

From:Mudge, Peter
Sent:Tue, 21 Feb 2023 14:38:08 +0000
To:Entertainment Licensing

Subject:Objection to PREM/05035/001

Hi Charlotte,

PREM/05035/001

I am writing to oppose the application for an additional off-licence in Armley at 6-8 Town Street. I am happy for my email and office address to be included with the submission.

"I work for the Council helping the 64 neighbourhood centres of Leeds. In this wide remit, Armley is one of only two areas where action plans have been drawn up with input from the Police, Lasbt, Councillors, businesses and community to itemise all the work needing to be done to develop a happier shopping area. Allowing this application at 6-8 Town Street would fly in the face of all this hard work by everyone trying to improve Armley.

The site in question is in one of the most problematic illegal drinking areas in Yorkshire with one of Leeds' first and most strongly maintained Cumulative Impact Policies (CIPs). To allow this application would simply reinforce Armley as a go-to place for alcohol and increase the amount available whilst the community is striving to reduce this. The tremendous problem of drink in that vicinity led to Armley's CIP being introduced in 2016 following major campaigning from the community and private and public sectors.

The area also has a zero drinks policy through the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) This necessitates the strictest level of PSPO enforcement in the city and means the Police always seize opened containers of alcohol and pour them down a drain in front of the drinker.

In addition to the CIP and PSPO, a Closure Order was introduced in 2021 which gave Police the additional power to warn offenders that if they were found drinking alcohol

again in the vicinity they could be arrested. It was noted this was believed to be the first time such a measure has been utilised in the whole of the UK and again this illustrates the severe problems Armley faces with street drinking.

On a monthly basis the Police and appropriate officers meet for the Community Safety Tasking Meeting. This looks at all asb issues in the ward and sadly always starts with problems on Town Street.

Five applications have been made for new drinks licences in the CIP area in the last 4 years. All have rightly been turned down. Indeed opposite 6-8 Town Street is Krol Mini Market and a few yards more down Branch Road is Lietuvaite which was again turned down yet Krol and Lietuvaite continue to trade without selling alcohol. Similarly in 2019 Heron Foods applied to sell alcohol and strong objections were raised despite this also being a valued business. As a result of the opposition Heron withdrew the application. Allowing 6 – 8 Town Street permission to open and avoid the CIP rule when so many businesses have been refused would give a very confusing message to the community and other businesses.

There is a primary school and children's care and outreach centre on Chapel Lane which is approximately 200 yards away from this applicant's premises and even nearer to the site is Armley Community Hub which attracts many children to its library and other community services.

The Council and Police have had a bid approved by central government to fund Neighbourhood Wardens in priority areas where issues exist. The funding has been approved and can be utilised from May 2023. This will be the second time such a support network has been introduced to help reduce crime and the fear of crime in Armley Town Centre. In 2021 Armley was the only area of the city to introduce similarly empowered "Ambassadors."

Also operating in Armley town centre at present is Central Government's High Street Task Force (HSTF) which works with stakeholders to identify the issues and come up with solutions. Of course the HSTF was only extended to Armley Town Centre because of the well-known problems faced there.

But on a more positive note, for the first time in at least five years, Armley town centre has the fewest number of vacant units and recent additions include Armley Bargain Store and a Wedding Dress shop. Through the hard work of many, Armley town centre

is making progress but allowing another off-licence to open would be hugely detrimental and a real blow to the efforts of all who wish to see Armley succeed. In view of these reasons I ask the Licensing Sub-Committee to refuse this application.”

Kind regards

Pete Mudge,

Neighbourhood Centres Co-ordinator,

Safer Stronger Communities Team

Leeds City Council,

The Reginald Centre, LS7 3EX

www.leeds.gov.uk

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To check if you have an accepted form of ID already go to [Voter photo ID](#). If you do need a new photo ID you can get one for FREE via local libraries and community hubs across Leeds. This new ID requirement is only if you want to vote in person at a polling station, it does not affect you at all if you vote by post. More information can also be found on the [Electoral Commission's website](#).