

Representation

Section 1 – Licence application details	
Please indicate as appropriate : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I wish to object to the following application: OBJECTION TO PREM/05304/001 <input type="checkbox"/> I wish to support the following application:	
Applicant premises name and address: – Booze 4 U, 220 Roundhay road, Leeds, LS8 5AA	
Section 2 – Your personal details	
Title	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> X Other Gipton and Harehills ward Councillors
Surname(s)	Arif, Hussain, Asghar
First name(s)	Salma, Arif, Ali
Address (incl postcode): C/O The Labour Group Office, Leeds Civic Hall, LS1 1UR	
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: <input type="checkbox"/> Resident <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prevention of public nuisance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protection of children from harm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please select : <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> We object to the application being granted at all <input type="checkbox"/> I object to the application being granted in its current form	

The grounds of the representation is based on the following:
As ward Councillors we are writing to object to the application from Booze 4 U seeking an off-licence on Roundhay Road. Booze 4 U is located on one of Harehills' main arteries, Roundhay Road, a busy thoroughfare that cuts through the heart of a densely populated residential area, sitting adjacent to people's homes, schools, and places of worship. It is an area that is already saturated with off-licences.

Harehills is a densely populated neighbourhood; a place where what happens on the street has a huge impact on the local community. Given the harm that we know alcohol can have both on the individual and the wider community, ward Councillors strongly object to this new application.

According to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Gipton & Harehills Ward has 17 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country. That is more than any other Ward in Leeds. Coupled with this cumulative deprivation is the fact that Gipton & Harehills Ward is:

- The second most populated Ward in Leeds with 33,645 residents living in 12,400 properties; nearly 10% of homes are classed as overcrowded.
- The Ward is both young and dynamic; 29.5% of residents are children and young people aged 14 or under. 53% of the population is aged 29 or under.
- 4,303 children and young people aged 0-15 in Gipton & Harehills Ward live in the most income deprived households in England.
- Whilst 62.4% of the population is economically active; long term unemployment is double the Leeds average and those that have never worked is at 15.2%, which is nearly four times the Leeds average. Women from the Ward active in the job market is also notably lower than the Leeds average.
- 33.3% of working age people are receiving universal credit.
- Gipton and Harehills Ward is very diverse, with 63% of the population identifying as being from an ethnic minority; 72% of households reported that English was a first language.
- As a migration hub, the Ward has hundreds of languages spoken and numerous faiths live in close proximity (75% of households identify as being religious against a Leeds average of 65%).
- Nearly 56% of households don't have access to a car or van.
- Fuel poverty for the Ward stands at 29.9%, 8.4% of households don't have central heating.
- Crime is higher than the Leeds average with violence and sexual assault, public order, ASB and criminal damage presenting as the main issues.

Source: <https://observatory.leeds.gov.uk/deprivation>

Numerous residents, both young and old and of all faiths and backgrounds, have talked to all three of us about their experiences of drink related abuse and violence on their doorstep. This behavior has led to damage to property, broken glass, urine and worse left on the pavements outside of people's homes. Such is the scale of alcohol related issues in Harehills, a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) was introduced by the council in early 2019 and was re-drafted and enlarged in November 2022:

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/g11973/Public%20reports%20pack%2029th-Nov-2022%2010.00%20Licensing%20Committee.pdf?T=10>. The response from Harehills residents to the CIA consultation was both compelling and shocking, but sadly not surprising.

Problem street drinking is a tragic but inevitable byproduct of the availability of cheap alcohol sold from numerous outlets at all hours. This issue is a key area of focus of the Neighborhood Improvement Partnership (CommUnity Harehills) in Harehills which has looked to tackle it through a combination of strong enforcement of the law and a high level of support for those who are struggling with addiction.

There is a concerted effort from a range of partners to engage with street drinkers in Harehills to address their needs around addiction. This work has proven challenging given the obvious tension between balancing providing support to individuals who are addicted to alcohol and the concerns of the wider community who are suffering because of their actions. A constant pressure is allowing the space and time for the outreach work to pay dividends whilst demonstrating to residents that this issue is being taken seriously via enforcement activity that reduces unacceptable levels of anti-social behavior.

Genuine relationships are being forged under difficult circumstances by Touchstone's dedicated Outreach Worker, and alcohol supply is being addressed through the continued defense of the council's Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) and the opposition of any new off-licences. Whilst several businesses have either had their licence revoked or their licence application declined in recent years, there are still a huge number of off-licences operating in a less than two-mile square radius.

The council, statutory services and local community and voluntary sector groups are trying daily to redress the current imbalance in an area where premises licensed to sell alcohol have reached saturation point to the detriment of residents. Granting this application would deeply undermine the progress that has been made through the CommUnity Harehills initiative. It would also be an insult to the efforts of everyone who has campaigned for the CIA as well as those working hard to support people with alcohol addiction and those wanting a safer future for themselves and their children.

As passionate Ward Councillors committed to promoting the wellbeing of the residents of Gipton and Harehills, we hope you will consider the concerns raised above and come to the decision that Harehills does not need, want, or deserve another off license.

Signed:

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Date: 05.04.24