

## Turvey Philippa

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**From:** Members Services  
**Sent:** 04 December 2014 14:28  
**To:** Turvey Philippa  
**Cc:** Dolby Darren; Cllr Swift Charles OBE  
**Subject:** Application for a Premises License Little Europe 715 Lincoln Road Peterborough4

### Message from Councillor Charles W Swift OBE

Dear Phillipa

Would you be kind enough to make the members of the Licensing Committee aware that I fully support this application and wish if possible to attend the meeting if you would confirm the date with me. I would like to attend for the following reasons, which I would ask the Committee to take seriously.

I am fully aware as I was previously a member of the Licencing Committee myself of the serious concerns which have arisen over the past two or three years and still prevail, particularly in the Millfield Area. I wish you to know that the problems from the south of St Pauls Road to the bottom of Lincoln Road bear no resemblance to those from St Pauls Road to the Rhubarb Bridge, New England which is some quarter of a mile distance from where I live.

Firstly, I would like them to take into account the changing pattern of the whole area known as New England where in the past there was a 100% white population with every shop owner being of English origin, there are now upwards of 20% of the population in this area who are of an Eastern European origin, in the past four years there has been a 16% increase in Eastern European electors and a 50% increase in the school intake, likewise with the adjacent doctors surgery on Thistlemoor Road where the large majority of the patients are now of an ethnic origin.

Secondly, I would like to point out that the consumption of alcohol in this particular area, from St Pauls Road to the Rhubarb Bridge has declined in the past four years, there is 90% less alcohol consumption in this area than there was a few years ago.

The main reason for this decline is that within 400 yards of the applicant there were four public houses, the Triangle, the Locomotive, the New Inn and the Grey Hound these have now all closed, all within the past three to four years the fifth and only remaining establishment is the Crown at New England, this public house is also a few yards away from the location of this application, this public house has now limited its hours of opening by 50%, it has sold off part of the building for a flat, demolished the concert hall area at the rear and sold off the car park for the building of sixteen student flats, therefore leading to a 50% less consumption of alcohol in the one remaining public house in the New England area. I would also like to explain to the committee the actions taken by the police, the Local Authority and the Private Sector within this area again in the last two years, where there were known to be problems with drinking, prostitution and the selling of drugs in this area, this I can confirm has now ceased, I will list to you below the reasons why:

1. The Salvation Army at a great expense to themselves have erected controlled barriers to prevent people accessing the car park at night to use the area for drug taking and prostitution and again the sale of alcohol from car boots.
2. Doctor Modha and the PSL have spent over £100,000 in the past twelve months alone facilitating car parks with floodlighting, security cameras and the closure of the road which accessed the Belvedere Bowls Club, the bowls club has now been relocated to Bretton. The closure of this access road has also prevented activities of drug taking and prostitution which would take place all night long from the car parking area.
3. The exit road to Fulbridge Academy has been closed from Thistlemoor Road and opened in Eaglesthorpe and Burns close and this alone now prevents people from using this area for drug taking, prostitution and drinking of alcohol, signs have been displayed to that effect.
4. In the area of New England particularly on the cycle ways all the grass and trees have been cut down to ground level which has prevented people from sleeping rough at night and also indulging in other activities in the area.
5. The seats which were at the top of Scotney Street on open land were only used by drug takers and drinkers these have now been removed along with the litter bins, the shrubs have been cut down to make the area open to deter drug taking and the drinking of alcohol.
6. One of the bad spots was the Rhubarb Bridge/Roundabout at the Brotherhoods retail park on the North Ward side, the whole of the trees have been remove and the area grassed which really has made a massive improvement, it has opened the area up and there are now no places to hide to carry out illegal activities at this location.

7. At the rear of the New England cottages was an area of land which was used by the Red Cross and owned by the City Council this has now been sold to a developer and that area has also been tidied up.

What I am trying to demonstrate to you is that the whole of the area has been revitalised over the past 12 – 18 months and we have no problems what so ever.

Years ago when I first represented this area, majority of the population was White British, the area has now totally changed in character. I believe this shop, which is only one of three in the area that sell alcohol wants to cater for the community and wishes people that shop in his shop to have the same facilities as the population had some 20 or 30 years ago, when they could be seen shopping with their children in the local co-op, where they had access to everything they needed in one shop, this is what this shop keeper is trying to do today.

I therefore hope you will take into account my observations and I do not think that to give a license to this particular property will make the slightest difference to the drinking habits which are currently present in the New England Area.

**Councillor C W Swift OBE**

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