

I am writing on behalf of the Armley Ward councillors to object to the following application from Armley Food Centre

The applicant proposes the following:

To increase the licensable area as identified in the plans submitted to the Licensing Authority to include shop number 26.

To extend the hours for the sale of alcohol every day from 07:00 - 01:00. Currently the licensable hours are 09:00 - 23:00.

To add conditions to the licence.

There is currently a legally enforceable Cumulative Impact Policy, within the Armley Town street area, along with a Public Space Protection Order and as we emerge from national lockdown West Yorkshire Police and Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour team are undertaking a series of projects to combat crime and fear of crime within this area. To grant an extension to the alcohol license would impact the work that is already being done to reduce the levels of street drinking and associated antisocial behaviours seen in and around Armley Town Street.

From a public health perspective there is a lot of multiagency work being done to help people with alcohol dependency issues – having more establishments selling alcohol for over 12 hours a day is not a constructive action and sends out the wrong message for the future developments of Armley.

There is widespread community reporting that people do not always feel safe visiting Armley Town street and the perceptions of antisocial behaviour associated with drug and alcohol use are widely documented.

As we emerge from lockdown we want to encourage our communities to return to Armley town street and support our local businesses. We will continue to work with our police teams and council teams on all aspects of community safety and in doing so strongly object to the granting of another or extensions to an alcohol licence within the vicinity of Armley Town Street.

Councillor Lou Cunningham

Councillor James McKenna

Councillor Alice Smart

From:REEVES, Rachel
Sent:Tue, 1 Feb 2022 12:34:10 +0000
To:Entertainment Licensing
Subject:Objection to Licensing application PREM/03120/008

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to object to the above licensing application by Armley Food Centre, 26-30 Town Street, Armley, Leeds, LS12 which includes the provision for sale by retail of alcohol everyday between 7am and 1am for consumption off the premises from 9am to 11pm at present.

Since May 2016, Armley has been subject to a legally enforceable Cumulative Impact Policy, which requires new applicants to prove that a new license application will not make matters worse in Armley.

Given that street drinking and alcohol dependency are still such significant concerns for local people living and working in Armley, a zero-tolerance policy must be maintained. The links between easily available alcohol and anti-social behaviour on Armley Town Street have created an atmosphere which is turning away people who would otherwise want to go there.

There is no doubt that the link between the high number of off-licenses in the Armley Town Street area selling strong alcohol at a cheap price, has been the main driving force for why problems due to street drinking has been a chronic problem for local residents. While efforts are made to ensure current licensees follow the law and police advice by not selling to under 18s and people who are clearly drunk, we must act now to ensure no more off-licenses open on Town Street in the foreseeable future.

The Cumulative Impact Policy on Armley Town Street is intended to take into consideration the high levels of street drinking and anti-social behaviour recorded by public health and the police. It must further ensure residents have a greater voice in local decisions that have a direct impact on their livelihoods, wellbeing and general experience of Town Street.

In 2018, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] were both refused a license

to sell alcohol daily for consumption off the premises, due to the ongoing issues with alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, which continue to affect residents and shoppers on Town Street. There are already eighteen licensed sites in Town Street alone which contribute to anti-social drinking issues, and twelve of these are off-licences.

Armley Town Street must become a place where local people can enjoy their community. Therefore, I hope that the licencing committee will continue to support the efforts of the police, local community and Leeds City Council in addressing these issues by properly applying the Cumulative Impact Policy and preventing any new alcohol licences from being granted on Armley Town Street.

Kind regards,
Rachel Reeves
Member of Parliament for Leeds West
Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer

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