

Environmental Protection Team Representation

10-12 Livingstone Road - Licence Application:

This service has reviewed the premises' application for 10-12 Livingstone Road, Gravesend, and we are objecting to the proposed extended opening times and sale of alcohol from 6am to midnight, 7 days a week, in relation to the prevention of public nuisance, prevention of crime and disorder licensing objectives for the reasons explained below.

- The proposed changes would increase their sale of alcohol hours by 4 hours Monday to Saturday and by 11 hours on Sundays. This is a significant increase in hours and suggests that alcohol sales are considered by the applicant to be a significant source of income to justify the additional staffing requirements. There may therefore be a reluctance by staff, especially late at night when they may feel more vulnerable, to refuse the sale of alcohol to customers when appropriate to do so.
- This premises is unlikely to have a well regulated sale of alcohol due to the absence of security staff and would therefore be reliant on police intervention to deal with aggressive customers and public order issues. There may therefore be a reluctance by staff, especially late at night when they may feel more vulnerable, to refuse the sale of alcohol to customers when appropriate to do so, e.g. when they are drunk, in groups, intimidating, etc. and equally to intervene to actively manage noise levels.
- Anti-social behaviour and excessive behavioural noise arising from intoxicated individuals is far more likely to occur late at night and during the early hours, and the impact at these times on local residents would also be greater due to the low background levels and sensitivity associated with the night time when most people will be trying to sleep. The risks are exacerbated in warm weather when residents may wish to have their windows open.
- Residential flats are present above the shopping parade and would be most affected by nuisance from customers, as well as late night/early hours deliveries. In addition, engine noise, radio noise and car doors slamming arising from anyone driving to purchase alcohol in the night when background noise levels will be low, will likely cause sleep disturbance to those living in the locality.
- Significantly increasing the premises opening hours would likely create more litter, negatively affecting the amenity of the area.

This service is concerned that as the locality is a mixed use area, with residential properties above all of the nearby shops, that if the off-license is allowed to trade in alcohol or food at the extended hours this would see a significant increase in the number of customers, and greatly increase the likelihood of noise nuisance, littering and other antisocial behaviour. It is therefore likely that it will not be possible to comply with the licensing objective of the prevention of public nuisance.

We had offered the applicant via email on 14th September, the option of changing their application to increase their sale of alcohol hours on Monday to Saturday from 10pm to 11pm, and on Sundays from 5pm to 6pm, and their opening hours Monday to Sat from 10pm to 11pm and on Sunday from 5pm to 7pm, however they did not respond to this compromise. We therefore must object to their proposed variation.