

To: Entertainment Licensing Section
Leeds City Council
Civic Hall
Leeds LS1 1UR

From: Dr S. E. Griffiths
Wood Lane
Headingley
Leeds LS6 2AE

Representing: Wood Lane Neighbourhood Residents' Association
(including Alma Road, Grove Road and Shire Oak Road)

**PREM/00635/005: Objection to the licence application by:
Sainsbury's, 12 - 16 Arndale Centre Otley Road Leeds LS6 2UE**

20 March 2014

As an Officer of the Wood Lane Neighbourhood Residents' Association, I am writing to oppose outright the application by Sainsbury's Supermarkets for a licence for the sale of alcohol daily from 07.00 – 23.00.

The application should be refused on the grounds that it contravenes the terms of the Cumulative Impact Policy, agreed by Leeds City Council, related to "the potential impact of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area" and that the onus lies with the applicant to demonstrate that "the application will not add to the cumulative impact being experienced" in Central Headingley. We are grateful that the line has been held reasonably effectively, until very recently. We neither need nor want, and strongly object to the prospect of further alcohol outlet licence extensions.

Central Headingley is a residential area which suffers an unacceptable extent of disorder, anti-social behaviour and damage resulting from the sales of alcohol for consumption on and off local business premises. There can be no case for support of this application to further increase such opportunities.

The location of the proposed Sainsbury's premises and the immediate vicinity is a "Designated Public Place", in which drinking alcohol in public is prohibited. This has been an important and welcome moderator of anti-social behaviour in the locality. For people to be given the opportunity to buy further supplies of alcohol at unsocial hours must be counter to this achievement. We cannot expect our Community Law Enforcement Officers to be on hand to police such activities in this vicinity for 16 hours in every day.

Crime and Disorder

There is substantial evidence of the crime and disorder that abounds throughout Headingley as a result of alcohol consumption. The more unpleasant elements are vomiting and urinating in public places and private gardens. The destructive elements include criminal damage to street furniture, signs, window boxes, planters, flower beds and parked cars. The granting of this licence must, inevitably, add to the alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour that occurs extremely frequently in Headingley.

The number of empty bottles and cans that are regularly strewn on the flower beds directly opposite the Arndale Centre and on the raised beds at the end of Wood Lane, make it very clear that there is drinking of alcohol in this public location, despite this being a "Designated Public Place". Wood Lane and Alma Road are at either end of the Arndale Centre.

These criminal acts cause a "loss of enjoyment" for residents of Headingley and inhibit the improvement of the appearance of the district. The evidence is that when people have been given the opportunity to drink alcohol to excess over extended periods they do not share these values.

Public Nuisance

Late night, noisy parties are a very common problem in central Headingley and cause considerable nuisance to residents. The intervention of Police Officers at locations within a short distance from the Arndale Centre must be a matter of record. It is wholly inappropriate for there to be an opportunity for such events to be extended, by access to replenishment of stocks of alcohol, every night of the week, when supplies are running low. This would also extend the hours in which noisy groups of inebriated people use our streets journeying to and from party premises to purchase alcohol, with further disturbance of residents. There are currently no off-sales licensed premises operating early morning or late night on Otley Road, thanks to the line being successfully held over many years.

Protection of Children from Harm

The Arndale Centre is in the middle of a residential community. We believe that a family, with four young children who are all of primary to secondary school age, lives immediately opposite the shopping parade, with bedrooms that overlook the site. The granting of this variation of licence has the potential to cause disturbance to them, to their detriment.

Public Safety

Walking through central Headingley during the evening can be an uncomfortable, even threatening experience, when there are groups of high-spirited, young people also on the pavements or running across the road. Any extension of the opportunity for such behaviour, by increased access to alcohol either late at night or early in the morning, must be unacceptable in terms of public safety.

Yours sincerely



Dr Sue Griffiths
Chair
Wood Lane Neighbourhood Residents' Association