



Kent Police

Chief Officer of Police Representation in relation to an application for **variation** of premises licence made under Part 3 **Section 34** Licensing Act 2003 (S35 Licensing Act 2003)

Details of person or body making representation	
Name of Chief Officer of Police	Chief Insp Mick Gardner
Postal Address: (Area Headquarters)	Maidstone Police Station Palace Ave Maidstone. ME15 6NF
E-mail address	10051@kent.pnn.police.uk
Telephone Number:	01622 604403

Details of premises representation is about	
Name of Premises:	Pars Supermarket
Address of premises:	69 Bank Street Maidstone
Date application received by police	18/10/17
Date representation sent to Licensing Authority	02/11/17 <i>Must be within 28 days of receipt – The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005. Part 4 Reg. 22.</i>

The Chief Officer of Police has received an application for the variation of a premises licence made under the provisions of Section 34 Licensing Act 2003, and under Section 35 of that Act asks the Licensing Authority to consider these representations in respect of: -

Please tick one or more of the licensing objectives that the representation relates to:

Prevention of crime and disorder	X
Public Safety	X
Prevention of public nuisance	X
Protection of children from harm	

The relevant representations within the meaning of S.35(5) of the Licensing Act satisfy the requirements of S.35 (6) of that Act and are as follows:

Please give the reason for the representation and detail the evidence supporting it:

Please see separate sheet

Please use separate sheets where necessary

Suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy the representation or other suggestions the Licensing Sub Committee may take into account:

Please use separate sheets where necessary

Please see separate sheet.

Signed: 

Date: 02/11/17

Print name: PC Neil Barnes

Force Number: 10051

Pp Chief Officer of Police of Police for the Police Area in which the licensed premises are situated.

Representation may be made at any time during the 28 consecutive days starting on the day after the day on which the application to which it relates was given to the authority by the applicant.

Please return this form along with any additional sheets to the Licensing Authority.

This form must be returned within the Statutory Period.

Please give the reason for the representation and detail the evidence supporting it:

Kent Police make these representations in response to a premises licence variation for Pars Supermarket, 69 Bank Street. The application is asking to extend the hours that alcohol is offered for sale from midnight as per the current premises licence, to 2am on Sundays through to Wednesday and until 4am on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Kent Police oppose this application as it will undermine the first 3 licensing objectives.

This venue is located in what can realistically be described as the busiest part of the town centre during the weekend night time economy (NTE). It is a pedestrianised area and it is normal for the whole width of the road to be extremely crowded with people.

The majority of people out and about in town after midnight are already under the influence, but due to the addictive nature of alcohol those persons under it's influence are all too often wanting even more alcohol and can be quite determined to get it.

At the moment there are only one licences selling alcohol after midnight within the town centre area and this means that anyone wishing to obtain alcohol after midnight is not only vetted when they purchase it, they are also monitored as they consume it. In this way even if a sober person purchases alcohol for a drunk friend the situation should be noticed by staff and they will be asked to leave. They will not be allowed to take their drink with them and so this in effect gives us a second safety check on the customers.

If this premises are allowed to sell alcohol after midnight it will lead to an increase in the number of incidents of crime and disorder as the second safety check of monitoring people as they consume alcohol will not be there. Even if the person making the purchase is relatively sober the staff will have no way to check that the alcohol isn't immediately being passed to a drunk friend outside.

The location is a very short walk from the lower High Street, which has a number of late night refreshment establishments and as such leads to people gathering there in the early hours after they have been drinking. This already leads to a number of incidents of crime and disorder in the area as well as the issues of public nuisance from noise and litter. If this premises are allowed to sell alcohol after midnight it will multiply this problem. People will simply purchase alcohol in Bank Street, carry it over to the lower High Street where they will gather in large numbers to consume alcohol, eat food and for all intents and purposes hold an uncontrolled street party. It will significantly delay their exit from town and that it will lead to assaults, disturbances and accidents.

It should be noted that although the NTE lasts for the 12 hours between 19:00hrs and 07:00hrs the next morning, the actual demand upon the Police dramatically rises from around midnight and continues to around 04:00hrs when it slowly starts to die down again. Using arrests and assaults as a guide, then roughly speaking on Fridays and Saturdays this 4 hour time frame actually accounts for around 62% of the assaults and 60% of the arrests from the entire NTE period. It is of course no surprise that the vast majority of these incidents are alcohol fuelled. If this premises are allowed to sell alcohol after midnight it will negatively impact and extend this already busy period.

After midnight people using Bank Street are not those just wishing to pick up a bottle of wine to have at home with their evening meal, they are people who are already heavily intoxicated wishing to carry on drinking with little regard for their own personal safety or the impact of their actions on the wider community.

Suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy the representation or other suggestions the licensing sub committee may take into account:

Kent Police do not believe the addition of conditions to the premises licence will address the concerns raised in this representation and therefore oppose the application outright.