

**From:** Shuhel Ahmed  
**Sent:** 04 September 2019 13:33  
**To:** Yvonne Raine <  
**Subject:** Spice Island, Barnard Castle - Premises licence application

Dear Yvonne Raine,

Here is additional information which I would like to be distributed and added to the committee hearing tomorrow.

Thank you

Shuhel Ahmed







**Dear Sir/Madam,**

Thank you for your recent report about flytipping at 9 Market Place, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NF, Reference number FS-Case-

We aim to respond to your report within 3 working days. However if the fly-tipping is located on the highway we will aim to respond as soon as possible. In cases where we have identified a need for an enforcement investigation, this may take longer than expected. Please bear with us during this time.

Kind regards,

**Neighbourhood Protection Team  
Durham County Council**

Ms K Brown dumped her bins in our shared area as-well as sending two people to intimidate the staff and myself.

**It has been reported to Durham County Council as fly tipping.**

**Her aggressive behaviour by sending extra people to intimidate the staff and myself is uncalled for and appalling behaviour.**

**Yvonne Raine**

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**From:** Councillor Lee <  
**Sent:** 15 July 2019 16:00  
**To:** Yvonne Raine  
**Subject:** Subject: FW: Licensing Committee Report - 16th July 2019 - Spice Island, 9 Market Place, Barnard Castle

Good afternoon Yvonne,  
Thank you for taking my telephone call.  
As discussed I wish to submit a character reference for Mr Shuhel Ahmed who is applying for a Premises Licence for 9 Market Place Barnard Castle.

I apologise for this late entry but I have only been notified of your meeting on my return from holiday. Despite the lateness of the delivery I do hope that the chair of the Licencing Committee will allow members to read my support letter for Mr Shuhel.

As a member of Darlington Borough Council Licensing Committee I am aware of all the safety objectives related to Licencing activities.

I have know Mr Ahmed for a number of years in his capacity of proprietor of the Mango Bean cafe in Darlington.

He is a hard working family man who runs a good business where to my knowledge there have been no complaints. He is well known in Darlington for his charity giving events particularly feeding the homeless on Boxing Day. This has become an annual event which seems to get bigger every year. It is much appreciated and much welcomed by the Homeless who can drop into the cafe at their own time and leave when ready.

I believe Mr Ahmed to be honest and trustworthy.

I am sure that he will run his business in Barnard Castle with the same quality, efficiency and consideration to his staff, customers and neighbours as he continues to do in Darlington which will continue to provide work for local people and because of the excellent food served,I feel his restaurant will improve the shopping offer in Barnard Castle and help attract more people to this lovely market town.

Thank you,

Councillor G G. Lee

Heighington & Coniscliffe Ward

Telephone 1

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## **Yvonne Raine**

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**From:** J Long  
**Sent:** 23 July 2019 06:27  
**To:** Yvonne Raine  
**Subject:** Reference Spice Island, Barnard Castle

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Ms. Raine,

I understand that you have another meeting with Zak Ahmed of Spice Island this week with regards to the licensing application they have recently made & wanted to show them support from a professional & personal / residential viewpoint.

I have recently worked with the team at Spice Island in terms of pulling together a business plan & marketing support for their new concept in creating the cocktail bar, a fully revamped restaurant & takeaway service & beyond.

The team have great plans which will offer opportunities for work in the local area as well as within the north east, build opportunities for business growth again within the local infrastructure & the north east & look to provide a destination eating experience to draw people in to Barnard Castle & help with tourism as well as general visiting spend.

From a personal point of view, the cocktail bar comes as a much welcome proposal with myself & my more discerning group of friends.

The opportunity for a quality, upmarket social drink is few & far between unfortunately in Barnard Castle these days so to have something a little different and one that offers later drinking hours but in a more discerning & relaxed atmosphere than other establishments in town comes as a great relief.

Having moved in to the area almost 5 years ago I know Barnard Castle can be difficult to introduce change, especially when introducing something a bit different. However, BC is awash with cafes much of the same offering & charity shops. For those of us who would like to keep the town centre alive I believe the team at Spice Island have a great opportunity. Plus if you look at their track record & what they've done to support the local community over many years I think we're lucky to think they want to create their new proposal here in Barnard Castle & not somewhere else further afield drawing visitors & locals out of town.

I'd be happy to comment further should you require it & hope you can see the positives in these plans & proposals far outweigh the negatives & small majority of 'sales prevention' style attitudes unfortunately appear to have been put forward.

I appreciate you taking your time to read this & am keeping all crossed for a positive outcome for Zak & the team.

Kind regards

J

J Long

28/08/2019

Re: Spice Island/Babuls, 9 Market Place, Barnard Castle, DL12 8NF

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to take this opportunity to give my SUPPORT to the above application. In Barnard Castle we are lucky to have two Indian restaurants who have a healthy competition which drives up standards for both establishments – this is of great benefit to residents and visitors of Barnard Castle. The family who own and run Spice Island/Babuls have been an integral part of the Barnard Castle community for decades. Spice Island/Babuls have a long and proven track record of providing a safe drinking and eating experience in Barnard Castle. It is evident that the owners of the restaurant have always put public safety first and there is nothing to suggest that this will not continue.

Spice Island/Babul's have always contributed to the wellbeing of our local community and its residents. When my father was a Councillor (and Mayor) in the 1980's and early 1990's the owners of the business often provided support and aid to local community events, this support has only grown over the years. In my years of voluntarily organising community events the help and support of from Spice Island/Babuls has been invaluable. In recent years family events, such as Barnard Castle Meet, have benefited from fundraising events organised by the restaurant which, during financially lean years, helped ensure Barnard Castle Meet's survival. The owners also have a long history of organising safe small-scale family events in Barnard Castle, such as story book readings in the Main Hall at The Witham in Barnard Castle, these have been well attended and enjoyable for people of all ages.

Barnard Castle is currently missing a link in its late licensing offering. The premises in town that currently hold late licenses are great for young people, however they are not appealing for many middle-aged people like myself who want to be able to enjoy a drink in a safe and relaxed atmosphere without the hustle and bustle of venues whose focus is to attract younger drinkers. The loss of several middle-aged patrons such as myself and my friends, who often travel to places such as Yarm for nights out, has a detrimental effect on other pubs in the town as we are less likely to go out due to the lack of suitable drinking establishments later in the evening. Since the Kings Head was turned into a nursing home Barnard Castle town centre has been missing one of its high-quality nightspots, Spice Island/Babuls are looking to help fill this void and will see myself and my friends choosing to go out in Barnard Castle on a more regular basis rather than travelling to Yarm.

With regards to late night licensing in Barnard Castle. I am old enough to remember the days before late licences were given in Barnard Castle when pubs would 'kick out' at 11pm. The archives of the Teesdale Mercury act as a testament to these times with weekly reports of court cases regarding anti-social behaviour and violence. Although late licences have been viewed by some as detrimental in some areas, in Barnard Castle they have had a great impact in helping to reduce the weekly fights,



violence and anti-social behaviour that took place in the 70's, 80's and 90's. This suggests that in Barnard Castle late licences have had a positive impact, just as this licence will.

I am not necessarily a believer that all competition is good however, in this case the new licence will increase competition in Barnard Castle which will allow a thousand flowers to bloom. Current market conditions mean that businesses need to change and adapt to survive. The changes that the owners are hoping to make are innovative and have been encouraged by competitive competition in the market. I fully expect there to be some objections from some businesses in the area who feel threatened by the increase in competition, be it other bars, cafe's or even those that offer similar small sized community events however, this objections merely highlight a fear of change and can often demonstrate a weakness in their own business plans as well as an unwillingness to change and adapt to provide an improved offering.

I urge you to grant this licence, this will encourage a healthy competitive market in Barnard Castle which will foster a healthier and improved high street and night time market for Barnard Castle. Standards across food and drinking establishments in the town will be driven up which will be of benefit to residents and visitors to the town. Barnard Castle's evening and night time trade needs a boost, and this will play an important part in improving the prospects for Barnard Castle going forward as well as providing for people who currently travel away from the area to enjoy an evening out. Spice Island/Babuls have a long history of providing a safe drinking environment for its patrons and all evidence suggests that this will continue.

Yours faithfully

T Deacon

## Yvonne Raine

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**From:** S Phillips  
**Sent:** 18 July 2019 12:41  
**To:** Yvonne Raine  
**Subject:** Spice Island Support

Hello,

I just wanted to extend my support to Zak and his team at spice island. I believe his plans will be a great asset to the town.

Sadly any time the idea of alcohol being served in extended hours is mentioned, it's always the negative worriers that shout up.

We already have a couple of late open places in town that service the very young or regular drinkers. My friends and I often travel to larger towns to get a nice cocktail and good food etc. It would be nice to have somewhere for us rather than just the "club style" bars who seem to get these later licenses.

Zak cares about our town. I have known him for many years. He works very hard and his staff are brilliant. I just feel it will be a nice addition for locals and tourists alike. Who knows it may even attract more clients like my friends and I.

I hope that you will consider the application and grant it's approval.

Thank you very much for your time.

Kind Regards

S Phillips

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