

Division/Station : Licensing Milton Keynes

From : Gemma McCormack
Licensing Officer

To : Licensing
Milton Keynes Council

Ref : Your Ref Convenience Store, 26 Watling
Street, Fenny Stratford

Date : 8th July 2020

Tel.No. 01865 541320

Subject :

Representation

As licensing officer for Thames Valley Police, I am authorised to make representation in relation to applications made under the Licensing Act 2003 on behalf of the Chief Constable as a responsible authority.

In respect of the application for to vary the premises licence for Fenny Stratford Convenience Store, at 20 Watling Street, Fenny Stratford, applied for by Divashana Manohar I have reviewed the application and am submitting a representation in relation to the application under the grounds of prevention of crime and disorder and prevention of public nuisance.

The premises is a convenience store with off licence capacity on Watling Street in Fenny Stratford, amongst several other shops surrounded by a large residential area. It will be located close to 4 other licensed premises (2 pubs, a nightclub and another convenience store with off licence capability along) with several other shops. The premises already holds a premises licence allowing it to open on weekdays from 06:00 to 23:00, on Saturdays from 07:00 to 23:00 and on Sundays from 08:00 to 23:00 and permits the sale of alcohol for the consumption off the premises 7 days a week from 08:00 to 23:00.

Having discussed the application with the Neighbourhood Sergeant, we do not believe the premises will be able to adequately promote the licensing objectives if this application is granted. The premises is located within the footfall area for dispersal from the nearby nightclub, whilst the nightclub is currently not open due to the restrictions in place to reduce the impact Coronavirus pandemic it is expected to reopen in the future, and therefore the premises proximity to the nightclub needs to be considered in relation to this application.

The nightclub has a premises licence which permits it to be open until 01:00 on Mondays to Wednesdays and until 07:00 on Thursdays to Sundays. Whilst before the pandemic it did not always open to these hours, it did at least 4 days a week. Therefore the applicant needs to consider the impact that the variation of their own premises licence would have on the nearby residents and businesses if granted. On nights where the nightclub is open until 07:00, their customers tend to leave at varying times, with peaks at 00:00-01:00, 02:00-03:00 and 06:00-07:00. An off licence so close to the dispersal area still trading until 01:00 would likely attract intoxicated people looking to continue their night, and starting to selling alcohol at 06:00 would also have the same impact on those leaving the nightclub at the end of the night.

Whilst the licence holder would be required to ensure not to sell alcohol to intoxicated people, this would likely lead to confrontation and possibly violent offences within the convenience store, with the licence holders staff being at risk. Furthermore if alcohol sales are made, it would entice people to stay in the area longer, potentially disturbing nearby residents.

Whereas I would ordinarily suggest conditions that could reduce these concerns, I cannot think of any that would actually reduce the anticipated impact adequately. I can only suggest reduced hours, however when considering the peak times of footfall in a non-pandemic time, the reduced hours I would support are the hours the premises is currently licensed for. Therefore I have no option but to object to the application.

If you wish to discuss the above with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Gemma McCormack