

Dear Licensing Team,

31st May 2022

Re: Hornchurch Food & Wine, 77 Park Lane, Hornchurch, RM11 1BH vary a premises licence

I would like to make a written representation against the application of a Premises Licence Variation to the above business, regarding the sale of alcohol.

I have lived in Park Lane near to this parade of shops for over 15 years, so can see first-hand the impact this variation of licence will have on our community and my own individual well-being and that of my family. I am also a NHW coordinator for Park Lane. There are worries that even more alcohol being available on this parade, everyday from 6am until 11pm Monday to Sunday, will cause more anti-social behaviour, increase crime, disturbance to our sleep patterns, increase in noise levels with cars stopping and dropping, and even more traffic congestion. I directly understand and am impacted on what this late licence will bring. I recently spoke at a hearing regarding Select & Save in May 2021 and Park Lane Express in 2021 where limitations were set which relate to this area and parade.

These are my reasons against the application:

Public Safety

Park Lane is a highly residential area and a very busy road used as a cut through with people speeding daily. I have witnessed several traffic accidents here myself. The shop open everyday from 6am till 11pm, would mean more cars late at night, all trying to park in a limited area by the parade, and be a potential safety risk.

I'm most concerned that this shop will attract street drinkers into our area being open this early and late. This parade is used every morning and afternoon by children walking to school on their own or with family members. I have witnessed the beggars and homeless people that frequent Tesco Roneo Corner to then hang around this parade approaching people to buy alcohol and ask for money, it's frightening and intimidating for anyone. Street drinkers would be attracted morning and late at night there would also be an increase in noise, litter and even more broken glass. These problems already exist, so it'll only get worse. Rubbish is left outside the shop most days and children/ people in 'hoodies' even on a Sunday afternoon (image attached from Sunday 29th May). I have also had to call police several times recently to the parade as it attracts criminal and disturbing activity, this would increase further.

There is already a huge problem with 'poppers' and drugs along Park Crescent and the parade. This combined with the lure of alcohol, will make this parade even more attractive to street drinkers. In December 2019 residents witnessed a masked robbery just before Christmas of Hornchurch Food & Wine (situated in the middle of this parade) and there was an armed police chase ending by the corner of Hillcrest Road by this shop. The worry of extended hours until 23:00 fills me with concern and dread. Although this robbery was not a result of this premises, the location of this shop and increased alcohol along this parade makes this an even further hot spot for increased crime and further anti-social behaviour. The previous shop Red Rose Wines (located at these premises) now Park Lane Express would close early due to anti-social behaviour and the owner and family members had even attended previous hearings held as a result of residents' concerns and as a result of anti-social behaviour taking place in this area.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Would a business contact number and email address for the DPS or manager for local residents to register and resolve any complaints be available to promote the licensing object of the prevention of public nuisance, so that residents are able to present their concerns to the applicant in a private and confidential manner and this condition is no way troublesome to the license. There is no reason why a business and email address for purpose, it can be considered necessary to promote the licensing objective of the prevention of public nuisance in a confidential manner and that this is no way onerous to the licensee.

Extending the licensing hours would not meet the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime or disorder and the prevention of public nuisance. This is because opening times of 6am and closing times of 11pm are likely to encourage street drinkers and problem drinkers to be attracted to the area. The application does not present reasons that are satisfactory about why the shop wishes to sell alcohol at 6am in the morning.

Protection of Children from Harm

There are no clauses similar to those following, which are likely to prevent harm to children by making it harder for them to obtain alcohol:

2.h. A maximum of two children shall be allowed in the premises at one time;

4 Alcohol

c. Beer, cider, stout and lager on sale shall not exceed 6% ABV;

e. Outside the permitted hours all alcohol shall be screened off from sale and display by a physical and lockable shutter to which the premises licence holder / DPS shall hold the keys.

Are they planning irresponsible price promotions, which makes me feel they wish to remove single sales and strength? Can people raise concerns? Children already hang around this parade by the wall outside existing shops, intimidating passers by and causing a nuisance. The open spaces of the local parks make it easier for children to congregate.

Crime & Disorder

Data correct as of 29th May 2022 July 2021 data sourced via www.streetcheck.co.uk

Anti-social behaviour makes up nearly half of the stats wheel with second, violence and sexual crime nearly a quarter.

I am asking for the licensing committee to please factor in these highly worrying concerns and impacts to decline the application for a variation.

Kind regards
G Brooks
Park Lane
Hornchurch