

Comments for Planning Application 141642/JO/2024

Application Summary

Application Number: 141642/JO/2024

Address: 9 Egerton Crescent Manchester M20 4PN

Proposal: Variation of condition 3 (hours of opening) from planning approval reference 123650/FO/2019 to allow the premises to be open: Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 08:00 - 22:30 ; Thursday, Friday and Saturday 08:00 - 01:00; and Sunday 08:00 - 22:30

Case Officer: Holly Wright

Customer Details

Name: Not Available

Address: Not Available

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of the Public

Stance: Customer made comments in support of the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment: Since Something More Productive opened in Withington, Theo and the team have created a sense of community in Withington village that I haven't seen since moving to Withington nearly seven years ago. The cafe provides the most wonderful atmosphere for students, professionals, families and friends to meet and relax. The service is fantastic, the coffee and menu are brilliant and I regularly recommend SMP. I've noticed that family and friends often go on to discover other independent shops within Withington such as Mockingbird, Beg Borrow and Steal, and Ice Shack where previously they thought Withington had not a lot going on. The SMP events in the evening are welcoming and the music nights are providing a space for incredible musicians to perform in Withington. Given that Manchester is home to some of the UK's best music talent it is wonderful to see a local venue providing opportunities to musicians locally. The cafe is also providing jobs for local talent within hospitality and given the difficulties this industry has faced it's fantastic to see such talent working locally in Withington instead of having to work in more gentrified areas. SMP also supports and uses local coffee roasteries and food suppliers showing a real diligence and commitment to the wider business network within the community which is supporting ethical environmental practices, local jobs and high quality produce. It is these factors the council should be encouraging and whole heartedly supporting. They are the bedrock of the British high street which is often cited as the hub of community. I believe before SMP, Withington had lost it's community hub through the closure of other local independent businesses and through Covid.

Given the current economic climate and increasing costs due to so many factors beyond the control of local business owners, I fully support SMP's petition to extend business hours as a local resident. Not only will this enable them to stay afloat financially but it will also be a welcome

addition to the evening life in Withington. Their evenings are an extension of their wonderful day time provision serving natural wines and bruschetta. The events such as the jazz music nights, the guest chefs, barista training and quiz nights are welcoming, fun and they are safe and inclusive for all - as a female resident, Withington hasn't always felt safe. As always SMP is respectful to its neighbours and only looks to see how it can benefit and be an addition to the local area. These are attributes another chain store would not care for.

If these hours were not permitted, the reality is SMP would struggle to stay afloat financially. This would be a huge loss to the Withington area. It would cause job loss, financial loss to other local business such as suppliers (Long Bois) and secondary beneficiaries (Mockingbird), it would be a loss to the blossoming local culture and personally, I'd very much lose faith in my local council.

I hope the council recognises the importance of SMP within Withington and does all they can to work with Theo and his team to support the longevity of SMP as a small independent business.