

POLICE FEEDBACK TO CONSULTATION

Chief Inspector Ben Starns

“You will appreciate that if we have multiple premises, all competing, with each other to extend their opening times past 0330, then from a policing perspective we will potentially be in difficulty providing policing cover at that time of the morning. There is also the risk to their customers dispersing at 0400-0500 in the morning re their personal safety and a shortage of taxis and other public transport at that time, as well as potential problems with noise nuisance and disorder. As you often correctly point out, there are increasing numbers of residential units being created in vacant properties in High Street and surrounding areas as they are converted from commercial to flats. Another risk of course is that late night kebab and burger bars will also be keen to extend their hours too to cater for customers leaving premises 04:00-05:00, thus potentially adding to dispersal problems.

We are conscious that legally you cannot simply state “no variation applications past 03:30 will be accepted” in a new statement of licensing policy as it is likely to attract legal challenge.

Whilst we appreciate there is legally and politically no easy solution to the above, we request that the above is considered when you debate your Crawley Statement of licensing policy renewal, please.”