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Please ask for:
Our reference:
Your reference: Licence application 069186



Peterborough City Council
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The Licensing Team
Peterborough City Council
4th Floor, Bayard Place
Broadway
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14 April 2014

Dear Licensing Team

License application 069186: Little Europe, 715 Lincoln Road Peterborough

Thank you for sending us a copy of this license application. I note that this application relates to premises in the "Operation CAN-Do" area which is now subject to a Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP).

We have particular concerns for the area in terms of problems relating to alcohol. Public Health supports the partnership approach to concerns for community cohesion and anti-social behaviour. We have seen police data showing crime and ASB to take place late into the evening in the Operation CAN-Do neighbourhood and our own analysis shows the area to have the highest density of licensed outlets in the city already. Despite recent improvements thanks to a number of measures, alcohol-related hospital admissions from wards in the area remain among the highest for any neighbourhood in Peterborough, which already suffers a rate higher than the national average.

The CIP area enjoys a particularly diverse population, including many from other European Union states and World Health Organisation data shows considerably higher rates of liver cirrhosis among people from Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and Portugal than the UK average. We believe it is important that we strive to reduce alcohol-related harm among all people living in our city. We had hoped that "health" would become an objective under the Licensing Act, as previously envisaged by the government's National Alcohol Strategy launched in 2012.

We supported the development the CIP for the area which we believe makes an important contribution to health and wellbeing, community cohesion and crime and disorder reduction in the Operation CAN-Do neighbourhood. While the current licensing system does not allow for objection purely on the grounds of health, we oppose the application on the grounds of the indisputable link between alcohol and crime and disorder.

The National Alcohol Strategy (2012) estimates that annually in a community with Peterborough's population:

- 1,800 people will be a victim of alcohol-related violent crime;
- Over 700 11-15 year olds will be drinking weekly;
- Over 23,000 people will binge-drink.

Nationally we know that:

- 47% of violent offenders are believed to be under the influence of alcohol, rising to 62% in incidents of 'stranger' violence;
- 32% of young people surveyed reported being under the influence of alcohol when committing criminal damage offences (NICE, 2010);
- 30% of all sexual assaults are estimated to have taken place when the offender has been under the influence of alcohol; and
- Studies in America have shown alcohol is behind up to 73% of domestic abuse incidents. Research in the UK is showing that where alcohol is involved the severity of the assault is worse (Alcohol Concern, 2010).

In our region Peterborough has the highest rate of alcohol offences per thousand population, at 9.62. The cost of crime and antisocial behaviour linked to alcohol in England is estimated to be £8 billion (NICE, 2010). Analysis of these costs for Peterborough leads us to believe the annual cost of alcohol-related crime and antisocial behaviour to be in the region of £10m. We consider licensing legislation to be an important contributor to reducing harm by restricting availability and safeguarding the public, including the young and vulnerable.

In its publication "*Alcohol-use disorders: preventing harmful drinking. Evidence update 54*" (March 2014), the National Institute for Clinical and Health Excellence (NICE) concludes: "A higher density of off-premises alcohol outlets may be associated with increases in mortality, rates of admission to hospital because of assault or alcohol-related disease, and domestic violence. Higher density of other types of licensed premises may also be associated with increases in admission to hospital because of assault or alcohol-related disease."

We therefore oppose this license application in the Cumulative Impact Policy area.

Yours sincerely

Dr Henrietta Ewart
Interim Director of Public Health