

22 JAN 2015

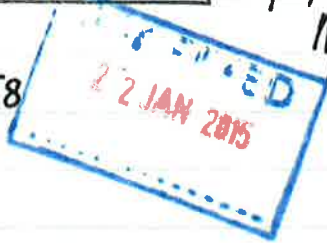
SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL

reference  
Proposed Licensing  
UPRN 20000368158  
44 Tonbridge Road

45, Tonbridge Road  
Maidstone  
Kent

ME16 8SA

20th January 2015



Dear Louis Davis, Licensing Officer,  
with reference to the above premises change of use + opening hours, I'd like to raise the following points.

- 1) Parking is already a major problem in this area. The 3 "Take Aways" already cause "passing trade" to block narrow pavements along with illegal and indeed dangerous parking on the zig zags either side of the zebra crossing of an evening. Loud car radios are an nuisance. There are no traffic wardens enforcing parking rules of an evening or night time, nor a community police officer.
- 2) Tonbridge Road is a main access to + from Maidstone Town Centre. The "night time economy" of clubs with the heavy drinking of a big population of youngsters drawn to the town means the emergency services use is vital. Extra uncontrolled casual parking + visual obstruction of the zebra crossing + turning into Bower Place endangers public safety.
- 3) The shop in question used to be a trophy shop, open 9am - 5.30pm. The proposed change of use concerns me because, the shop door opens directly onto a narrow pavement + virtually straight onto the zebra crossing. This "alcohol outlet" would add more 'night time economy' customers to the already "Take Away" customers vying for pavement + parking space. Customers, possibly already the worse for drink, could step straight into oncoming traffic.
- 4) Extending opening hours will create a 'ghetto type area

for local residents. This is an old established residential neighbourhood. More flats and houses are being built making it increasingly densely packed. The proposed opening hours are inappropriate for family life. Surely we need more consideration of noise and anti-social behaviour with higher population density?

More access to alcohol late at night & into the early morning will attract more anti-social behaviour. With the cuts to public services it seems unwise to create more problems.

These are my concerns about selling alcohol and the proposed increased opening hours at 44, Tonbridge Road.

I am also concerned that the narrow pavements & zebra crossing are used by a large amount of pupils & students going to & from Oakwood Boys Grammar, St Augustine's Academy, St Simon Stock, Med Kent College and St. Michael's Infant & Junior School. Children crowding to buy sweets & fizzy drinks on the narrow pavement, which the shop door opens straight onto, would be in danger of being accidentally pushed into the moving traffic. The shop door is a bare two yards from the curb and also close to the zebra.

The recent increase in population & traffic calls for more careful planning if peoples' safety is to be considered.

Yours sincerely  
Mrs. Joan Clews.