

Gipton & Harehills Ward
Labour Councillors
Councillor Arif Hussain
Councillor Salma Arif
Councillor Asgar Ali

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FAO: Leeds City Council's
Entertainment Licensing Team



10.01.24

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Licence Review- Gold Classic, 315 Harehills Lane, PREM/03433/006.

As ward Councillors we are writing to **support** the licence review of Gold Classic on Harehills Lane.

Gold Classic is located on one of Harehills' main arteries, Harehills Lane, a busy thoroughfare that cuts through the heart of a densely populated residential area, sitting adjacent to people's homes, schools, and 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.

Harehills Lane is also an area that is already saturated with retail outlets legally selling tobacco products. The idea that a business could be operating illegally, selling products that are potentially dangerous to our residents, is a serious concern to ward Councillors.

There is a clear risk to public safety posed by residents being exposed to unregulated tobacco products. We are all too aware that the use of these types of illicit products could have a detrimental impact on the health of our residents, many of whom are already some of the most disadvantaged in our society.

According to the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation, Gipton & Harehills Ward has 17 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) that are among 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.
- 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 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 the percentage of residents that have never worked

is 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>

Against this backdrop, the idea that a business in the heart of a residential area in Harehills could be not only operating illegally but compounding these issues our residents face by selling tobacco products is very worrying.

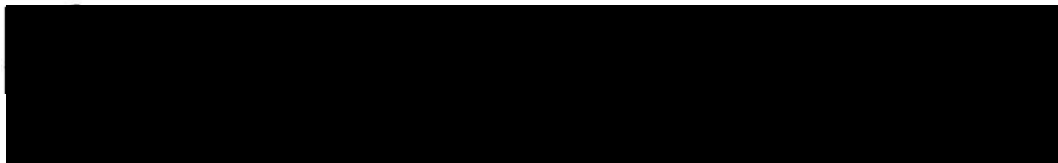
Letting this business trade illegally could be seriously damaging to the health of the people of Harehills, in particular residents who may be exposed to potentially dangerous tobacco products that they otherwise wouldn't have access to.

With that in mind we feel passionately that this licence should be reviewed in light of the compelling evidence presented by the police.

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 an off licence selling illegal tobacco products.

We say with a united voice, please consider the impact on our community; they deserve so much better than this.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Arif Hussain

Councillor Salma Arif

Councillor Asghar Ali