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Mansons Guitar Shop Limited
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10 Feb. 16

I am writing in regard to a licence application at McCoys Arcade, 22 Fore st, Exeter. EX4 3AN.

Gary Williams of Camper Coffee has applied for the right to sell alcohol between the hours of 07:00-23:00 and for live music at the same times 7 days a week.

I strongly object to these requests as a retailer in this arcade for the last 13 years, for the following reasons:

We have had to install locks on the two toilet doors (for use by arcade retailers and their customers exclusively) to prevent drug users wandering in from the street and using the toilets and leaving drug paraphernalia and hypodermic syringes in these. The Arcade is regularly the scene of drug dealing and this area of Fore st has recently been under scrutiny by the police with regard to anti-social disorder in connection to the legal high shop just adjacent to it.

We, as musical instrument retailers, have received complaints from the flats above (Signpost Housing) with regard to noise nuisance from guitar playing during our working hours (9:00-5:30 Monday – Saturday)) despite our sound proofing expenditure to prevent this. Historically every evening event that has been held in the arcade by the previous licence holder (McCoys) was complained about by pyjama wearing neighbours as there is no sound proofing in the arcade or cafe area. These flats above are family houses with young children.

I also question how many licensed evening premises Fore st needs? I feel there are enough already. I noticed many broken shop front windows in the Fore st area on Monday morning this week – after the usual Fore st, alcohol fuelled weekend.

Yours, Hugh Manson.

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