

Elaine Saul
Environmental Protection
Leeds City Council

Sent by email 21 June 2021 to; EPteam@leeds.gov.uk;

Dear Elaine

**APPLICATION TO VARY PREMISES LICENCE
LONDIS, 249 LOW LANE, HORSFORTH, LEEDS**

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

Further to my email of 18 June, I thought I would be contacting you on behalf of my client, Mr Kanthasamy Senthuran, in respect of the above application.

I thought I would contact you to outline this application further and to confirm that the application has now been amended/reduced in terms of the proposed hours.

Hopefully we may be able to reach a suitable compromise in this matter.

As you know, this is a well-established convenience store serving the local community selling a wide range of goods including, bread, milk, sweets, snacks, dairy goods, cigarettes, soft drinks, household goods, cards, etc. Alcohol is just a part of the business model.

The focus of the shop will continue as a general convenience store, and alcohol sales would continue to be just be a part of the overall business. The longer hours applied for are just to help the business develop further and offer customers an improved convenience service. This is a well run shop, with good staff, and is supported by the popular and well known brand of Londis. I note from your representation that there doesn't appear to be any record of issues or complaints about this shop.

Kanthasamy is keen to co-operate and work with the local community and he doesn't want to cause any problems in the area. He's a responsible person with plenty of retail experience and he knows how to run licensed convenience stores.

Please note that after considering the matter further and noting your representation regarding 24 hour opening, Kanthasamy has decided to reduce the proposed times for alcohol sales and late night refreshment (coffee) to;

12 midnight Sunday to Thursday, and until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays.

The current licence contains numerous licence conditions to promote the licensing objectives. These conditions are considerably robust and comprehensive and, as you know, all licence conditions are legally enforceable and must be complied with. The shop would continue to sell alcohol in a responsible manner.

This application includes a number of further conditions to promote the licensing objectives including providing further training to staff, and displaying further notices asking customers to '*respect local residents - please leave quietly*'.

We also propose another new condition as follows;

‘staff to monitor outside the shop to check that youths aren’t congregating causing a nuisance’;

The submitted application for 24 hours included reference to a serving hatch being used after 11pm. This was proposed with good intentions although given that the proposed hours have been significantly reduced, it is likely that a serving hatch isn’t appropriate or necessary. We propose to amend this and for customers to continue going inside the shop for their purchases after 11pm. What are your views on this?

I note your comments regarding planning consent. Kanthasamy has asked me to deal with this and this will be done as quickly as possible. As you know, Planning issues are separate to licensing and each matter will be determined separately on their own individual merits.

Licensed premises are very well-regulated and they must, by law, promote the licensing objectives or they can have action taken against them. This includes prosecution, a licence review, or revocation of the licence. The authorities will of course target any ‘problem premises’, based on intel or complaints from the community, and action can be taken against them. So if this shop (or indeed any licensed premises) ever caused a noise problem in the future then you can take appropriate action. This allows the well-run shops to continue trading, to develop, whilst problem premises face action.

Please give the shop a chance to demonstrate that it will continue to be well run - with a later licence - and not cause any problems. It would be good if we could have a telephone conversation about this matter asap - could you give me a call on the number below? Or if you send me your number, I’ll call you.

I hope the above information is helpful and informative and I ask you to consider the matter further in view of the amended hours.

I look forward to hearing from you and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Ian Rushton
JL Licence and Retail

