

# Representation

Section 1 – Licence application details	
<p>Please indicate as appropriate :</p> <p><b>I wish to object to the following application:</b></p> <p><b>I wish to support the following application:</b></p>	
Applicant premises name and address: Indigo, 81 Roundhay Road, Leeds, LS8 5AQ,	
Section 2 – Your personal details	
Title	Mr Mrs Miss Other <b>Councillor</b>
Surname	<b>Arif</b>
First name(s)	<b>Salma</b>
Address (incl postcode): C/O The Labour Group Office, Leeds Civic Hall, LS1 1UR	
<p><b>Please note that a full copy of your representation (including your name and address) will be sent to the applicant and will be a public document at the hearing. If this is a concern please contact Entertainment Licensing and we will go through your options.</b></p>	
<p>On what basis are you making this representation:</p> <p>Resident</p> <p>Business</p> <p>Someone representing a resident or business:</p>	
Section 3 – Representation grounds	
<p><b>The representation is relevant to one or more of the following licensing objectives:</b></p> <p><b>Please tick relevant box(es)</b></p>	<p>Prevention of crime and disorder</p> <p>Prevention of public nuisance</p> <p>Protection of children from harm</p> <p>Public safety</p>
<p>Please select :</p> <p>I object to the application being granted at all</p> <p>I object to the application being granted in its current form</p>	
<p><b>The grounds of the representation is based on the following:</b></p>	

When I was first elected in 2016 as a Councillor for Gipton & Harehills Ward, one of the concerns I consistently picked up was the sheer volume of off-licenses operating in the area. Harehills in particular has become a neighbourhood that has become saturated with shops selling alcohol, often around the clock.

To put this into context, along Harehills Lane and Harehills Road, approximately 70% of shops are selling alcohol. These shops sit next to people's homes, schools as well as places of worship. Harehills is a densely populated neighbourhood; a place where what happens on the street has a huge impact on the local community.

According to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Gipton & Harehills Ward has 17 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that are amongst the 10% most deprived in the country. That is more than any other Ward in Leeds. Coupled with this cumulative deprivation is the fact that Gipton & Harehills has a very young population. To illustrate this fact, 30.8% of the population of Gipton & Harehills is aged under 15; that is over 10,000 children and young people living in very challenging circumstances.

But statistics don't tell the full story.

Numerous residents, both young and old, have talked to both me and my fellow councillors – Cllr Arif Hussain and Cllr Kamila Maqsood - about their experiences of drink related abuse and violence on their doorstep. This behaviour has led to damage to property, broken glass, urine and worse left on the pavements outside of people's homes. Such is the scale of alcohol related issues in Harehills, a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) was introduced by the council in early 2019:

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/docs/Cumulative%20Impact%20Assessment.pdf> The response from Harehills residents to the CIA consultation was both compelling and shocking, but sadly not surprising.

Furthermore, for the last 17 months a dedicated partnership made up of local Cllrs, council officers, the Police and representatives from the community and voluntary sector have sought to address the issue of problem street drinking in Harehills. Problem street drinking is a tragic but inevitable bi-product of the availability of cheap alcohol, sold from numerous outlets, at all hours.

To expand, the multi-agency partnership is taking-up this complex challenge is on several fronts. Focus is being given to disruption, which includes enforcing the existing Public Space Protection Order (PSPO: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/antisocial-behaviour-and-crime/public-spaces-protection-orders/harehills-pspo>) and serving four injunctions on the more troublesome street drinkers. In tandem to this approach, there is also a concerted effort to engage with this cohort of drinkers to address their needs around addiction. This work has proven challenging for the partnership given the obvious tension between balancing the imperative to support individuals who are addicted to alcohol and the concerns of the wider community who are suffering because of their actions. A constant pressure for the partnership is allowing the space and time for the outreach work to pay dividends whilst demonstrating to residents that this issue is being taken seriously via enforcement activity that reduces unacceptable levels of anti-social behaviour.

Genuine relationships are being forged under difficult circumstances by Touchstone's dedicated outreach worker who has conducted over 20 visits to the Harehills area to date. Allied to this, alcohol supply has sought to have been addressed through the continued defence of the council's Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) and the opposition of any new off licenses; two applications have been declined in recent times, but tens of off-licences remain in a less than two-mile square radius. A prominent derelict site on Compton Road has also been target hardened following work by Cleaner Neighbourhoods Team colleagues, as it was a magnet for street drinkers.

Ward Members from both Gipton and Harehills and Burmantofts and Richmond Hill have committed

funding for the Touchstone outreach worker, with group sessions for this cohort taking place at a local café. Encouragingly, around 12 people now regularly attend and engage with support services at these sessions, with around 50 individuals engaging with the sessions overall. Allied to this, colleagues in Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team, along with the Police and the Safer, Stronger Communities Team are currently working in partnership using the available legislation including the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 to address the issue of problem street drinking and associated community concerns.

It is hoped that the use of “closure orders” granted under anti-social behaviour legislation will further bolster the existing PSPO in the area. A similar development has already been piloted in Armley which has seen some positive results and we are seeking to replicate it in the Harehills area. The closure order, which denies access to a specific area if people are in possession of an open container of alcohol will give the officers additional powers and ensure there is the necessary balanced approach that allow us to support the needs of the community as well as the needs of a group of individuals with very serious challenges around addiction.

Since its introduction in December 2021 until February 2022, East Leeds Neighbourhood Policing Teams have conducted the following in relation to the Harehills Closure Order:

- 58 warnings issued
- 11 individuals have been reported for summons to court, for breaching the order and previous warnings issued
- 3 individuals have been arrested for breaches of the partial closure order
- 3 individuals have been arrested for breach of bail conditions
- 1 individual prosecuted and fined for breaching the partial closure order

It should be noted that the applicant’s premises fall within the boundaries of the designated area of the Closure Order: <https://www.westyorkshire.police.uk/news-appeals/new-powers-tackle-street-drinking-harehills-leeds>

As a community, along with the council, statutory services and local community and voluntary sector groups we are trying daily to redress the current imbalance in an area where premises licensed to sell alcohol have reached saturation point to the detriment of residents. Granting this application will be slap on the faces of everyone who has campaigned for the CIA, the closure order as well as those working hard to support people with alcohol addiction and those wanting a safer future for themselves and their children.

My Ward colleagues and I hope you will consider the concerns raised above and come to the decision that Harehills does not need yet another 24 hours off licence on its doorstep.



**Signed:**

**Date: 01/03/22**