

Licensing Section  
Peterborough City Council  
Bridge House  
Peterborough

5<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Dear Sirs

**Doce Mel, 345 Lincoln Road, Peterborough**

The licence in respect of the above premises is to be reviewed at the request of the Police. The following are the representations of Millfield and New England Regeneration Partnership, who would wish to support their application for the revocation of the licence at the above premises. We are a residents' group set up with the aid of the Peterborough City Council with a view to working with agencies to improve the area.

The conduct of the licence holder at this address has had a serious detrimental impact on the Millfield area, helping to make it become known as the place to go to get drugs and therefore attracting both drug dealers and users, the latter would then use the streets, alleys and car parks in the area for taking their drugs leaving behind used needles and other detritus.

It is understood that at the Magistrates hearing the owner of this business claimed not to have known that drug dealing was going on outside the cafe, despite the fact that the dealing was open and known to the wider community. However, it has been widely known in the local community that drugs dealing was going on at the cafe for at least 18 months before Operation Riptide, which resulted in the arrest of a number of drug dealers operating at the premises. If law abiding citizens, who have never made a drug deal in their lives, knew what was happening, how could the owner deny knowledge of something that was happening day after day in front of his cafe at the tables and chairs supplied by him? It is quite clear that either he knew what was going on and either turned a blind eye or knowingly allowed the trade to continue. The dealers were right outside the cafe and were being supplied with refreshment from the cafe. What did the owner think these men were doing day after day outside the cafe? The deals were not exactly hidden and were seen by members of the public, so it is extremely implausible that the owner could not see what was going on. If he was so "blind" to illegal acts going on, one has to wonder as to what else was being ignored.

If this cafe re-opens and is selling alcohol, then it is likely that the drug dealers will return. This business has already been responsible for a detrimental impact on the area. Residents of the area were not using the bus stop outside the cafe because of what was happening and were avoiding the area, particularly the more elderly, who were concerned as to their safety, as their were frequently groups of men hanging about in front of the cafe and frequently blocking the pavement. To allow that to happen again is unacceptable to the residents of the area and we require the support of the Licensing Committee by the revocation of the licence. It is quite clear that by the conduct of the owner and his staff in allowing this situation to continue without attempting to stop the dealers or to report them to

the police, then he is in breach of the requirements of the Licensing Act, in particular with regard to public safety and public nuisance. Before Operation Riptide, there had previously been an unsuccessful drugs raid at the Doce Mel, which should have served as a wake up call to the owner even if he was not complicit in the dealing.

We would therefore request on behalf of the residents of Millfield that the premises licence should be revoked.

Yours faithfully

Christine Abbs  
Secretary  
Millfield and New England Regeneration Partnership