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Leeds District Licensing Department
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3rd August 2022

**Entertainment Licensing Section,
Leeds City Council,
Civic Hall,
Leeds,
LS1 1UR**

cc. BENTLEYS SOLICITORS, 335 BURLEY ROAD, LEEDS

RE: PREM/01155/006 - BOOZE PLUS, 33 TONG ROAD, LS12 1HQ

APPLICATION FOR VARIATION TO A PREMISES LICENCE – LICENSING ACT 2003:

POLICE – LETTER OF REPRESENTATION

West Yorkshire Police received notice of an application to vary the premises licence for the above premises on 20th of July 2022.

West Yorkshire Police make representations to the variation based on the licensing objectives:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm.

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The application is to extend the premises hours of operating for licensable activity from those currently in operation:

Monday to Saturday – 0800hrs x 2300hrs

Sunday - 1000hrs x 2230hrs

To allow 24-hour sales seven days a week.

After consultation between the local neighbourhood policing team and Leeds district licensing team, West Yorkshire Police are of the opinion that to grant the variation of the licence as applied for would not promote the licensing objectives for the following reasons:

- The premises are in a high-density residential area and 24-hour sales would cause unnecessary disturbance and public nuisance throughout the night to the residents in the area.
- The extended hours where the sale of alcohol is proposed to be undertaken could only increase the level of crime in the area.
- The area already suffers with high levels of ASB and disorder and to allow the application could only lead to an increase in this.
- This area is in one of Leeds Top Ten most deprived areas and suffers from high levels of substance abuse and the issues that this brings. To allow this application would undermine the efforts being made to address these issues.
- The variation would be a draw to attract problem drinkers into the area thereby increasing the risk of them becoming a victim of crime. It would also potentially lead to a rise in them committing crime in order to fund their habit.
- The New Wortley Community Centre is within close proximity to the premises. This facility supports vulnerable members of the community, and they already suffer high levels of nuisance and ASB. This application could only lead to circumstances that would exacerbate these issues.
- Leeds City Council housing have had to increase security in the local high-rise housing due to violent crime and ASB.
- Youth Services regularly engage with the local youths to divert them away from crime and use the car park in very close proximity to the premises for their mobile sessions. They also use the New Wortley Community centre for their work. They escort young people home at night for fear of violence in the area. Allowing the application would increase the risk of crime and disorder and as such would undermine their activities
- The premises are located on a main arterial route leading from The Armley gyratory. An increase in customers, potentially under the influence of alcohol, could only increase the likelihood of road traffic collisions taking place and therefore a reduction in public safety.

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The applicant has offered conditions that could be expected from an application where restricted hours are proposed. They do not show how the additional issues that 24-hour operating can bring to the premises, staff, customers and the local community would be addressed.

Due to this West Yorkshire Police make representations to the variation of the licence as applied for on the grounds of promoting the licensing objectives.

David Parker
Leeds District Licensing Officer
West Yorkshire Police

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OFFICIAL SENSITIVE (when complete)

WITNESS STATEMENT(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B;
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16.2)

NICHE Ref. No:

URN:

Statement of: Christopher Craven

Date of birth: Over 18

Occupation: Police Sergeant

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: C Craven

Date: 31st August 2022

Signature witnessed by:

Date:

Time and date statement taken: 31st August 2022 at 1630 hrsCheck box if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness defaults on rear)

I am a Police Sergeant in West Yorkshire Police and am currently the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant within West Leeds. One of my roles and responsibilities is for community and crime and anti-social behaviour issues within the Armley ward. The issues affecting this area are often complex and forward facing impacting the community, the quality of life they have living in the town and local businesses attempting to operate in the area.

I am experienced in Neighbourhood Policing with 26 years' experience in West Yorkshire Police, the majority of the time has been policing West Leeds including Armley, the roles have been varied allowing a good cross section of the diverse issues the area faces, roles including Serious and acquisitive crime, Roads Policing and Neighbourhood Policing have allowed multiple interactions.

I have been in role as Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant for the area for a number of years and regularly interact with the community, business groups and locally based support groups and statutory organisations, this puts into context the level of knowledge I have on Armley and the surrounding areas.

I am making this statement based on my overall knowledge of anti-social behaviour and nuisance directly linked to street drinking in Armley. I regularly attend partnership and community meetings and the issues around street drinking and linked anti social behaviour are always discussed. The level of passion felt by the community is clear to see as the drinking and associated disorder affects their daily lives. Complaints supported by actual events are wide ranging and include:

1. A number of groups and individuals seen regularly street drinking in groups causing people to feel intimidated.
2. Litter and untidiness around the area from drink related objects including beer bottles and cans. Broken glass littering pavements and around bus stops.
3. Public safety concerns around people urinating and vomiting in the street and shop doorways.
4. Abuse and verbal threats to shoppers and store assistants from drunken individuals.
5. Individuals passed out in the street due to intoxication.
6. Violent crime linked to drinking alcohol
7. An already disproportionate number of off-licences in the area.

Signature: C Craven

Signature witnessed by:

NICHE Ref. No:		URN:	
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Continuation Statement of: Christopher Craven

As well as complaints and concerns that are reported by the community and businesses issues are also reported back by my Police colleagues who share concerns of drunkenness and anti-social behaviour.

Local business groups and store managers regularly complain of drunkenness around the clock. This is putting the residents off shopping in the area which is served by a relatively small number of stores for the community to use.

A great deal of Police effort and time has been diverted into addressing the concerns, addition patrols have had to be moved from other areas, Police officers regularly are committed and tied up with drunken individuals who are been abusive or passed out in the area. As a result of the risks of disorder the area Inspector has had to authorise dispersal orders previously to try to remove individuals to reduce violence. The residents regularly report feeling unsafe and been abused by drunken individuals stopping them accessing their area. I have in addition had to deviate Police Officer shifts to support Leeds City Street Cleansing on their morning clear ups as they were facing verbal abuse and threats preventing them cleaning the area.

The area the store is situated is residential and houses numerous individuals with complex needs and vulnerabilities. The Community Centre situated on the opposite side of the road continues to provide a valuable service to support adults and children and there are regular concerns regarding drunken behaviour putting people off accessing valuable services. The Youth Support groups regularly run from the centre.

From engaging with street drinkers and de briefing the ones causing anti-social behaviour it is clear given the fact they live outside the town they are attracted by stores opening late where they can access alcohol. The only 24-hour licensed shop creates a large demand as individuals from across the city attend often drunk in taxis' to access readily available alcohol which is turns leads to round the clock anti-social behaviour and violence.

As the Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant for the area I can state that the behaviour of those involved in on the street drinking and related anti-social behaviour is of great concern and there are additional community concerns. This type of behaviour clearly has a negative impact on the community which has been reported on regionally and nationally and I would therefore object to the application to extend the premises and opening times at Booze Plus, 33, Tong Road, Wortley which forms part of the Armley ward.

Signature: C Craven

Signature witnessed by:

WITNESS STATEMENT

(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B;
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16.2)

NICHE Ref. No:

URN:

Statement of: PC 6070 G Havercroft

Date of birth: Over 18

Occupation: Police Constable

This statement (consisting of: 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: G.Havercroft 6070

Date: 31st August 2022

Time and date statement taken: 31/08/2022 20:30hrs

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I am the above-named person and I am currently employed by West Yorkshire Police as a Police Constable. I currently hold the title of Armley Ward Manager for Neighbourhood Policing Team 2 based at Pudsey Police Station.

I have held the position of Police Constable for the past 2 and half years and have been attached to the Neighbourhood Policing Team for 2 of these years. My role as Armley Ward manager makes me responsible for ongoing and persistent issues in Armley and I have responsibilities for tackling anti-social behaviour. Many of the issues effecting this area are often complex and have a big impact on the community, the quality of life they have living in the area and local businesses attempting to operate in Armley.

I am making this statement for a recent application from Booze Plus, 33 Tong Road, Wortley, Leeds and this is based on my overall knowledge of anti-social behaviour and nuisance directly linked to street drinking in Armley.

There is a long-standing well-known issue regarding street drinking in Armley. Throughout my time as a Police Constable I have attended many nuisance calls regarding street drinkers causing a commotion in the streets.

Large groups mainly made up of White British and Eastern European males often gather on Town Street, Armley drinking and disturbing the general public and they go by. If these groups are not dealt with, they often go on to argue, fight and shop lift from local businesses to fund their alcohol habit. I first-hand have seen and dealt with these males who are causing the nuisance and they do not understand how their behaviour causes such an issue. It has become a local eyesore which has gained media attention regionally and nationally.

Armley has plenty of easy access shops which already sell alcohol to the intoxicated street drinkers and the only 24-hour licensed shop creates a large demand as individuals from across the city attend often drunk in taxis' to access readily available alcohol which in turns leads to round the clock anti-social behaviour and violence.

As a Police Constable for the area I can that that the behaviour for those involved in on the street drinking and related anti-social behaviour is of great concern and there are additional community concerns. This type of behaviour clearly has a negative impact on the community, and I would therefore object to the application to extend the premises and opening times at Booze Plus, 33, Tong Road, Wortley which forms part of the Armley ward.

Signature: G.Havercroft 6070

Signature witnessed by:

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE (when complete)

WITNESS STATEMENT(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B;
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16.2)

NICHE Ref. No:

URN:

Statement of: CO827 Brendan Counsell

Date of birth: Over 18

Occupation: Police Community Support Officer

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have willfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: B.Counsell

Date: 31st August 2022

Signature witnessed by:

Date:

Time and date statement taken: 31/08/22 at 15:25hrs.

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness defaults on rear)

I am the above named person and currently employed by West Yorkshire Police as a Police Community Support Officer based at Pudsey Police Station.

I have been a PCSO for almost 10 years and worked in the Armley area for around the last 9 years of those. One of my roles and responsibilities is tackling anti-social behaviour issues with in the Armley ward. The issues effecting this area are often complex and forward facing impacting the community, the quality of life they have living in the town and local businesses attempting to operate in the area.

Over the last 9 years I have seen many of the local shops close including launderette, charity shops and second hand buy and sell shops. These have all later re-opened as eastern European food shops or take-aways, In my opinion 2 of the main anti-social behaviour issues in Armley are drugs and alcohol related issues.

I am making this statement for a recent application from Booze Plus, 33, Tong Road, Wortley, Leeds. And this is based on my overall knowledge of anti-social behaviour and nuisance directly linked to street drinking in Armley.

There is an ongoing issue regarding street drinking and there has long been a ban on drinking outside in this area. I have regularly attended calls to service from members of the public and coming across these whilst on general patrol in the area. Groups of mainly males gather on the main Town Street in full view of shoppers drinking. These groups are from both the white British community and the eastern European community. If left to their own devices and not dealt with robustly the groups often become very intoxicated and either argue and fight amongst themselves or with passing members of the public trying to go about their daily business. I have witnessed males so intoxicated that they have passed out and not only fall asleep in shop doorways but have also urinated themselves without realising. This is incredibly distressing for other people who are wishing to use Town Street for its intended purpose. Local business groups and store managers regularly complain of drunkenness around the clock. This is putting the residents off shopping in the area

Armley is an easy area to access alcohol due to the fact that they are close to 15-20 shops in a square mile with an alcohol license which sell cheap strong alcohol and don't seem to be bothered about

Signature: B.Counsell

Signature witnessed by:

NICHE Ref. No:		URN:	
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Continuation Statement of: CO827 Brendan Counsell

selling alcohol to drunk customers and the usual people who cause the main issues, generally the summer is much worse for street drinkers and complaints from members of the public stating that they are people urinating in public in the surrounding area, this then blows up when they put this on social media and the Police & council get abused for not doing anything.

As a Police community support officer for the area I can state that the behaviour of those involved in on the street drinking and related anti-social behaviour is of great concern and there are also community concerns. This type of behaviour clearly has a negative impact on the community and businesses and I would therefore object to the application.

Signature: B.Counsell

Signature witnessed by: