

To: the Clerk of the Licensing Board

Re: Application for Provisional Premises Licence

Applicant: Milestone Garden and Leisure Ltd

Premises: Greenhouse Café, 6 Buccleuch Street, Melrose TD6 9LD

I am writing to register my very serious concern about this application.

Currently, the Greenhouse Café is open daily between 8am and 6pm. The hours being applied for are (for 'on sale') until midnight Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday; until 1am Thursday, Friday & Saturday. If this application were approved, the Café would, in effect, be open all the waking hours of every day.

However well-run the Café is, this would inevitably result in more noise – people coming and going, sitting outside the café eating, drinking & talking, cars and taxis - until some time after the Café shuts.

There is already, sometimes, some noise disturbance as people leave nearby Marmions, open until 9pm. Similarly, since it became an "events" venue, there can be music and noise from Harmony House late into the evening. Buccleuch Street is already very busy with passing traffic from early morning until evening. (Indeed, I understand there is even discussion about making a pedestrian crossing!)

There is every reason to think that, for neighbouring residents, not to mention guests in B&Bs near the Café, approval of this application would further alter the dynamic of Buccleuch Street and bring yet more noise disturbance. It could even potentially affect the value of our properties.

I hope that the Licensing Board will consider this application very carefully and with imagination, not only in terms of the impact of its approval on those living near the Café, but also with regard to the town as a whole. Tourism and the hotels, cafés and restaurants in the town clearly bring in a lot of trade. But it is a small town and surely needs some protection from continual expansion and development. Otherwise, sadly, Melrose seems to be in real danger of losing much of its unique charm and appeal, for residents and visitors alike.

Agnes Young

5th December 2019