

Objection to 24-hour alcohol licence variation at Intack Mini Mart 331-333 Accrington Road Blackburn.

On the 24/03/2023 Lancashire Constabulary received an application to vary the premises licence at Premier store, Hill Place, Nelson to 24-hour sales of alcohol.

Lancashire Constabulary wish to object to the application on the Prevention of Crime and disorder and prevention of public nuisance licensing objectives.

The applicant is a Mr Karamat Hussain

The premises currently hold a licence to sell alcohol between the hours of 08:00 and 23:00 between Monday to Saturday and 10:00 to 22:30 on Sunday, with some seasonal variations during Christmas and Easter

The premises are situated in a residential area, and we are concerned that if the premises are allowed to open and sell alcohol for 24 hours it will cause disturbance to the nearby houses.

There are 96 other off licences in the Blackburn area according to the Police Innkeeper system and none of those have a 24-hour licence, I appreciate that all applications need to be considered on an individual basis and blanket terminal hours for an area are not appropriate under the Act, however we need to consider the impact of any variation on the licensing objectives

There are some fuel stations which benefit from 24 hour sales but these are mostly in town centre areas, and their main business is the supply of fuel and any disturbance from vehicles can be expected due to the nature of the business.

It is worth noting that the Three Arches filling station on Preston Old Road only has an alcohol licence until 23:00 hours and is closely situated within residential housing

We believe that if the premises are allowed to open and sell alcohol on a 24-hour basis there will be an increase in noise from vehicles arriving and leaving together with pedestrians who may call in on their way home from a night out and cause a disturbance.

In relation to customers arriving in vehicles, there would be noise as the vehicle arrives, doors opening and closing as the occupants get out, doors opening and closing at the store and the same noise as they return to their vehicles, engines restarting and the vehicle moving off.

I would suggest that customers would not just use the store for alcohol but other essential items adding to the number of customers and associated noise and the potential for the younger people to meet up. I don't want to label all young people as troublemakers but 17 years in the police has taught me that convenience stores attract the younger element as a meeting place, a place to get food and drink and the exuberance of youth naturally causes noise from talking, music and general high jinx

The applicant obviously believes that there is a market for 24 hour opening and it be sufficient to cover their overheads. The ability to purchase alcohol 24 hours a day is not essential, and no one is going to suffer significant harm from not being able to buy alcohol between the existing hours.

From my interpretation from the government website, there are no restrictions on the opening hours of a small shop, the only restrictions being from the premises licence so in theory, the shop

could open 24 hours but no alcohol sales outside the existing hours and the alcohol not on display. This could bring its own issues of customers expecting to buy alcohol and not understanding the restrictions on sales. It would suggest that the sale of alcohol accounts for a significant part of the business

If the committee are mindful to grant the licence with the extended hours, we would ask you to consider additional conditions in relation to CCTV to ensure it can be obtained by the Police in a timely manner and retained for a period of 28 days. Additionally, we ask you to consider a condition that if the CCTV system is replaced or repaired the old hard drive is retained for a period of 28 days and produced on request to a Police officer or authorised officer of the council.

We would also request documented training of all staff in the responsible sale of alcohol, with regular documented refresher training and again, any records produced on request to a Police officer or authorised council officer.

We would like the premises to take responsibility for ensuring that youths are not allowed to gather and remain outside.

In addition, we request that the premises document all refusals and challenges, whether it be a written log or electronically on the till and again made available to Police and authorised council officers.

In summary, I think the potential disturbance to the locality by allowing 24-hour sales, 7 days a week is unacceptable and will have a negative impact of local residents

PC 3539 Needham

Licensing Constable East Division