

Mr Rhys Richards,

Thursday 15th June 2023

The Licensing Section,
Caerphilly County Borough Council,
Penallta House,
Tredomen Park,
Ystrad Mynach,
Hengoed,
CF82 7PG

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Pizza Bites, 2B Penallta Road, Ystrad Mynach, CF82 7AP

It has been brought to my attention that the above named shop has applied for an extension in its operating and licensing hours. After several reports were made to you by myself and other residents that they were operating illegally outside of their licensing hours for several months they were told that they could no longer be open past their licensing hours and needed to apply for a late licence. I would like to say that they have ignored any guidance you have given them and are still operating illegally after hours into the early hours of the morning on many occasions.

I am writing to you as a local resident of the area the concerns I have regarding this and that I would like to **oppose** this proposition. Pizza Bites has been operating for approx. 2 years and there has been nothing but difficulty with noise, litter, parking, waste disposal and gangs of youths, anti-social behaviour and criminal damage.

- 1) **Noise Pollution** – Pizza Bites has a high volume of noise when operating, the noise of the fans, gangs of youths (screaming and shouting), music playing to a unrespectable levels during and after closing, bins being emptied late at night. I have complained about this to the establishment on a number of occasions and to the council but when the visit takes place and advice is given to them, no progress or action is taken to reduce the level of noise coming from there.
- 2) **Parking** – Parking is an ongoing issue in Ystrad town centre as you are probably aware with the meeting we have had with the councillors, highways and the police. Again, we were promised deterrents for the parking issues and nothing has been done. Posts were installed but the shop workers, customers and delivery drivers continue to still place the access to the lane and to my house and drive. I come home everyday with not being able to access my own property because there is simply no respect for the local community. This again is not just a reflection on Pizza Bites but the links to other shops run by the same people. I have been met with confrontation a number of times when I have asked them to move their vehicles which has made me feel unsafe in my own town.
- 3) **Litter** – Everyday I am cleaning up empty takeaway containers and rubbish that has been left on the floor in the lane outside my house from their shop. The amount of litter that is being distributed as a result of their shop is utterly disgusting and it would only take a couple of days of waste to make it look deprived and run down.



- 4) **Bins & Waste** – The access to the lane to Penallta Road to the rear of Cylla Lodge is always blocked by commercial waste bins along with residential bins and there is simply no room for them to be placed there. The oil waste has on a number of occasions been emptied into the drainage and has been knocked over and dragged through the lane to the rear of my house. It is an environmental hazard to continue to operate the way that they currently are. In my opinion opening for longer hours and sticking to their own rules with no consequences will only make things worse and it is a complete utter eye sore.
- 5) **Issues with Gangs and aggressive behaviour**- This problem does not only revolve around this particular shop but the link it has with other local shops (barber shop, Ystrad mini market, vape shop) causing an unbelievable amount of anti-social behaviour, leading to the point in which my partner got threatened with a knife inside Pizza Bites on 22/04/2023. I don't want to live near a place that attracts this type of behaviour and people around. I am now on anti-depressants and medication for my anxiety as a result of all this ongoing issues with gangs of teenagers laundering outside my house. Not only teenagers but grown adults who are customers from this establishment show signs of aggression when asked to be quite or to pick up their litter.
- 6) **Criminal Damage** – As a result of this shop in its current climate, I have been faced with criminal damage to my property, car and motor home. Many occasions my solar lights have been snapped off the walls or stolen because of the custom that they attract. If they do this in light hours what could they do if its dark with later operating hours. I have had kids sitting on my car bonnet eating their food and rubbing sauce over my vehicles. Dents in my motorhome because they are unable to not kick balls in a confined area.

I hope you can understand why I am writing to you to oppose this decision, not only for the above points raised but for the upkeep and attraction to Ystrad Mynach has taken a downward spiral and an upward trend for the wrong types of behaviours. Again, I want to alliterate that they have constantly broken the rules and regulations around their licensing and now could be potentially awarded for bad behaviour. My mental health is taking a huge hit because of the continuation of events surrounding the shop in question and link shops and I have no idea what I will do if they are granted. They have no respect for us as residents and until prosecuted for their rule braking will probably continue to do what they want, when they want with no consequences from the council or police authorities.

If you do need to know or what any further information on what I face daily as a nearby resident of this establishment, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My number is [REDACTED] or you can write to me on the above address.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]
Rhys Richards.