

THE KNIGHTSBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

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February 2010

Dear Neighbour,

IMPORTANT: MAMOUNIA LOUNGE **136 Brompton Road**

You will probably know that Mamounia, who run an establishment in Mayfair, are opening a ‘lounge/restaurant’ at 136 Brompton Road, SW3. We are exceedingly concerned about the late licensing hours they have been permitted by the Royal Borough of Kensington, and intend to appeal against them.

Mamounia originally applied for a licence to provide alcoholic drinks until 5.00 am every night. We resisted this strongly, and 149 local residents wrote to RBKC opposing the application. Thereafter RBKC rejected the application, but have offered Mamounia a licence to stay open until 00.30 on Sundays to Wednesdays and until 01.30 on Thursdays to Saturdays. We remain convinced these hours are too late for the locality and – having taken legal advice – believe we have strong grounds for our appeal.

Grounds for Appeal:

1. RBKC’s own policy statement says “This licensing authority will not generally grant licences with terminal hours beyond 12 midnight...when its discretion has been triggered by the receipt of relevant representations” – 149 in this case.
2. In addition, RBKC argued “the majority of licensed premises in the area cease trading between 22.00 hours and 01.30 hours”. But there are no others on Brompton Road with opening hours beyond 00.30 hours. (The situation in Beauchamp Place, where a few restaurants do open later, is of course, quite different.)

The legal costs of an appeal, if we lose, will run to some £2,000. But if we get costs given against us – which we are advised is extremely unlikely in this case - the figure might increase by £4,000, to £6,000 or more.

Please turn over/.....

Nonetheless we believe it is **vital** to do everything in our power to fight this case because, whatever is claimed to the contrary, it is bound to become a precedent for other restaurants/licensees, and Brompton Road could soon become a 'destination' for late night drinking, particularly in the summer, which I am sure everyone living in the neighbourhood would deplore.

In the present recession your Executive Committee does not wish to deplete the Knightsbridge Association's existing funds, if this can be avoided. So I am writing to ask if you would make a contribution to a Fighting Fund we have set up to meet our legal costs. If, like most local people, you feel strongly about this issue, please use the form below and the reply-paid envelope to respond. Should we raise more funds than are required we will hold the extra balance in the Association's reserves for the future.

Thank you in advance for your support. It is crucially important to make the local councils realise how strongly we residents feel about this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Winston Fletcher
Chairman



To: The Knightsbridge Association, Freepost London, SW7 1EZ

I/we enclose a cheque for £10.....£25.....£50.....£100.....£250..... (please tick) to help fight this vitally important case.

Name

Address

.....

Email address.....

Cheques to be made out to The Knightsbridge Association.

or

Online banking donations can be made to:

The Knightsbridge Association Sort Code 40-04-10 Account Number 31595180