

Joanne Jones

From: Simon Mercer >
Sent: 23 April 2014 18:55
To: Licensing
Subject: Objection to extension of alcohol license - Esso Garage, Cambridge Road, Stansted Mountfitchet

Dear Sirs

Please take this email as my formal objection to the application to extend the alcohol license to allow sale of alcohol, by the above premises, 24 hours per day.

My objections are as follows: -

Prevention of Public Nuisance – I believe that by allowing the site to retail alcohol from Midnight onwards, it will be attracting additional traffic to the site. This traffic will, by its nature, cause additional nuisance such as car doors opening and closing, potential rowdy behaviour by customers and those travelling within the vehicles. There is also the potential to encourage those leaving the pubs of Stansted to congregate around the garage area, after purchasing alcohol, to consume it. This will lead to raised voices, potential fights and potential noise from bottles etc being broken.

This noise nuisance is likely to be increased as we come into summer when the nights are warmer, encouraging more people to congregate around the garage and in the open spaces around Bentfield Gardens, consuming alcohol. This noise and potential nuisance will be heightened because, as the weather improves, more people, in what is a residential area, will be likely to have windows open.

Prevention of Crime & Disorder – The Garage is on the edge of residential areas both sides of Cambridge Road. The majority of the streets do not have lighting after midnight. By selling alcohol after this time, people will be encouraged to purchase and congregate in the open areas, such as in Bentfield Gardens, The Recreation Ground etc. With a lack of street lighting, such groups, fuelled by alcohol, will inevitably be tempted into acts of vandalism on property and vehicles and potentially assaults and violence on individuals walking through these areas. This is not a problem at the moment because there is no reason for groups to congregate late into the night because there is nowhere for them to purchase alcohol etc.

Prevention of Children from harm – without an established Police presence in the village, there is nothing to stop underage children obtaining alcohol late at night by persuading older, legal individuals, to purchase it. Can a petrol station and the staff be responsible enough to police this activity, highly unlikely.

There is no need to offer additional opportunity to purchase alcohol in the village after 11.00 pm. There are already numerous outlets that sell alcohol up to this time. By allowing the Garage to sell alcohol, it will not be for the benefit of the local community, it will only serve to attract those from further afield, with the potential for additional noise, violence and crime.

Please also take this as my objection to the application to offer additional services between the hours of 12.00 midnight and 05.00am. The garage backs onto residential properties in Bentfield Gardens. Since the extension of opening hours, the garage has already caused additional nuisance by the floodlights (on throughout the night) shining into rear bedrooms potentially affecting those individuals residing in them. Furthermore, there has been additional noise nuisance, due to customers using Jet wash and hovering facilities throughout the night and the uplift in general noise from car doors slamming, engines being rev'd and customers shouting etc. By allowing the garage, which is effectively surrounded by residential properties, to offer additional services, this will only serve to attract more customers to visit the site, during the night, who will, cause more noise nuisance as indicated.

It should be noted that I am currently in the process of complaining about the increased light and noise pollution the extended opening hours has caused to Environmental Health.

Yours sincerely

Simon Mercer



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