

From:Mudge, Peter
Sent:7 Aug 2020 11:57:35 +0100
To:Khan, Nav
Cc:Cunningham, Cllr Louisa;McKenna, Cllr James;Smart, Cllr Alice;Byrne, Stuart;Dean, Martin
Subject:(PREM/04584/001)

Could you please not include my contact details beyond name and position in the Council.

Dear Nav,

I am writing to state my concerns when you consider an off licence at 41 Armley Ridge Road. (PREM/04584/001)

The site adjoins one of the most problematic illegal drinking areas in Yorkshire (with one of Leeds' first and most strongly maintained CIPs) and will exacerbate the already prolific drink and asb issues on the rise in that area. Since coming out of lockdown the area is particularly suffering from drink and asb problems and emergency meetings are ongoing between the Police, LASBT, MP, Chief Executive, leader of the Council and other senior figures to look at how to lower the drink and drug related issues in that area.

Earlier this week I was on Armley Ridge Road less than 100 yards from the applicant's site, when a girl spaced out on drink or drugs held up her hand and staggered out into the road immediately in front of my car. She looked at me and then staggered on across the road to be with two men who seemed equally drunk. (I mentioned this instance to the Police and MP.)

Yesterday evening I was in a Zoom meeting with one of our ward members, a representative of the MP and various businesses to hear about asb in the area including

an attack with a hammer on Town Street. The drunkenness and asb is now most prevalent at the Western end of the Town Street shopping area in the vicinity of Armley Moor.

The fact Armley has a Cumulative Impact Policy which ends at the Moor shows the tremendous problems of drink in the vicinity. Allowing an application just outside the border will of course simply extend the problems meaning they stretch along the town centre into a residential area.

The site is beside the two churches of Christ Church and West Leeds Christadelphian Church. Both do excellent work with their congregations and also projects with members of the local community in need. Bringing an off-licence into that area would be highly disruptive.

Similarly the neighbouring Interplay Theatre is a wonderful asset to the city and especially Armley and provides help to all aspects of the community. It started with Arts Council England funding and became the first company to tour shows created specifically for audiences with additional needs on a national level. In 1984 Interplay took permanent residence in Christchurch Hall, Armley, it became a hub of research and development for creating sensory theatre and also provided community, theatre and film projects for the residents of West Leeds. Allowing potential alcohol problems to besmirch this most valued asset would be a huge loss for Leeds and everyone who gains such huge life benefits from the presence of Interplay. Youth are especially involved in projects there.

Additionally the site is on the opposite side of the road from a residential area. Surely having an off-licence there is unnecessary with one of the city's largest town centres just a stone's throw away?

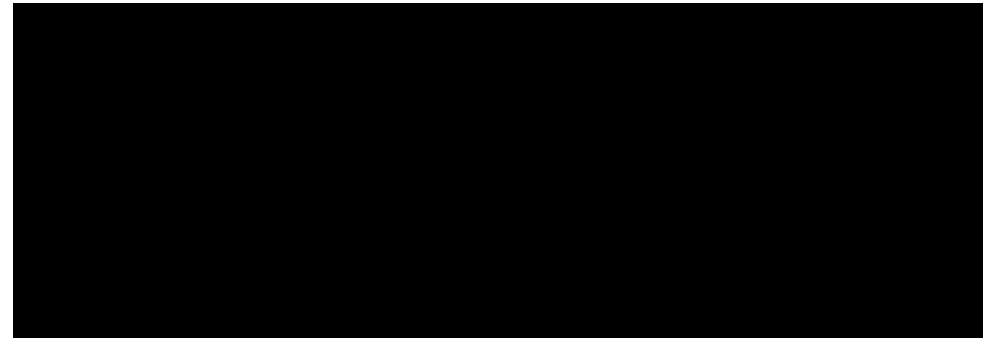
Being so close to a residential area will of course bring children into increasing contact with issues arising from the nearby sale of alcohol. With drunk and drugs issues becoming increasingly rife on nearby Town Street I fear another off licence would draw the problems down Ridge Road into that residential area?

Kind regards

Pete Mudge,

Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator,

Communities & Environment, Leeds City Council, Tel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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To find out more about how our services are affected, what local support is available, and how we're managing coronavirus in Leeds, go to www.leeds.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Help us make sure that everyone in Leeds knows how to stay safe and save lives.

You can help by sharing our key messages on coronavirus with your friends, family, colleagues and communities—available in the top 12 languages in Leeds [here](#)