



Variation of Condition 5- Extend Opening Hours

Application 071247/FU/2004/N2

Filli Cafe - Rusholme
113 Wilmslow Rd
Manchester
M14 5AN

Date: 18/12/24

Request to extended opening hours from 09:00am to 01:00am Monday to Sunday including Bank Holidays to the above premises.

Dear Sir/ Madam
Manchester City Council

We are writing to formally request a variation of the existing planning condition that restricts the operating hours of our café. The current approval allows opening between:

- 09:00–23:30 Sunday to Thursday
- 09:00–Midnight Friday & Saturday

We propose to extend the operating hours to:

- 09:00–01:00, 7 days a week including public holidays.

Filli Café- Background and Brand Ethos



The proposed café is part of a globally recognized and well-established brand, operating in over 10 countries worldwide. Its ethos centers around creating a welcoming environment where individuals can gather for meaningful conversations over tea, fostering a sense of community and social well-being.

This ethos extends beyond mere commercial operation; the café aims to become a cornerstone for social interaction and mental health awareness in the local area. Events such as community discussions, and other well-being activities are planned to encourage inclusivity and support local needs. The extended hours would facilitate these initiatives, allowing the café to operate as a late-night destination for those seeking a safe, social, and relaxing space.

The below contains a website link providing further information on the brand and its identity.

<https://fillicafe.co.uk/>

Location and Context

The café is situated on Wilmslow Road, a high-profile and vibrant location known for its diverse hospitality offerings. Within 60 seconds of walking distance, several shisha cafés operate until 4:00 AM. Moreover, the neighbouring property is currently trading until midnight and extends its hours to 1:00 AM on Fridays and Saturdays.

Given this context, the proposed extension to 1:00 AM aligns with the existing late-night activity in the area. The café's operations will naturally attract late-night customers seeking a non-alcoholic, safe, and tranquil environment, fitting seamlessly into the existing nighttime economy.

Mitigating Concerns

1. Noise and Disturbance

- The property benefits from acoustic insulation and double-glazed windows, significantly reducing the potential for noise disturbance to neighbouring properties.
- Unlike establishments serving alcohol, the café does not contribute to the type of noise or activity typically associated with antisocial behaviour.

2. Alcohol-Free Premises

- The café does not hold an alcohol license and will not serve alcoholic beverages. This greatly minimizes the risk of antisocial behaviour, ensuring the space remains safe and welcoming for all patrons, including families and vulnerable individuals.

3. Community and Social Well-being

- By hosting events focused on social and mental health issues, the café will serve as a positive influence in the community. Extended hours will allow for greater flexibility in scheduling such events, particularly for those who may only be available during late-night hours.
 - The café provides an alternative to more disruptive late-night venues, offering a quiet and comfortable space for people to socialise and unwind.
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Compliance with Existing Patterns

The extended hours will not introduce any significant deviation from the established late-night activity in the area. With nearby establishments already trading well beyond midnight, the café's extended hours will fit harmoniously into the local trading patterns.

Furthermore, as a café and not a licensed premise, it offers a unique alternative to other venues, catering to a diverse audience seeking a safe, quiet, and alcohol-free environment. This complements the area's existing offerings and enhances its reputation as a destination for hospitality and social interaction.

Conclusion

This application seeks to extend the café's operating hours to 1:00 AM, seven days a week, including public holidays. The proposed variation aligns with the character of the area, reflects the café's ethos, and incorporates robust measures to mitigate any potential disturbances. Given the existing trading patterns, the café's alcohol-free operations, and its focus on social well-being, the extended hours will contribute positively to the community and the local economy without introducing undue risk or disruption.

We respectfully request the local planning authority's favourable consideration of this application.

This request reflects our vision for the café and its role as a community hub while aligning with the trading patterns of the surrounding area.

Yours sincerely

M . Khan

Mamoon Khan
RENOVIVE - Director
07478616180