

From:Hindley, Jonathan
Sent:Thu, 27 Jan 2022 13:38:09 +0000
To:Entertainment Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject:PREM/03120/008.

Dear Team,

I hope you are all well. I am extremely concerned about this application for an extension to the above premises in relation to the current social problems we are experiencing in the area amplified by the Covid-19 pandemic in our poorer areas, and the sheer volume of work by the Police and the Town Centre Team to address these anti-social behaviour issues linked directly to vulnerable alcohol dependent street drinkers in Armley, around Armley Town Street and the adjoining streets. Much progress has been made by this partnership however the problems lingers and we do not want all of that considered and effective work undone. In our Public Health outreach work we receive complaints similar to the comments from local residents below. We received these in our recent street work promoting Covid-19 pop up clinics.

- ***“Don’t take my grandkids down there, no way full of drunks, used to be great when I was in my twenties”*** Armley Resident. January 2022 LCC Public Health Outreach
- ***“Full of those street drinking people scared to go down by myself, getting on a bit, they shout all the time”*** Armley Resident. January 2022 LCC Public Health Outreach

Below is some historical content and the impact on local citizens.

- **Prevention of Crime and Disorder.** I feel an expansion to this license granted in a heavily alcohol saturated area which currently falls under the licensing authority cumulative impact policy will provide yet another easily accessible portal for cheap strong alcohol which can lead to drunken and disorderly behaviour. It especially influences our most vulnerable alcohol dependent residents and with the provision of a ‘hatch’ as I understand it would compound matters making access easy and vetting of those purchasing difficult. If you consult the Armley alcohol matrix you will see the neighbourhood and relevant geographical super output area is in the extremely high-risk category especially in admissions to accident and emergency wards due to alcohol and some subsequent disorderly behaviour. I believe you are familiar with the matrix however if not there are explanatory notes on the alcohol harm matrix at the bottom of this page and an example for Armley.
- **Prevention of public nuisance.** On Friday 21st May 2021 LCC Public Health officers were talking to local residents in the area with third sector colleagues and we received quite a few comments about how unsafe they felt on Branch Road and Armley Town street occasionally during the day and after 7.00pm at night. [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] The comments when asked what their experience of the pandemic had been and how they felt the area was to live in. They complained of aggressive street begging and inebriated men standing on Branch Road swearing making them feel intimidated. Their comments were.
 - *“it’s worse now as we come out of lockdown, always drunk men I don’t go down there now (referring to Armley Town Street)”*

- *"if they are drunk and get refused from one off license there are plenty of others, they can try their luck in"*
- *"it's just cheap strong booze innit, people come from town because it's (alcohol) cheap, gets the job done"*
- *"why have they allowed so many shops to sell alcohol it's dangerous to residents with drunken people around"*

PLEASE SEE UPDATED QUOTES FROM THIS YEAR (ABOVE) JANUARY 2022

- **Protection of Children from Harm.** 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 local residents suffering from alcohol addiction it normalizes the situation for children and as they grow older it almost sets the bench mark of what is normal in their area. We know from much peer reviewed evidence such an environment can have a strong influence on impressionable children in a deprived neighbourhood and can create low aspiration amongst this peer group.
- **Public safety**-there is a strong perception from local 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.
- I stand in unison with colleagues in the council, the Police, elected members with local businesses, and with residents in saying Armley does not need an extension to this licence.
- 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 neighbourhood that has residents facing some of the most severe social and economic challenges anywhere 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-drunk-lockdown/>
- We are seeing the consequences of this locally, as a hardcore group of street drinkers are a regular presence in Armley, and whilst we recognize this is a vulnerable group of individuals, the consequences to the wider community are manifesting itself in daily anti-social behaviour, 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 behaviour and street drinking. It can take anywhere from 12 to 18 months for a health professional to successfully engage with a hardened street drinker, the more the temptation that is out there the harder it is.
- 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 have to 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.

- To try 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.
- To approve this application 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 within the CIP area, in the heart of a residential area, and we would urge the licensing committee to refuse this application considering representations submitted.

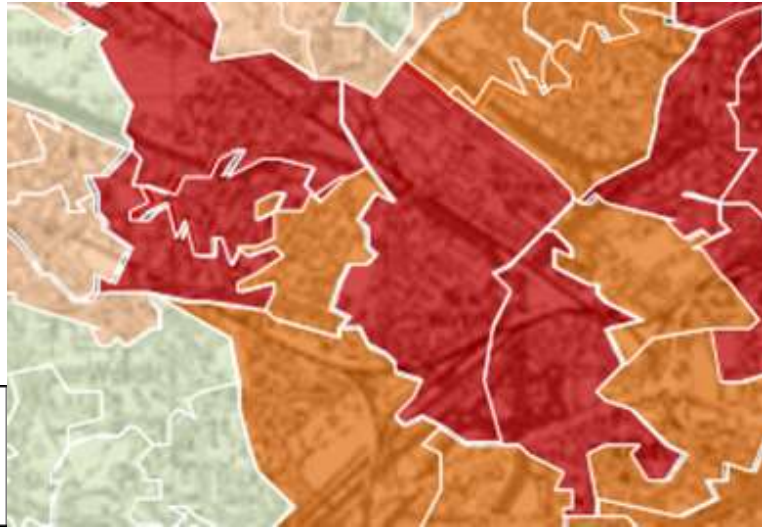
Explanation of Alcohol Harm matrix

Alcohol Licensing Data Matrix

A LSOA is Lower Layer Super Output Areas are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. Public Health have produced and maintain a licensing matrix which rank LSOAs (lower level super output area) against each other. The Licensing Authority has used this Matrix when undertaking the cumulative impact assessment for this area.

By entering postcodes, the matrix displays the ranking of this postcodes LSOA against certain data sets. This allows responsible authorities and the licensing authority to establish the problems being experienced in the LSOA.

This map shows the Armley area. Dark red denotes the 15 highest ranked LSOAs, followed by dark orange, light orange and green being the lowest ranked LSOAs.



Please consider these professional and heart felt objections.

Best wishes



Jon Hindley

Advanced Health Improvement Specialist-Inner West

Public Health Localities and Primary Care Team

Adults and Health Directorate | Leeds City Council | Merrion House | 5th Floor | 110 Merrion Centre |

Leeds | LS2 8BB

M:



Cath Roff - Director of Adults and Health | Victoria Eaton - Director of Public Health

Please bear with us if we take longer than usual to respond to your email, this is due to the challenges of the unprecedented coronavirus COVID-19 crisis.

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

Public Health Resource Centre website: www.leeds.gov.uk/phrc

Leeds City Council website: www.leeds.gov.uk

'Live well, live longer – Changing lives in Leeds'