



Variation of Condition 3- Extend Opening Hours

Application 126305/FO/2020

Caramello Cafe - Didsbury
10 Whitechapel Street
Manchester
M20 6UB

Date: 25/02/2025

Request to extended opening hours from 08:30am to 10:00PM Monday to Sunday including Bank Holidays to the above premises.

Dear Sir/ Madam
Manchester City Council

We are writing to formally request an extension of our permitted opening hours . Given the increasing financial pressures on small businesses and the evolving hospitality landscape in the area, we believe that extending our operational hours is a viable and necessary step for our continued survival.

The current approval allows opening between:

- 08:30–18:00 Mon to Sat
- 10:00–16:00 Sundays & Bank Holidays

We propose to extend the operating hours to:

- 08:30– 22:00, 7 days a week including public holidays.

Business Background & Economic Considerations

CARAMELLO
— Cafés —

Caramello Café is a locally owned independent business that has been serving the community since 2016. In recent times, we have faced significant challenges, including inflation, rising energy costs, increasing staff wages, and heightened competition from new hospitality venues opening nearby.

As an SME, we are committed to sustaining local employment and continuing to contribute to the local economy. Over the past few years, several new businesses have opened on the main high street, offering similar services and directly competing with us. As a result, our turnover has declined, and we are struggling to maintain profitability. The ability to extend our opening hours would allow us to counteract this loss and help ensure the long-term sustainability of our business. Without this extension, we fear that we may not be able to survive, putting the business and our employees at risk.

Currently, we employ approximately 15 staff members, many of whom are local residents. If we are unable to adapt to the competitive landscape, we may be forced to reduce staffing levels, which would have a direct impact on local employment. By extending our opening hours, we will be able to retain jobs and continue contributing to the local economy.

The additional trading time would allow us to diversify our menu offerings, serve a wider clientele, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the business.

Noise Impact & Previous Assessments

A **Noise Impact Assessment** was previously conducted for the premises by **Nova Acoustics (this can be found on the planning portal reference 126305/FO/2020)**, confirming that:

- **Noise levels from the premises are lower than the key locations of concern** (adjacent property and the dwelling across the street).
- **The existing party wall is a 400mm brick wall**, which provides adequate sound insulation, requiring no additional treatment.
- **Double-glazed windows** installed at the premises effectively mitigate sound breakout.
- At the time of the original assessment, **national noise policy guidelines** indicated no major concerns regarding noise levels.

Given that the acoustic consultants have confirmed that there is **no expiry date for the noise assessment**, we believe that our request to extend operating hours are reasonable.

Location and Context

The café is situated off of Wilmslow Road, a high-profile and vibrant location known for its diverse hospitality offerings. Within 60 seconds of walking distance, there are restaurants and pubs already operating past our proposed opening times.

Given this context, the proposed extension to 10:00 PM aligns with the existing activity in the area.

Commitment to Managing Noise & Community Impact

We acknowledge that a previous noise complaint was lodged by a neighbouring property. However, we are taking **proactive measures** to ensure that our extended hours do not lead to any new disturbances. These include:

- **No Music Policy:** The venue will not play background or amplified music to limit noise breakout.
- **Fine Dining & Controlled Capacity:** The business will operate as a **booking-only fine dining experience**, meaning we can **manage the number of guests at any given time**, preventing excessive foot traffic or overcrowding.
- **No Alcohol Sales:** The premises **does not have a license for alcohol** and will not be serving alcoholic beverages, thereby reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour associated with late-night drinking establishments.
- **Noise Management Plan:**
 - Ensuring windows remain closed as much as possible during trading hours.
 - Additional staff training to minimise operational noise, including the handling of waste and closing procedures.
 - Respecting the local community by monitoring and managing customer behaviour outside the premises.

Supporting Local Employment & Community

As a small business, we provide jobs for local residents and contribute positively to the area. Given the cost-of-living crisis, inflation, rising energy costs, and supply chain challenges, it is more critical than ever to support independent businesses.

Allowing us to operate until 10PM would provide a modest yet vital extension to our trade, helping us remain competitive while ensuring compliance with all planning and environmental regulations.

Conclusion

Given the points outlined above—including the existing noise report, our commitment to responsible operations, and the economic necessity for this extension—we believe that this request aligns with both business sustainability and community well-being.

We respectfully request the local planning authority's favourable consideration of this application. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

We look forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely

M. Khan

Mamoon Khan

RENOVIVE - Director

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