

Representation

Section 1 – Licence application details

Please indicate as appropriate :

- I wish to object to the following application
 I wish to support the following application:

Applicant premises name and address: R S Mini Market, 121A Markham Avenue, Harehills, Leeds, LS8 4J

Section 2 – Your personal details

Title Mr Mrs Miss Other Councillors

Surname(s) Arif, Hussain, Maqsood

First name(s) Salma, Arif, Kamila

Address (incl postcode): C/O The Labour Group Office, Leeds Civic Hall, LS1 1UR

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.

On what basis are you making this representation:

- Resident
 Business
 Someone representing a resident or business:

Section 3 – Representation grounds

The representation is relevant to one or more of the following licensing objectives:

Please tick relevant box(es)

Prevention of crime and disorder
 Prevention of public nuisance
 Protection of children from harm
 Public safety

Please select :

- We object to the application being granted at all
 I object to the application being granted in its current form

The grounds of the representation is based on the following:

As Councillors proudly representing Gipton & Harehills Ward, residents have consistently raised their concern and frustration at the staggering 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 alcohol outlets sit – quite literally – adjacent to people’s homes, children’s schools as well as places of worship. Harehills is a densely populated neighborhood; 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 Ward is:

- The second most populated Ward in Leeds with 33,645 residents living in 12,400 properties; nearly 10% of homes are classed as overcrowded.
- The Ward is both young and dynamic; 29.5% of residents are children and young people aged 14 or under. 53% of the population is aged 29 or under.
- 4,303 children and young people aged 0-15 in Gipton & Harehills Ward live in the most income deprived households in England.
- Whilst 62.4% of the population is economically active; long term unemployment is double the Leeds average and those that have never worked is at 15.2%, which is nearly four times the Leeds average. Women from the Ward active in the job market is also notably lower than the Leeds average.
- 33.3% of working age people are receiving universal credit.
- Gipton and Harehills Ward is very diverse, with 63% of the population identifying as being from an ethnic minority; 72% of households reported that English was a first language.
- As a migration hub, the Ward has hundreds of languages spoken and numerous faiths live in close proximity (75% of households identify as being religious against a Leeds average of 65%).
- Nearly 56% of households don’t have access to a car or van.
- Fuel poverty for the Ward stands at 29.9%, 8.4% of households don’t have central heating.
- Crime is higher than the Leeds average with violence and sexual assault, public order, ASB and criminal damage presenting as the main issues.

Source: <https://observatory.leeds.gov.uk/deprivation/>

But statistics don’t tell the full story.

Numerous residents, both young and old and of all faiths and backgrounds, have talked to all three of us 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 and has been re-drafted and enlarged in November 2022: <https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/g11973/Public%20reports%20pack%2029th-Nov-2022%2010.00%20Licensing%20Committee.pdf?T=10> The response from Harehills residents to the CIA consultation was both compelling and shocking, but sadly not surprising.

We therefore find it staggering that the owners of RS Mini Market, a store that is located within the boundaries of the Cumulative Impact Assessment area and is already selling alcohol from 11am to 11pm,

now want to extend their alcohol license for a further three hours from 8am. To be clear that's 8 O' Clock in the morning; prime time for children and parents walking to and from their schools and residents starting their day along the many businesses in and around the busy arteries of Roundhay Road, Harehills Road and Harehills Lane. Harehills is awash with alcohol outlets and there are already a plethora of stores selling alcohol at all hours; this extension simply isn't needed, wanted or warranted.

Indeed, we feel passionately that extending this license further would be damaging to the health of the people Harehills; from local residents, parents and children who have to witness anti-social behavior on their doorstep to the vulnerable drinkers themselves who congregate in Harehills and are actively seeking help for their addiction.

For the last 28 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 30 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; four 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 committed funding for the Touchstone outreach worker, with group sessions for this cohort taking place at a local café on Harehills Lane. Encouragingly, around 12-15 people now regularly attend and engage with support services at these sessions, with over 113 individuals with alcohol dependency issues attending since October 2021

Incremental progress is being made with one attendee having completed a detox programme and one awaiting detox; one individual is not attending due to "now working" and some of those who attended on a regular basis are now staying at home, in a relationship or visiting family i.e. positive lifestyle changes. Most refrain from drinking to attend the session then go home afterwards.

Allied to this, colleagues in Leeds Anti-Social Behaviour Team, along with the Police and the Safer, Stronger Communities Team are constantly working in partnership using all 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.

The innovative use of 'Closure Orders', granted under anti-social behaviour legislation further bolstered the existing PSPO in the area for a time. The Closure Order, which denied access to a specific area if people are in possession of an open container of alcohol, also gave officers additional powers to ensure there was the necessary balanced approach that allowed officers to support the needs of the community as well as the needs of a group of individuals with very serious challenges around addiction.

East Leeds Neighbourhood Policing Team undertook the following action in relation to the Closure Order, which ran from December 2021 until June 2022:

- 92 x individuals issued with warnings
- 36 x individuals reported for summons to court, for breaching the order and previous warnings issued
- 7 x individuals arrested for offences including breach of the closure order, breach of bail and drunk and disorderly.
- 3 x individuals prosecuted and fined in court, for breaching the partial closure order

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 license extension will be slap on the faces of everyone who has campaigned for the CIA, the PSPO, 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.

As Ward Councillors, we hope you will consider the concerns raised above and come to the decision that Harehills does not need, want or deserve another off license selling alcohol from 8am. We say with a united voice, "enough really is enough".

Signed:

[Redacted Signature]

Date: 16/02/23

[Redacted Content]