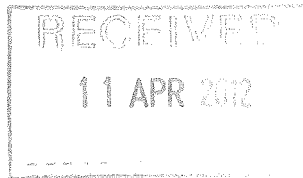


12/00908/LAPRE



Senior Licensing Officer,
Maidstone House,
King Street,
Maidstone,
Kent.
ME15 6JQ

15 Carmans Close,
Loose,
Maidstone,
Kent.
ME15 0DR

OBJECTION TO PROPOSED NEW LICENCE FOR SALE OF ALCOHOL LICENCE AT SHELL UK OIL PRODUCTS LTD, SHELL TAMARISK, LINTON ROAD, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT. ME15 0AT

As a resident who lives in the near vicinity I wish to strongly object to the above new application made to Maidstone Borough Council dated 14th March 2012 by raising many very good reasons. I wish to prevent certain public nuisance and protect the well being of local residents, as I feel that there is no justifiable need for this wholly unnecessary proposal, as this fuel filling station is situated in a very quiet residential area. It is bordered by residential houses on all sides, there are virtually no other commercial premises in the vicinity and the premises is situated within unspoilt green belt area on the edge of beautiful countryside. I wish to maintain Loose as a safe and family friendly environment. The operation of such a licence would adversely affect residents and customers using the Shell shop for groceries including children and customers buying fuel.

Directly across the road is the entrance to a large secondary school (Cornwallis Academy), very many children use the Shell shop throughout the day, those children need to be protected from exposure to the harm and temptation of underage drinking. Very few people actually walk by the filling station other than hundreds of children during school hours. There is currently no public drunkenness and resultantly very little anti-social behaviour in Loose, operation of such a licence would encourage public consumption of alcohol on the neighbouring streets.

As a regular customer of the fuel filling station I know that the serving of customers is often undertaken solely through the outside serving window i.e. access to the shop is not allowed as usually only one person works there alone. From experience I know that filling stations that sell alcohol are mainly frequented by intoxicated people often straight from late-night clubs and bars. I firmly believe that the mixing of sober and intoxicated customers outside the serving hatch is not acceptable and is detrimental to public safety through raising the likelihood of violence. Additionally the design/layout of the premises is unsuitable and is not conducive to enabling Shell employees to ensure that all customers, whether drunk or not, are safe within the entire premises i.e. the garage forecourt.

Unacceptable noise from intoxicated people shouting, fighting and arguing when arriving by taxis and cabs to buy more alcohol in the early hours of morning would disturb residents; resultant alcohol misuse would doubtless mean bottles and cans littered in the vicinity.

There are no CCTV cameras on the roads around the filling station premises to minimise the negative impacts. There are no police officers stationed or patrolling in Loose. In Maidstone town CCTV is used effectively as a deterrent for the prevention of drunken crime and disorder – there are many opportunities in busy Maidstone to purchase alcohol and adequate police presence enables proper control and prevention of public nuisance.

There are long established, well managed and properly dedicated off-licence premises within approx one mile from the filling station i.e. Loose Road, Loose and also in Coxheath village so I cannot see any good reason why the Shell Tamarisk filling station should sell alcohol other than for their financial gain at the expense of the local residents and children.

Yours Sincerely,

D Murphy *Sun April 2012*

Mr D Murphy 5th April 2012