

Ref: Application for alcohol license and extension of opening hours by the owners of the Jet petrol station, Ockford road, Godalming.

WAVERLEY B.C.	
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE	
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I object to the application made by the owners of the Jet petrol station for an alcohol licence and an extension of their opening hours.

I believe the granting of both licenses will have a detrimental effect on the local community, especially the residents who live nearby to the garage.

Prevention of Crime

The provision of CCTV cameras solely focussed on the garage will not provide a deterrent to those who are drawn in to the area to use the petrol station and then commit acts of vandalism to nearby cars and property. Recently, without the added attraction of serving alcohol until 11.00pm and food through out the night, residents have endured roof tiles being removed from there properties and glass bottles thrown at their cars. Up until the installation of CCTV cameras, the garage was also subject to acts of vandalism. I have seen their shop window cracked and their pumps and signs damaged. The granting of these licenses will only causes the problem to become more pronounced, but this time for the local residents and their properties, rather than the garage who has the protection of CCTV cameras.

Public Safety:

The presence of staff at the petrol station may ensure public safety on the premises, but much like the CCTV cameras, such security is restricted to the petrol station itself, not the surrounding area. Again acts of aggression or intimidation by users of the petrol station may well increase if its opening times are extended. Public safety also be threatened by an increase in vehicles pulling in to and out of the petrol station, across the pavement. Such

activities late at night on a Friday and Saturday are often undertaken with excessive speed. Again an extension of hours will only serve to exacerbate the problem. Staff have very little control over the speed at which some customers accelerate across the pavement to join traffic coming along the road.

Protection of Public Nuisance

Litter and noise are major problems on the Ockford Road. There is already a large amount of rubbish discarded in residents gardens and on the pavements. The garage already has rubbish bins and this has so far failed to prevent some pedestrian customers depositing their waste along the road. With regard to noise the aforementioned aggressive acceleration by some car users from the garage causes pronounced noise above that of passing vehicles. Extending the opening hours will mean residents' exposure to such noise pollution is increased and not welcome. I do not believe the addition of a few 'please be quiet' signs will have any affect. Furthermore, residents are already subject to loud drunken behaviour by those walking along the Ockford road late at night. The addition of an alcohol licence will only serve to make such late night noise worse than it already is.

Protection of Children

I believe that an alcohol licence will still pose a threat to minors. Although staff can be trained to enforce minimum age requirements for the purchase of alcohol there is still considerable difficulty differentiating between someone who is seventeen years old and someone who is eighteen.

Summary

Whilst it is obvious the owners of the garage have done everything possible to secure their property and business against the negative aspects associated with the two applications, the local residents will still be exposed to anti social behaviour, reckless driving across pavements and cars aggressively accelerating away from the garage, only with greater intensity over longer periods of time, potentially throughout the night.

As a local resident who lives next to the Jet petrol station I urge the licensing sub-committee to reject this application for the good of the local community over and above that of the owners desire to increase revenue and ultimately profit.