise.

Internal Noise

- **Acoustic Treatment:** The café already utilises soft furnishings to minimise internal reflections. The banquette seating features thickly padded seats, and the seat backs are relatively absorbent, rough-hewn wood. The café also employs wooden flooring, which has a comparatively high acoustic coefficient. Rubber feet could be added to tables and chairs to reduce the noise produced by moving furniture across the floor.

- **Coffee Machines & Kitchen Equipment:** All mechanical equipment, such as refrigeration units, coffee machines and kitchen appliances, should be regularly maintained to ensure they operate at minimal noise levels. Preference could be given to the installation of quieter appliances and machinery, including low-noise coffee machines and appliances.

External Noise

- **Customer Behaviour:** Customer noise could be managed through courteous service. Customers exiting late in the evening can be politely encouraged to leave calmly and quietly, showing respect for neighbours.

- **Outdoor Seating:** Customer service and signage may be used to manage noise levels in outdoor seating areas. Clearing customers from the outdoor seating during the later hours of night-time operation may also help to reduce external noise. Similarly, closing windows and doors during the latest hours of night-time operation could help to reduce external noise.

Noise Mitigation Recommendations

Operations

- **Waste Management:** SMP has limited control over waste collection times. The glass recycling is located in a residential car park to the rear of the premises, presenting a potential noise source. To minimise disturbance, we recommend that glass recycling be kept inside the café between 23:00 and 09:00.

- **Staff Training:** Staff can be trained to uphold a professional and reasonably quiet atmosphere, especially during late-night or early-morning operations, including receiving deliveries. The training should include the importance of noise control, recommending that they avoid shouting or raising their voices while communicating with customers or other staff.

- **Noise Monitoring:** The café management can periodically monitor noise levels to ensure that they are within acceptable limits.

- **Complaint Handling Procedure:** No complaints have been received about the café's operation. A clear procedure should be implemented to handle any noise complaints from the local community. The procedure should include a dedicated point of contact for noise complaints (e.g., a café manager) and investigation of any complaints, with follow-up actions where necessary.

- **Communication:** We also recommend that SMP maintain regular engagement with local residents and community groups, such as Withington Civic Society. This will enable them to respond to any concerns promptly and sensitively.

Conclusion

The overall noise level of both standard daytime operation and the jazz night was relatively low. In the surrounding residential areas, the noise generated by Something More Productive is minimal compared to the traffic and industrial noise from nearby Wilmslow Road.

The loudest sound produced by SMP is that of conversation in seating areas inside and outside the venue. This could be improved by asking customers to be respectful to neighbours, closing doors and windows, or by clearing the outside seating area after a designated time.

Something More Productive is committed to operating in a manner that minimises disturbance and maximises value to the local community while maintaining a welcoming and enjoyable customer environment. Considering the recommendations made here, SMP should implement a noise management plan. This should be regularly reviewed by the café's management to ensure it remains effective and responsive to any changes in the operating environment or feedback from the community.