

Appendix 8

Michelle Williamson

From: Michael Hartnack
Sent: 29 October 2023 22:26
To: Licensing
Subject: Objection to Licensing Applications 138 Newcastle Road - Fulwell Ward.

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Please record the following as an objection to the licensing application IN ITS ENTIRITY for the premises known as 138 Newcastle Road, Fulwell, Sunderland.

As an elected councillor, former senior police officer and resident of Fulwell, I make representation in the strongest possible terms, objecting to the granting of ANY off licence sale of alcohol at the premises known as 138 Newcastle Road, Fulwell, Sunderland.

Sunderland Council's four licensing objectives are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

When the premises subject of this application previously operated as an off licence, I recall being the Deputy Police Commander for Sunderland and responsible for licensing issues across the City. These premises were frequently the subject of serious crime, with many incidents of theft of alcohol, at least one armed robbery and on one occasion I recall, a shop assistant being taken hostage at knifepoint while being forced to hand over the content of the till. The location of a business with such a focus on the sale of alcohol is wholly inappropriate, not only in respect of sales up to 2am or 3am but all sales at whatever time of the day. Coupled with the serious and consistent crime outlined above, were frequent instances of disorder in the streets around the premises - this is a vulnerable and almost isolated area within an established and otherwise tranquil residential area, in which an off licence premises of this type is neither needed or wanted, when alcohol is available for purchase and consumption both on and off premises within such a close proximity to 138 Newcastle Road - eg, The Grange Public House, Tesco Supermarket, Asda Petrol Station, Aldi Supermarket and others.

The proposed opening times of 7.00am - 3.00am is outrageous and will be objected to on a number of fronts: it goes against every moral and ethical stance on tackling excessive alcohol consumption; the proposed premises sits at the heart of

a residential area and therefore would once again be a magnet for antisocial and criminal behaviour, disturbing the peace and the every day lives of local residents; there are already several shops in the surrounding area that sell alcohol, therefore no more are required.

Approving this application would be a direct contradiction of these objectives.

In addition to this, our hospitals are pushing awareness of the impact of alcohol related injuries and illness which appear to have increased on the back of the pandemic -

‘We promote and sign post patients in our clinics and are seeing a high number of patients alcohol dependent ‘

Therefore if the council approves this application they will be adding to the NHS challenges and going against their advice.

This view is upheld by The World Health Organisation (WHO) who recommends, ‘The restricting of access to retail alcohol’ in order to reduce the harmful impact.

Every sensible source of information and advice on alcohol consumption suggests that we should not be providing more opportunities to access and consume alcohol, I would therefore expect Sunderland Council to fully uphold their key objectives and the advice of significant professionals when considering this proposal and support local residents by **rejecting** this application in its entirety.

Kind regards,

Cllr Michael Hartnack

(Conservative Councillor for Fulwell, Seaburn, South Bents)