

The Armley councillors would like to object to the licensing application for Lietuvaite Shop Ltd for the following reasons.

Armley has serious longstanding problems with street drinking and anti-social behavior. These issues are exacerbated by the high volume of off-licenses in the area. As local councillors, we are frequently told by residents that they want to see a reduction in the number of off-licenses in Armley town centre.

We also know that many residents feel unsafe shopping in Armley because of the prevalence of street drinking, crime and anti-social behavior. All of these problems are heightened by the excessive availability of cheap alcohol.

A great deal of work has been done by the local councillors, MP, police and local residents to address the issues around street drinking and anti-social behavior. Having yet another licensed premises on Armley would only intensify these problems and increase the number of people who feel unsafe shopping in Armley.

Kind regards,

Councillor Alice Smart

Councillor Lou Cunningham

Councillor Jim McKenna

From:REEVES, Rachel
Sent:Wed, 23 Feb 2022 10:27:27 +0000
To:Entertainment Licensing
Subject:Licensing Application PREM/04900/001

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Good morning,

I am writing to object to the application by Lietuvaite Shop Ltd, 15 Branch Road, Armley, Leeds, LS12 3AQ, who have applied for sale by retail of alcohol everyday 10:00 - 20:00 for consumption off the premises. I understand that Lietuvaite have previously applied for an alcohol license on at least one occasion, and have been unsuccessful.

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 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 continues to turn away people who would otherwise want to go there. Many people report feeling unsafe in Armley, and given the significant impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our local economy, it is vital that shoppers are encouraged to return to support local stores, particularly as businesses continue to leave the area.

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 in the Armley Town Street area in the foreseeable future.

The Cumulative Impact Policy in Armley 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 Armley.

Armley must be 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 in this area.

Kind regards,

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

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