

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Division/Station : High Wycombe

From : Andy Dean
Licensing Officer

To : Licensing Authority
Buckinghamshire Council

Ref :

Date : 1 September 2021

Tel.No.

Subject :

Today's Extra, 4 Pauls Row - Objection

I Andy Dean a licensing officer working for Thames Valley Police have the authority to make decisions on licensing matters on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police.

On the 12th August 2021 Thames Valley Police received an application for a premises licence for a new premises at 4 Pauls Row, High Wycombe to be a 'Today's Extra'.

The application seeks to be able to sell alcoholic products on a 24 hour basis.

The application also requests the provision of Late Night Refreshment from 23.00 hours to 05.00 hours daily and we have no objection to this as in fact the consumption of food items does increase the sugar levels that the alcohol drains and tends to bring people back on a more even keel attitude wise. We accept that there is always someone that will be anti social in some way even if they have food

A few days prior to this application appearing there had been some small pre consultation with the solicitors on behalf of the applicant in relation to informing us that the application was incoming and they were looking at 24 hours alcohol sales. I made it clear at that time that the area this premises was going into was an area beset by Crime and Disorder in the Night Time economy as it would be surrounded by a number of late night opening licensing premises, a 24 hour McDonalds and two late night refreshment kebab vans which attract a lot of punters leaving the pubs. What we didn't need was another premises within this area selling alcohol on an off licence basis which could very well add to the issues of Crime and Disorder, we asked for a number of things in the application; SIA door staff, up to 6.5% ABV on beer lager and cider, named price tags on all alcoholic products. A reduction of hours for the sale of alcohol.

This is also an area covered by a PSPO which prevents drinking in the street if that drinking is liable to cause ASB.

Upon receipt of the application a couple of these conditions were listed and I'm thankful for that. The application still requested the sale of alcohol for 24 hours. However upon receipt of any application I consult with the NHPT Sgt and Inspector in case they have any comments to make and due to the 24 hour alcohol sales aspect I thought it prudent to call a meeting to get their views. It became very clear very quickly in this meeting that due to the nature of the area – a centre for issues within the NTE that this premises could very well easily cause further issues with drunken persons trying to purchase more alcohol, and then sit out side the premises or nearby and further consume alcohol adding to the issues already trying to be managed.

I also asked our Crime Analyst to provide me with figures showing the numbers of crimes being committed in the area during the NTE period (See Appedix A). This shows that crimes against the person has a high rating and this is our major concern with persons trying to purchase alcohol late at night and maybe being correctly refused due to their intoxicated state but them not accepting this and become abusive, aggressive towards staff etc.

Since then I have emailed the solicitor over seeing the application on behalf of the applicant with some further ideas towards conditions with the indication there would be some wiggle room. (see Email chain at Appendix B). as you will see that we aksed for some extra conditions and requested they pull their sale of alcohol times back considerably even repeating one of the first things I asked for. Mr Rushton has responded with some agreements but still asking for more time but less conditions. I have then answered back providing a little more time and agreeing to drop conditions we would want to see for the time being but would re-visit them should matters arise.

Thames Valley Police in High Wycombe are presently concerned with the amount of crime within this area of the town within the Night Time Economy and strongly feel that to allow 24 hours alcohol sales in such an area would only see an increase in crime and disorder not only Anti Social Behaviour due to legitimate refusals of sales but also a concern with the increase in theft that those refusals may bring with customers then trying to grab and run out of the shop with alcohol or even other products because they are hungry due to the alcohol. I would also refer back to the fact that there is a PSPO in the area - of course this doesn't prevent the sale of alcohol but does prevent the drinking of same within this area.

We therefore object to the application in its present state and request the following conditions be added or already offered conditions amended accordingly to encompass our request to meet the licensing objective of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder;

1. Sale of Alcohol 08.00 to 01.00 hours daily, - (alcohol sales stop prior to the first late night venue closing its doors)
2. The premises be active members of pubwatch and a member of staff will attend the regular meetings
3. All alcohol displays will be locked or covered and notices attached between the hours of 01.00 – 08.00 hours to identify to customers that sales of alcohol are prohibited
4. At least two door staff will be employed at the premises between the hours of 21.00 to 01.00 on a Friday and Saturday evening on a risk assessed basis and at all other times also on a risk assessed basis
5. All staff training will be carried out on a 6 monthly basis and records updated accordingly

I therefore submit this report until either such time as an agreement can be reached negating the need to a Subcommittee hearing or the hearing date is upon us without an agreement made.