



FAO – Vanessa Rosales

Drug & Alcohol Harm Reduction Team
Bournemouth Divisional Headquarters
5 Madeira Road
Bournemouth
Dorset Police
BH1 1QQ

By Email

4th June 2024

Dear Ms Rosales

RE – 45 Westover Road, Bournemouth, Dorset.

We are now in receipt of your recently submitted objection to the new alcohol license application for the above site. We are writing to you to respond to your objection seek to remove the objection prior to the requisite hearing should the objection remain in place at the end of the application period.

We address your points as set out in your correspondence.

'The location of this premises is in Bournemouth Town Centre and close to a supported accommodation. This area already experiences a disproportionate number of street drinkers, anti-social behaviour and crime and disorder which already negatively impacts the local community, as well as contributing to an increase in demand on police resources.'

The Local Area

The prospective personal license holder and potential DPS operates and is involved in other licensed premises in the direct locality, operating without licensing concerns or any recent problems involving antisocial behaviour, crime and disorder or public nuisance. The applicant is also involved with the operators of the shop at 18 Westover Road have consistently assisted the police with their enquires on many occasions throughout their tenancy. These have involved the utilisation of stolen credit cards form burglaries, property stolen from cars and personal property stolen from beachgoers. These acts of assistance are becoming more frequent and requests for help are being received weekly. Number 18 was declined a premises license at the last time of applying due to the Police stating that they believe the additional licensed premises would add to the problems in the area, like this objection you now raise. What is apparent is that whilst retail units are declining in the street and vacant shop units become more prevalent; the lack of supervision by the police and shop operators has led to a reliance on the vigilance of the operators of number 18 Westover Road. Their help has always been forthcoming and must, by the repeated calls upon their surveillance equipment and staff, be assisting the police with their management and dealings with crime and criminality in the area. One example of such assistance was with PC Craig Evans in February of this year should you wish to hear directly from a colleague the benefit of the added vigilance on the road.

By the absence of objections from shopkeepers in the locality and the Bournemouth BID team it would also be apparent that their opinion has somewhat shifted from the dismissive reaction to the previous application for an alcohol license at No. 18. These previously objectional parties are now no longer objecting to such applications and this can only infer that they see the benefit of these retail units being open and operated and any business with foresight and willingness to bring these redundant units back into life. A vibrant street scene can only add vigilance and community spirit to the street and area more widely.

Supervision

We would offer SIA registered security at times beyond that of the norm for such licenses as we are applying for and further to our submitted application. For instance, from 21:00 on weekend evenings. Also proposed would be further increase the CCTV provision on the road and internally to the shop.

Other licensed premises in the locality

In addition to the established alcohol supplying premises in the area, namely Tesco's in the square and independent 'off-licences' in Exeter Road. The petrol station on Bath Road has now received an alcohol license this license has been granted post the declination of the application at No. 18. We seek under this application to secure an identical license to that which the other neighbouring sites now benefit from.

'Furthermore, Westover Road directly fronts the Lower Gardens, a location which necessitates a seasonal dedicated policing presence. Whilst the applicant has offered conditions to their application, it is of the opinion of Dorset Police that it would not be enough to mitigate the risk of having an off licence in the area.'

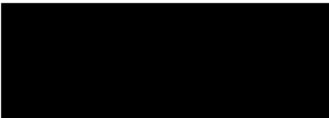
We feel that where the police currently see this application as not mitigating the risk in the area, that in fact not only does this application mitigate the risk the application benefits and further reduces the existing problems the police face and reduces the demand on their dedicated police presence.

And furthermore, our client wishes to continue to build the positive and helpful relationship they have with Dorset Police. There really is no reason why an operation such as this couldn't become an asset to the town and the police.

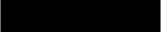
Our client wishes to engage with the police to further discuss this application and wishes to be part of a constructive dialogue.

Please contact us with any further comments and concerns.

Yours Sincerely



Tom Hollington



C.C. Sarah Rogers - Principle Licensing Officer BCP Council – *By Email*