

13 AUG 2018
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PREM/042
Appendix F
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Dear Sirs,

PREM/04217/001 Off Licence, 223 Dewsbury Road, Hunslet, Leeds, LS11 5HZ

BM

As ward members for Hunslet & Riverside, we strongly object to the application for a premises licence for 223 Dewsbury Road, Hunslet, Leeds, LS11 5HZ. This is an area of extreme deprivation with a high level of alcohol abuse and drug use and residents already suffer noise nuisance, litter (see attached) and antisocial behaviour

The basis for this opposition is that granting a licence for these premises will create a serious public nuisance for nearby residents and add to the risk already posed by alcohol abuse in this area by putting children at risk and leading to an increase in anti-social behaviour and crime.

According to recent council and police data¹, this area is at very high risk from alcohol misuse, ranked 9th worst out of 482 areas in Leeds. 223 Dewsbury Road lies within a residential area, with the nearest homes just 50 metres away. We believe that a 24-hour licence to sell alcohol will impact on residents' right to enjoy peace and quiet and disturb their sleep.

In addition, there are two primary schools and nurseries in the immediate vicinity. The area is the 4th worst in the Leeds for looked after children - a 24 hours alcohol outlet can only pose a further risk to these children, which would not promote the licensing objective of protecting children from harm.

The data also shows that this postcode is the worst in the city for youth offences, with a very high number of young people not in employment or education. The Vale Circles (which provides support for adults with mental health issues) on nearby Tunstall Road and local residents have recently been experiencing a huge increase in anti-social behaviour from about 30 youths. This has involved intimidation, loitering, drinking and urinating on people's gardens and some of the youths climbing on the roof and damaging the fence. There are also issues with drug dealing and drug taking on the former playground, which adjoins the Vale Circles and the mosque, which often means staff at the Vales Circles are finding used needles around their premises.

There are already three other licensed premises in the same parade of shops and the further availability of alcohol 24 hours a day would, we believe, increase the already very high number of residents who use alcohol services in the area – the current ranking for this postcode is 5th out of 482 in.

We believe the council must reject this application as it is totally unacceptable to expect residents to accept more of the same. In view of the above, we urge the Licensing Sub-Committee to refuse this application.

Yours faithfully,

¹ Alcohol Licensing Data Matrix

Mohammed Iqbal, Elizabeth Nash and Paul Wray

Councillors for Hunslet & Riverside Ward.