

Additional document in support of the objection at the hearing on 10th Oct. '20,
relating to Harehills Lane Grocery Store, 107 Harehills Lane Leeds LS8 4DN.

Ref: PREM/04578/001

Since my objection to the application for a licence to sell alcohol was submitted, I now have the support of my church which is the one opposite the shop- the Harehills Lane Baptist Church. [REDACTED] has indicated [REDACTED] support and the following members have written to me in agreement to my representation:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Also, there are two others who remain anonymous, one being from a different church.

Two of the above are members of the Leeds Street Pastors which is a uniformed Christian group which patrols the streets of town centres at night.

I also submit the following from a recent BBC news item that describes current alcohol problems in our society:

Health

'Soaring alcohol misuse' could overwhelm service

- 15 September 2020

Addiction services in England could struggle to cope with "soaring" numbers of people misusing alcohol, the Royal College of Psychiatrists is warning.

Many adults are drinking more since the coronavirus pandemic began, **data shows**.

The college estimates that in June, more than 8.4m people in England were drinking at higher-risk levels, up from 4.8m in February.

It says deep cuts made to addiction services could mean patients will miss out on life-saving care.

- **'I became alcoholic during lockdown'**
- **'Tackle harmful lockdown drinking'**

The rise in risky drinking comes at a time when more people addicted to opiates are seeking help from addiction services, says the college, referring to National Drug Treatment Monitoring System statistics showing 3,459 new adult cases in April - up 20% from 2,947 in the same month the previous year.

- **Check how much you are drinking**

Guidelines advise people drink no more than 14 units of alcohol (equivalent to six large glasses of wine or six pints of beer) a week, spreading consumption over three days or more.

Drinking too much can damage your liver and increases the risk of other health conditions such as heart disease and stroke.

People with alcohol use disorder are more likely to develop serious complications if they catch Covid-19.

The college is asking the government to invest millions more in addiction services.

Prof Julia Sinclair, chair of the college's addictions faculty, said: "Covid-19 has shown just how stretched, under-resourced and ill-equipped addiction services are to treat the growing numbers of vulnerable people living with this complex illness.

"There are now only five NHS inpatient units in the country, and no resource anywhere in my region to admit people who are alcohol dependent with co-existing mental illness.

"Drug-related deaths and alcohol-related hospital admissions were already at all-time highs before Covid-19. I fear that unless the government acts quickly we will see these numbers rise exponentially."

Laura Bunt from the drug, alcohol and mental health charity **We Are With You** said: "Social isolation and a lack of a human connection is a big factor behind why some people turn to alcohol as a coping mechanism, so clearly the pandemic continues to be really tough for many people.

"When you consider that the UK had some of the highest levels of alcohol-related harms in Europe even before the lockdown in March, the need for government action now is clear."