

Subject: Objection to the Alcohol Licence Application at Rasa Food & Wine, 20 Station Lane, Hornchurch, RM12 6NJ

Dear Officer,

We are writing as a married couple in our late seventies, both long-term residents of Hornchurch. We live very close to Station Lane and walk through this area almost every day, especially in the evenings, to collect our regular takeaway from the Chinese shop or fish and chips at Rumbles. We use this route around five times a week, and it is the only direct and safe walking path for us at our age.

For this reason, we wish to formally object to the proposed alcohol licence for the small shop at this address. In our view, granting another licence so close to several pubs and late-night venues will make this area significantly less safe for elderly residents like ourselves.

1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder

There are already many licensed premises in extremely close proximity:

- Sutton Arms (about 10–20 metres away)
- Vertigo
- Sortie
- Onyx
- Costcutter (directly next to the alley)
- Kevils (former Post Office, next to DVLA centre)
- Oncu Food Centre
- Sainsbury's, Iceland, Lidl all selling alcohol



With so many nearby outlets, this new shop would undoubtedly become a feeder point for cheap pre-loading before people enter the pubs. We already see groups of young men and women drinking on Station Lane and the High Street before nights out. Adding yet another alcohol retailer will worsen this problem and encourage even more street drinking.

2. Public Safety

As elderly residents, we walk slowly and carefully. It is already difficult for us when passing by people who are drinking or behaving erratically. We have on multiple occasions encountered drunk individuals blocking the pavement.

Granting another licence will only increase the number of people drinking outside, especially those who buy alcohol here before moving on to Sutton Arms and the nearby venues. This makes our regular evening walk to get food unsafe and unpredictable, and puts us at real risk of falling, being pushed, or feeling intimidated.

3. Prevention of Public Nuisance

Station Lane and the High Street already suffer from noise, bottles, cans and takeaway rubbish left on the pavements. On weekends especially, we see people shouting, staggering and leaving mess in the alleyways. Introducing another licensed shop right next to these existing issues will inevitably add to the nuisance.

We fear this new licence will extend the noise later into the evening, as people buy alcohol from this small shop and consume it outside, before heading into the pubs.

4. Protection of Children and Vulnerable People

There are many families, schoolchildren and elderly residents using this route daily. As a couple in our late seventies, we consider ourselves vulnerable, particularly in the evenings. We have witnessed drunken behaviour that makes us hesitant to leave our home after dark.

Granting another licence in such a saturated area will expose more children, families and older residents to antisocial behaviour, shouting, and street drinking.

5. No Community Need – Heavy Saturation Already

With Costcutter a few steps away, another off-licence next to Rumbles, and multiple supermarkets and pubs in the immediate area, there is absolutely no need for an additional alcohol shop. The saturation level around Station Lane and the High Street is already high, and adding another one offers no benefit to local residents only additional risk.

Conclusion

This part of Hornchurch is already struggling with street drinking and late-night disturbances. Allowing another alcohol licence next to established pubs will only feed the problem.

We respectfully ask the council to reject this application in the interest of protecting:

- local residents
- elderly people
- children and families
- the safety and character of our neighbourhood

We simply want to continue walking safely to collect our evening meal without fear or disturbance. At our age, the thought of more drinkers gathering around this area is deeply worrying.

Yours sincerely,



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