

## **Continuation page – Representations against S34 Variation – Kings News and Wine**

This application has been submitted in order to vary the operating hours of Kings News and Wine, an established off licence premises located on King Street in Gravesend. King Street Gravesend is in the heart of the town centre and the premises are located near to many residential properties, pubs, restaurants, bars, clubs and other off licenced premises. The area is busy both day and night but can be particularly busy during the night-time economy (NTE) particularly at weekends.

The current authorised hours regarding the sale of alcohol at the premises are 10:00 to 22:00 Monday to Sunday. If approved, this variation would authorise the sale of alcohol Sunday to Thursday 08:00 to 00:00 (midnight) and Friday to Saturday 08:00 to 02:00. The applicant has indicated a desire to operate later into the NTE and has suggested that a recently granted off licence premises in the immediate area with similar authorised hours should set a precedence to this application.

Having reviewed the application there are two main areas of concern. The first being the proposed operating hours and the second being the steps listed by the applicant intended to promote the licensing objectives. At this stage as a responsible authority Kent Police believe that the proposed steps are insufficient.

Should this variation be granted as per the proposed application, Kent Police have concerns that this would lead to an increase in incidents of crime and disorder both at this premises and in the immediate in the area, as well as contributing to public nuisance. The current authorised licenced hours do to some extent shield the premises from some of the issues experienced by other premises that operate later into the NTE. Allowing this premises to operate later into the NTE makes them more susceptible to experience such issues and this does not appear to have been addressed within the application.

As already stated above, this premises is located in very close proximity to a number of licenced premises including pubs and nightclubs. Late night premises such as this (if granted) tend to hinder the dispersal of customers from the NTE and are often used to purchase food and further alcohol. This can lead to incidents of nuisance, antisocial behaviour, noise disturbance and disruption, but can often escalate into incidents of fights and public order in the street. Such issues can be very resource intensive on Kent Police and very difficult to manage. It is also feared that the addition of another late-night off-licence premises located in this area could add to the issue of pre-loading, this being when persons have access to cheap alcohol which is consumed prior to entering late night pubs and clubs. Pre-loading can lead to an increase in street drinking, antisocial behaviour and drunkenness prior to admission into NTE venues. Kent Police are of the opinion that the steps as indicated in section 'M' of the application are insufficient to fully promote the licensing objectives and do not mitigate the potential risks highlighted.

Kent Police concerns are such that we do not support the granting of a premises licence until 02:00. In order to minimise the risk of additional incidents of further antisocial behaviour and crime and disorder within the town centre, Kent Police seek that the licensable hours be restricted to 23:00 daily. Section 66 of Gravesham Statement of Licensing Policy states:

“The Licensing Authority understands the view of the Government, but considers that the risk of disturbance to local residents is greater when licensable activities continue late at night and into the early hours of the morning. For example, the risk of residents’ sleep being disturbed by patrons

leaving licensed premises is obviously greater at 02.00 than at 23.00. Residents have a reasonable expectation that their sleep will not be unduly disturbed between the hours of 23.00 and 07:00”.

Kent Police are not opposed to this application in its entirety in that we do not object to a variation of licenced hours. Kent Police are opposed to granting of a licence that would allow the premises to conduct licensable activity until 00:00 (midnight) Sunday to Thursday and 02:00 Friday and Saturday. Kent Police would make no objection to the premises being authorised to conduct licensable activity from 08:00 to 23:00 daily.

Should this variation be granted as applied, Kent Police would seek the addition of the following conditions:

1. CCTV will be provided in the form of a recordable system, capable of providing pictures of evidential quality in all lighting conditions.
  - a. Equipment must be maintained in good working order, be correctly time and date stamped, recordings MUST be kept on the hard drive and kept for a period of 31 days and handed to Police upon reasonable request.
  - b. The premises licence holder must ensure at all times a DPS or appointed member of staff is capable and competent at downloading CCTV footage in a recordable format to the Police and Local Authority upon reasonable request.
  - c. The recording equipment and hard drive shall be kept in a secure environment under the control of the DPS or other responsible named individual.
  - d. In the event of technical failure of the CCTV equipment the premises licence holder or DPS must report the failure to the Police Licensing Officer within 24 hours unless the CCTV will be repaired before that time ([licensing.north.division@kent.police.uk](mailto:licensing.north.division@kent.police.uk))
2. All persons that sell or supply alcohol to customers must have licensing training.
  - a. Training should take place within six weeks of employment and any new employees will be supervised until the training has taken place.
  - b. Refresher training should be repeated a minimum of every six months or earlier if required due to changes of legislation.
  - c. Training records must be kept on the premises and shall contain the nature, content and frequency of all training.
  - d. Records must be made available for inspection by Police, Police Licensing Officer and authorised officers from the Local Authority upon request either electronically or hard copy.
3. All staff shall be instructed to record in an incident book/register all incidents of crime and disorder occurring at the premises, and details of any occasion when the police are called.
  - a. These records shall include the time and date of any incident and the identities of staff members involved.
  - b. The incident book/register shall be made available for inspection by Police and authorised officers of the Local Authority upon demand.
4. A diary log shall be kept detailing all refused sales of alcohol.
  - a. The log should include the date and time of the refused sale and the name of the member of staff who refused the sale.

- b. The log shall be available for inspection at the premises by the police or an authorised officer of the Gravesham Council at all time whilst the premises are open.
  
- 5. A challenge 25 proof of age scheme shall be operated at the premises where the only acceptable forms of identification are recognised photographic identification cards, such as driving licence, passport or proof of age card with the PASS Hologram.
  
- 6. From 22:00 till closing on Friday and Saturday, a minimum of 1 SIA door supervisors must be employed and be present at the premises.
  
- 7. From 22:00 till closing on Friday and Saturday, a personal licence holder must be employed and be present at the premises.