

# Representation

## Section 1 – Licence application details

Please indicate as appropriate :

I wish to object to the following application:

I wish to support the following application:

Applicant premises name and address:

4 Branch Road

## Section 2 – Your personal details

Title Cllr

Mr  Mrs  Miss  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Surname Lowe

First name(s) Alison

Address (incl postcode):

45 Monk Ings Birstall WF17 9HU

Please note that a full copy of your representation (including your name and address) will be sent to the applicant and will be a public document at the hearing. If this is a concern please contact Entertainment Licensing and we will go through your options.

On what basis are you making this representation:

Resident

Business

Someone representing a resident or business:

## Section 3 – Representation grounds

The representation is relevant to one or more of the following licensing objectives:

Please tick relevant box(es)

Prevention of crime and disorder

Prevention of public nuisance

Protection of children from harm

Public safety

Please select :

I object to the application being granted at all

I object to the application being granted in its current form

**The grounds of the representation is based on the following:**

You need to complete this box as fully as possible. If you do not then the Licensing Authority may not be able to assess the relevance of your representation. Try to be as specific as possible and give examples, e.g. on 1 February I could hear loud music from the premises between 10pm and 1am. I am concerned that if the premises open until 2am this will cause a nuisance to me and other residents of the street.

I am a local councillor in Armley. For several years we have been blighted by the scourge of street drinking. This problem has increased in line with the rise in numbers of off licenses on Town Street and surrounding streets. The establishment of a 24 hour off license last year has increased the problem substantially. The police are seeking the closure of this business and are in constant communication with the licensee because of the nuisance his shop creates to Town Street residents/shoppers. It is not just this business though, there are many off licenses on Town Street selling to street drinkers who go on to cause alarm, harassment and distress.

Armley councilors are now working with police and ASB to drive out these drinkers as the DPPO we fought so hard to get 5 years ago has not worked. We are currently going to court to get injunctions for the 5 worst offenders but there are many more drinkers than this and the presence of yet another off license only exacerbates the misery for my constituents and businesses on Town Street. Armley councilors have done several street stalls, the last one on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015. We spoke to over 100 people and shop keepers and all of them agreed that Town Street was a scary place to live/work/shop. Many men said their wives were too frightened to shop alone on Town Street. Older people spoke of their fear of shopping around drinkers and 2 people described crimes including robbery they had witnessed from their flats overlooking Town Street. One person said he saw the drinkers buying alcohol through the night in the 24 hour off license, he saw men urinating and defecating on the streets and he said they slept at the back of Town Street.

My sister works at the Armley One Stop Centre/Library and she said her female colleagues and she will not use the bus stop outside the Co-op Supermarket because of the drinkers frightening them. My other sister who lives in Armley and is disabled has stopped shopping on Town street for the same reason. Armley Helping Hands, a local charity working with older people in Armley now transports older people to Morrison's at Middleton to shop as Town Street is too scary.

Businesses have complained in their droves and have even been to the Armley Forum (21<sup>st</sup> July 2015) to ask for the seating on Town Street to be removed as drinkers gather there and intimidate shoppers. The owner of the electronic cigarette shop said his business was decimated by the drinkers. The owner of Athlone House, Gudrun Shemilt of GS properties tells me her tenants are leaving as they regularly see men urinating and defecating at the back of the shops and they are intimidated by them and are frightened to walk home after dark. The owner of the Copper Lamp café reported she sees men exposing themselves to her and her staff and regularly raid her bins and throw rubbish onto Town Street. This puts her food business in jeopardy.

I cannot tell you what support we have had from local people and business for our stance to cut down on drinking on Town Street and the allowing of this license would be a kick in the teeth for local democracy and the people working hard to stop the ASB and crime/grime on Town Street. We need to take a stand and this will be a great first step.

**Signed: Alison Lowe**

**Date: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015.**