



Licensing Authority
London Borough of Havering

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Your ref: Premises License Variation, Harold
News
Date: 26/04/2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Objection to part of Premises License variation – Harold News 110 Hilldene Avenue Romford, RM2 8DT

Police acknowledge receipt of an application for a premises licence variation for Harold News 110 Hilldene Avenue Romford, received on 29/03/2023. The applicant is Ms Kusumben Jayantilal Patel, their license number is: 24146.

They are seeking to vary their license conditions and extend their licensable hours:

VARY SALE BY RETAIL OF ALCOHOL OFF THE PREMISES to 06:00 HOURS TO 22:00 HOURS MONDAY TO SUNDAY.

CONDITION 17: NO BEER, LAGER, STOUT OF CIDER ABOVE 6% ABV MAY BE SOLD AT THE PREMISES

The current times to these are as follows:

SALE BY RETAIL OF ALCOHOL OFF THE PREMISES 10:00 to 19:30 MONDAY TO SUNDAY

In relation to the application received **Metropolitan Police** would like to object part of the application. The licensing objectives that Police are objecting under are as follows: Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety and the Prevention of Public Nuisance. The part we wish to object to is to Remove Condition 17: NO BEER, LAGER, STOUT OF CIDER ABOVE 6%ABV MAY BE SOLD AT THE PREMISES.

Hilldene Avenue houses the busiest shopping area in the Harold Hill and Harold Wood towns, there are a number of food stores, convenience stores, health stores and various other stores. Mainly during the summer this area has a lot of issues with street drinkers and homeless in the area drinking alcohol and generally causing anti social behaviour, mainly using the seated areas around Hilldene Avenue and Farnham Road. Having been a response team officer for a number of years in the London Borough of Havering, I have responded to a number of occasions where street drinkers, due to their levels of intoxication have caused ASB, committed public order

offences, violent crimes, shoplifted and in many occasions, had to be attended to by the London Ambulance Service due to being drunk and incapable. Having stronger alcohol at affordable prices will have a negative effect on the local community. Street drinkers are often alcoholics and use stronger and cheaper alcohol as an affordable way to drink and become intoxicated, stronger alcohol makes it easier for them to drink themselves to the point where they are sometimes completely unresponsive and put themselves at great risk.

Records show that in February 2023 there were 32 ASB related crimes and 25 shoplifting offences on Heaton ward, there is nothing to say that this is only being caused by street drinkers, however from experience these incidents go hand in hand with the kind of customers that will be purchasing the higher strength alcohol at an affordable price and if this kind of alcohol is made more available this statistics will only get worse.

I have also spoken to the local DWO for Heaton Ward, who shares the same opinion as myself in that having higher strength alcohol available and affordable will have a negative impact on the local business and community.

Police ask the sub committee to reject the aforementioned section of this application.

Yours Sincerely,

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PC Ellis GROTE
Licensing Officer