

Leeds District Licensing



Department

Leeds District Licensing Department
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1st December 2023

**Entertainment Licensing Section,
Leeds City Council,
Civic Hall,
Leeds,
LS1 1UR**

cc. Edward Smith, Levi Solicitors, 33 St Pauls Street, Leeds LS1 2JJ

RE: PREM/01155/006 - BOOZE PLUS, 33 TONG ROAD, LS12 1HQ

APPLICATION FOR VARIATION TO A PREMISES LICENCE – LICENSING ACT 2003:

POLICE – LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

West Yorkshire Police received notice of an application to vary the premises licence for the above premises on 10th November 2023.

West Yorkshire Police make representations to the variation based on the licensing objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

The application is to extend the premises hours of operating for licensable activity currently in operation from:

Monday to Saturday – 0800hrs x 2300hrs

Sunday - 1000hrs x 2230hrs

To:

0600 hrs X 0300 hrs seven days a week.

After consultation between the local neighbourhood policing team and Leeds district licensing team, West Yorkshire Police are of the opinion that to grant the variation of the licence as applied for would not promote the licensing objectives for the following reasons:

- The premises are in a high-density residential area and 24-hour sales would cause unnecessary disturbance and public nuisance throughout the night to the residents in the area which is likely to increase call for service.
- The extended hours where the sale of alcohol is proposed to be undertaken could only increase the level of crime in the area.
- The area already suffers with high levels of ASB and disorder and to allow the application would only lead to an increase in this. To give example there were 9 calls for service in a 3 week period from a neighbouring premises some 50 meters away from Booze Plus regarding nuisance youths in September of this year.
- This area is in one of Leeds Top Ten most deprived areas and suffers from high levels of substance abuse and the issues that this brings. To allow this application would undermine the efforts being made to address these issues and to make alcohol even more readily available would have even more devastating effects upon families.
- The variation would be a draw to attract problem drinkers into the area thereby increasing the risk of them becoming a victim of crime. It would also potentially lead to a rise in them committing crime in order to fund their habit. Armley already has significant issues with street drinkers. Drawing street drinkers to the premises is detrimental to the community and in particular children who have to witness and experience this on their way to school.
- The premises are located on a main arterial route leading from The Armley gyratory. An increase in customers, potentially under the influence of alcohol, could only increase the likelihood of road traffic collisions taking place and therefore a reduction in public safety.
- Work is on-going on at the New Wortley Community centre who engage with children and their families in the area to steer them along the right track. The later hours are a draw to youths encouraging them to hang about late into the night in groups. This undermines the work of the community centre and the protection of children from harm objective.

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The applicant has offered conditions that could be expected from an application where restricted hours are proposed. They do not show how the additional issues that 24-hour operating can bring to the premises, staff, customers and the local community would be addressed.

Due to this West Yorkshire Police make representations to the variation of the licence as applied for on the grounds of promoting the licensing objectives.

Should the licensing sub committee decide to allow the extension of hours despite this representation, West Yorkshire Police request they have input at any hearing on imposing a number of strict conditions to the current premises licence.

Sarah Blenkhorn
Leeds District Licensing Officer
West Yorkshire Police

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