

**From:**Mudge, Peter  
**Sent:**Mon, 31 Jan 2022 16:35:55 +0000  
**To:**Entertainment Licensing  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:**Objection to Armley Food Store

Hi Charlotte,

Here's my comments objecting to Armley Food Store's application. I am OK for my email to go in and my work address to be included [REDACTED] But do not want my phone number to be included please as I do not wish for any conversations to be held for which I have no proof of what was said.

*"Armley Food Store is a very attractive shop and the recent extension into 26 Town Street is a welcome addition lifting the entire street. The store looks very appealing and I wish it well. However, for the following reasons, I am writing to oppose the application for extending the opening time and allowing Number 26 to also sell alcohol:*

*I work for the Council helping the 64 neighbourhood centres of Leeds. In this wide remit there are only two centres where action plans have been drawn up with the businesses, Police, Lasbt, councillors, community etc to piece-by-piece develop a safer and more attractive area to live and work in. Armley is one and the other Harehills.*

*These two areas have the highest number of drink problems and both have a cumulative impact assessment meaning all applications for new off-licenses and extension of hours will be liable for refusal because of the abundance of alcohol already available.*

- *The first of these CIAs was launched in Armley in 2016.*
- *In 2019, utilising the existing PSPO, the Police launched zero tolerance on all street drinking in Armley - the strictest category available.*

- *While both these measure greatly helped, still alcohol remains a problem on Town Street and this came to a head when street drinking rose exponentially after the first Covid-19 lockdown. As a result major work was required by the public and private sectors to bring things back to a manageable level including what is believed to be the UK's first Closure Order.*

*In granting the closure order, the statement noted: "It does appear this is the first type of this order in the UK and shows WYP and LCC will explore all available measures and solutions to try to solve the issues blighting the community. "As per the street drinkers, this is one part of a variety of actions being taken by partners to tackle this behaviour, other actions include proposed injunctions, increased licensing checks and action, action days by local NPT and increased visibility, a number of warrants being executed in the area."*

*Town Street shopping area (exactly where this application is made,) is one of the most problematic illegal drinking areas in Yorkshire (thus the CIA and Closure Order). To allow this application would simply suggest Armley is the go-to place for alcohol. Allowing sales till 1am would especially cause problems as it would encourage heavy drinkers to use Armley as their place to go to for night time drinking.*

*Near to the Food Store, an off-licence on Town Street already has a 24-hour licence granted pre 2016. Additional nighttime outlets would be a severe blow to Armley's welfare and image - already hugely tarnished through alcohol proliferation and abuse. .*

*Four applications have been made for new drinks licenses in the Armley CIA area in the last 3 years. Most recently three have been in close vicinity to Armley Food Store at Heron Foods, Lietuvaite and Krol Mini Market. All applied for alcohol sales and all have been refused or withdrawn. To let any extensions come to Town Street would be hugely unfair on them as well as the entire community and all the businesses trying to improve the image of the street.*

*There is a primary school and children's care and outreach centre on Chapel Lane which is approximately 300 yards from this applicant's premises.*

*At first sight it seemed only fair to allow the alcohol license to also cover 26 Town Street as that premise is now part of Armley Food Store. But a licence runs in perpetuity so we would be granting a variation that doubles the size of an off-licence as well as extending hours which can be transferred to another operator for just £23. It could create a huge new alcohol offer for the town which goes against the CIA, Closure Order and wishes of the community expressed when the CIA was launched and subsequent online discussions.*

*While I think Armley Food Store is a prominent and most welcome business on Town Street and one which could work as part of the traders group to develop positivity on the street, for the above reasons I hope the application will be refused.*

Kind regards

Pete Mudge,

Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator,

Safer Stronger Communities Team

Leeds City Council

[www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk)