

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 November 2020 17:50
To: Dave Etheridge
Subject: External Email : Licensing Review. Deedar Barnt Green

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Good afternoon David,

I'm writing to give my community endorsement for Deedar Barnt Green in regards to the licensing review that is currently in process.

I am a regular at the restaurant and was there on the 20th November evening when the two police officers entered.

In regards to the working practices at the Deedar. I've been a regular for 13 years – Waiting for a take away almost every week and about once a month eating in (lock down periods excluded of course).

As far as their Covid response. They have separators between each table and, when eating in was allowed, they kept strictly to the 6 per table policy, taking names and details from diners for track and trace. They have Covid tracking Q codes in several places alongside hygiene gel dispensers. The staff wear face masks with the exception of one who I believe is medically exempt

As mentioned above, I was one of the customers in the restaurant that evening while waiting for my take-away. I believe there were a handful of other customers. All had been seated separately – no mixing was allowed and the few drinks that were brought were taken to the table by the staff. Customers were only allowed to sit while they waited for food and left promptly after getting their food.

There were two customers who left as I was waiting for my food last week. I do not know how regularly they are at the restaurant but I can say that, in 13 years of going about once a week, I have never seen them in there before. While I was there they had one drink. They appeared entirely compos-mentis. One of them spoke to me clearly asking if I had heard a taxi arrive and directions to the WC - He spoke without slurring and with no evidence of intoxication - To my knowledge they only had one drink in the restaurant.

The restaurant has always been well run. They have enforced a clear policy on alcohol over the years. I have seen them several times refusing to serve alcohol to customers where it seemed inappropriate to do so. On one occasion a staff member, after refusing to serve a member of the public with alcohol noticed them walking to the Tesco store a few doors away and went into Tesco and warned them that this person was inebriated and shouldn't be served. I have also witnessed them refuse entry to individuals or groups who appeared to be intoxicated.

In terms of their responsibility in regards to serving alcohol that I have seen over my many visits going back 13 years - I can say after some thought, that they routinely exhibit the highest standards of control and compliance.

A palpably and demonstrably higher standard than I see exhibited by most public houses and restaurants, both local and city centre.

During none Covid times the restaurant is often full and is a hub for the community. A few years ago it was all but destroyed by ingress of water from a leaking pipe from the flat above. (Apparently it is incorrect to call this a “flood” – but parochially that is what it was). It took months of effort for the restaurant to recover and was missed by many in the community. The Deedar is a highly regarded, well managed, hygienic and friendly restaurant that is very much valued by the majority of the community.

The staff have helped out in the community regularly. I have attended many charity events there to raise money for Leukaemia research and the BHF. They deliver take aways to elderly residents free of charge. An example being [REDACTED], an 85 year old who lives alone 2 doors from the restaurant and other locals who are not mobile. Often going “the extra mile”.

The management and staff work hard over a period of many years to play a full and acknowledged part in the local community. I understand that, in common with most restaurants of this type, that the responsible sale of alcohol to be consumed on the premises makes up a sizable percentage of their income and without a license the restaurant is likely to be unfeasible as a business.

I would ask that my comments which I believe represent the views and experience of most local residents is considered when making your decision.

Thank you for your time David,

Regards

Dr Paul Rone-Clarke
[REDACTED] Hewell Road
Barnt Green
B45 [REDACTED]