

Interested Party Representation  
(Form IPR1)



### 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 name (if known): Saqib

\* Family name Ahmed

Applicant premises name and address: **Booze Plus, 33 Tong Road, Farnley, Leeds, LS12 1HQ**  
**PREM/01155/007**

### Section 2 – Your personal details

NB : If you are acting as a representative, please go to Section 3.

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

Surname **Hindley**

First name(s) **Jonathan**

Address (incl postcode):

Leeds City Council Public Health Locality & Primary Care team, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor-West, 110 Merrion House, Leeds, LS2 8BB

**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 any hearing of this matter.**

Please refer to our Guidance Note – GN-M Guidance on making representations for further information and alternative options.

### Section 3 – Representative details

If you are representing someone else please complete details below

Name of Representative/  
Organisation **N/A**

Full postal address  
(incl postcode) **N/A**

Please indicate capacity :

Representative of Residents Association

Ward Councillor

Parish Council

MP

Trade

Association

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 4 – Representation grounds**

<p>The representation is relevant to one or more of the following licensing objectives:</p> <p>Please tick relevant box(es)</p>	Prevention of crime and disorder	X <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Prevention of public nuisance		X <input type="checkbox"/>
	Protection of children from harm	X <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Public safety	X <input type="checkbox"/>	

Please select :

I object to the application being granted at all

I object to the application being granted in its current form\*

\*If you choose this option, remember to tell us in the next section what changes you would prefer to see.

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

I would like to strongly object to this license on the following grounds.

- **Prevention of Public Nuisance.**
  - In February 2023 LCC Public Health Officers were in the area again collecting information for a pending Health Needs Assessment and talking to residents to elicit their views of the area [REDACTED] seeking an extension of licensing hours. One of the comments from a local resident was *“See drunk men in morning when my son is getting up for his shift at 2.00am, outside bus stop, its scary, don’t report it as can’t see the point and Police have enough to do around here, but they need (the men) help and you can get cheap booze anywhere here, disgusting, what chance have they got to get straight and out of it all of the day and night!”* We know from our Local Care Partnership work that this has a significant impact on the public’s perception of nuisance and detrimental impact on their mental and emotional health. We spoke to two local children one aged twelve and the other thirteen and they were ‘bragging’ how they could get alcohol in New Wortley or Armley, sometimes they stated they would get one of the older local ‘p@ss heads’ in their words to buy alcohol and give him a can for his trouble or ask an older sibling to do the same. One of my council colleagues asked the twelve-year-old how long they stayed out for at night, and he stated *“as long as I want’ as his mother had passed out in front of the TV. He said usually until 2.00am if it was warm and no Police about. As we were talking an older adult intervened, who we presumed was one of the youths’ fathers, he said he was a shift worker and found it difficult to supervise them as his partner had substance abuse issues, but he knew they caused trouble as his neighbours complained to him. It was a very honest, frank, and sad exchange.*
  - In April 2021 LCC Public Health officers were talking to residents in the area, including the surrounding high rise social housing. This was in relation to promoting local Covid-19 Pop Up testing and vaccination provision. Whilst we undertake these duties, we also do a general health and wellbeing check and collect feedback. A significant number of residents mentioned groups of inebriated men and sometimes teenager boys late at night outside the parade of shops adjacent to new Wortley Community Centre causing a nuisance by shouting, occasionally playing loud and aggressive music on their phones and it is feeling very intimidating. A couple of collected comments were,
  - *“Don’t go down at night, it’s either young lads swearing or older drunk men urinating at*

*the back of the shops.”*

- *“So much booze about here mate, kids can get it 24/7 normal for ‘em no wonder we have so much bad behavior, feel sorry for the Police trying to keep a lid on it.”*

➤ **Protection of Children from Harm.**

- This is ranked as one of the most 1% deprived neighborhoods in the in Leeds. 50% of the children in this surrounding area live in the most deprived decile of Leeds, 1,440 of children live within the absolute low income households threshold (age group 0- 19 and time range 2021-22 source [Children and Young People - Ward | Armley | Report Builder for ArcGIS \(leeds.gov.uk\)](#) ) 1,847 of these children live in relative low income households and 64.3% of these children live within the poorest decile of income deprivation affecting children index (2019-Armley). There is substantive and rigorous peer reviewed evidence of the impact of deprivation, inequalities impacting on adult drinking behavior both as role models for vulnerable and impressionable young children and the impact inebriated parents, carers and guardians have on the lives of children presenting as adverse childhood experiences resulting in significant issues for these young people in later life. Stunting their ability to reach their full potential and to contribute positively to civic life. People living in deprived areas are many times more likely to experience alcohol related harm or die of an alcohol related cause. For example, alcohol related deaths are six times more likely in a deprived area than a less deprived area. We know from our work there are residents who are under treatment for alcohol abuse who have children and the increased accessibility of alcohol late at night when the services these parents depend on are shut increase the temptation to purchase alcohol substantially. It’s difficult to understand what this establishment can do to mitigate these factors ([Alcohol and inequalities | Alcohol Change UK](#)) Years of austerity, the Coronavirus Pandemic and the current Cost of Living Crisis has meant some residents are drinking more as an escape from their current predicament. We know this through our interviews at local community centres and from firsthand reports of our local community partners. This directly impacts the children within their care.
- As a council Public Health Officer and parent, I feel this proliferation of establishments selling cheap and strong alcohol and the subsequent proliferation of street drinkers and residents suffering from alcohol addiction it normalizes the situation for children and as they grow older it almost sets the benchmark of what is normal in this area. Extending hours just makes this worse. We know from much peer reviewed evidence such an environment can have a strong influence on impressionable children in a deprived neighborhood and can create low aspiration amongst this peer group. On a youth project six years ago a young adolescent boy was asked what he wanted to do in his life and his reply was.
- *“Stay in drink cans of larger and play games like my dad.”*
  - We know from over twenty plus years of community development work specifically in this area that there are families in the surrounding housing suffering from alcohol addiction and within these family units are children exposed to the environment, the supply of cheap strong alcohol only increases the temptation and exasperates the problem. Extending the hours, it can be bought over many days has the potential to only make things worse. One dad brought his children to a family project away from the ward as a form of respite from his wife who is an alcoholic. This was so his children could enjoy some fun activities as part of a ‘Stronger families’ partnership project to get away from the area and home situation temporarily. I spoke to him on the early evening project, and he stated.
  - *“Listen mate I bring my kids and me down here because the wife’s an alcoholic and it’s*

*a break for all of us. She can get booze anywhere, at any time in Armley and New Wortley, you see them walking around going from 'offy' to 'offy' p%ss@# up, what chance they got, I worry for my kid's mate."*

- The Leeds City Council Locality and Primary Care Public Health are concerned about the potential harm to families, children and younger adults who have complex lives, are considered vulnerable and may be suffering or recovering from alcohol addictions.
- On the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 I attended the New Wortley Community Centre run 'Enabling Play Day' for families held on the grass area the Wortley's High Rise Social Housing and on the 20<sup>th</sup> of August I attended the New Wortley Festival on Jailey Field next to HMP Leeds. We were asking residents about the cost-of-living crisis and how we could help.
- Included in this conversation was a discussion about problems in the local area and the most prolific theme outside of the cost of living is listed below. Between the two events nine families highlighted the problem anecdotally.
- The constant availability of strong discounted alcohol in the ward and it's increasing supply as hours are extended and new premises spring up.
- Local parents were worried their children would see this as normal including intoxicated adults adjacent to the high rise or walking past and were concerned they would ask older children to purchase the alcohol for them. Four families said this had already happened and they had reprimanded their children.
- Lastly some of the families, carers and guardians were very open about their own past addictions and disclosed increasing trading hours changed the environment and made it harder to work through their own harm reduction programmes because of ease of availability and subsequent temptation.

- **Public safety**-there is a strong perception from residents that it is not safe to go out after a certain time which is very sad as it deprives them of access to vital local amenities and vital social interaction if they live alone. Increasing the licensing hours until 3.00am in the morning can only strengthen this perception.
- I stand in unison with colleagues in the council, the Police, elected members with local businesses and with residents in saying **Armley and New Wortley does not need any further alcohol outlets.**
- The simple fact is Armley is already saturated with businesses selling alcohol.
- To put this in context, within the surrounding area many of shops sell alcohol. Alcohol that is both cheap and strong. A potent mix.
- This in a neighborhood that has residents facing some of the most serve social and economic challenges in the UK; complex challenges that have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Telegraph reported that the pandemic has seen problem drinking double in the UK since lockdown was introduced: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/family/life/boozy-britain-nation-drank-lockdown/>
- We are seeing the consequences of this locally, as a hardcore group of street drinkers are a regular presence in Armley, Farnley & Wortley and whilst we recognize this is a vulnerable group of individuals, the consequences to the wider community are manifesting itself in daily anti-social behavior, littering and on occasions violence. There are also limited funds available to local services who are responsible for treating and reducing harm in this cohort and this puts a strain on services and more service users could go untreated and be left to return to anti-social

behavior and street drinking. We see bench drinkers outside the New Wortley parade of shops constantly.

- All this is happening in a densely populated area that has a huge volume of families with young children.
- Can it be right that residents must put up with this constant “hangover” on their doorstep’s day after day?
- Imagine the empty cans, the smell of urine and sight of human excrement and broken glass greeting you as you walk to school? This can be the reality for residents in Armley. In New Wortley its litter, inebriated men urinating behind the parade of shops and sometimes in plain sight. There have been incidents of drunk, homeless men sleeping their hangovers in the local church grounds.
- To try to address this in the last few years authorities have introduced a Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP), the legislation which seeks to offset the devastating impacts of problem drinking in the area. This application does not fall into that zone, but it is very close by.
- To approve this application to increase trading hours would be irresponsible and cause harm to our most vulnerable residents.
- It would also contradict all the hard work by the Police, Council, Cllrs, partners, and most importantly residents who are exhausting themselves to make their area safer and a more pleasant place to live.
- The forensic testimonies from residents who also represent local business and residents’ associations illustrate just how deep this opposition goes.
- The application falls extremely close to a CIP area, in the heart of a residential area, and we would urge the licensing committee to refuse this application considering representations submitted. Remembering that the Alcohol Harm Matrix score is High in adjacent areas. It is difficult to know how the business would mitigate against this potential for harm when increasing the access to cheap and strong alcohol many vulnerable residents will consequently have access to until 3.00am in the morning when many of our NHS, Local Third Sector and NHS support services are closed. Please out of all these serious factors and concerns give serious consideration to the potential for significant harm to children in this area. Thank you for your attention.

You need to complete this box as fully as possible. If you do not the Licensing Authority may not be able to assess the relevance of your representation.

Please attach supporting documents/further pages as necessary – please number all additional pages.

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.

**Signed:**



**Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023**