ST/0975/20/VC - 181B Sunderland Road -

Statement in support of application for Variation of opening hours -

Harton Hop House has applied for a variation in opening hours. The variation is ultimately required to give the business the best chance of survival post COVID-19.

The cafe/restaurant business has been devastated by COVID-19 and since March 2020 has only been open for trade 10 weeks, and this was under restricted conditions.

9 people are currently employed and the Applicants hope that they can continue to employ these people in the future, post COVID-19.

They would like the option of opening from 9a.m. to enable them to provide an additional service of breakfast and brunch, coffees, and pastries.

They would also like to be open until 11p.m. 7 days a week.

They are only a small establishment and therefore need to maximise the hours that they trade. The restricted hours are damaging the business, losing opportunities such as trading on Bank Holidays and in particular the Sunday before Bank holidays is very popular in the area, as are Christmas and New Year.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions they have had to reduce the number of people that can sit in the building and therefore the extra hours would create a chance for another round of custom from 8p.m. – 10p.m. on a Sunday for example.

If granted the extra hours, they would have the option of being able to operate theme nights where they can change the menu to attract more custom. This would be done on a ticket/booking basis so the numbers could be controlled.

The extra hours would give the business the best opportunity for survival and protect jobs.

The Applicants are conscious of their local community and neighbours so on the nights in question they would offer a service of ordering taxis for customers so they wouldn't need to wait outside the premises, and all refuse would be bagged and disposed of on the next day to prevent any noise nuisance.