

Telephone:

26 September 2013

The Licensing Service
c/o Southwark Environmental Health and Trading Standards
3rd Floor Hub 2
160 Tooley St
PO Box 64529
SE1 5LX

Dear Sir

M LOCAL, 18-22 Grove Vale, SE22 8EE

I am writing to object very strongly to the application for an alcohol licence by Wm Morrison Supermarkets. Four shops in Grove Vale already sell alcohol – as do the pub, the filling station and a restaurant. That is a large number of outlets for a short road which includes other shops, houses, apartments (partly where a cinema used to be), a school, a library, a railway station, a timber yard, large premises of a tyre firm and other commercial premises.

If a licence is granted it will increase the number of hours in every week when alcohol can be purchased as no existing businesses sell alcohol for eighteen hours a day seven days a week.

Alcohol is the cause of Britain's biggest drug problem and is a factor in crime, disorder, public nuisance and harm to children – and puts public safety at risk. As a Social Worker for over twenty years I worked with many people who were harmed by alcohol – including an alcoholic who made a serious threat to murder me and the foster parents of two of his children.

On a voluntary basis I have worked with alcoholics. Some who have been to prison through committing offences while under the influence of alcohol, including a murderer, have been in my home. Since 1974 I have been the liaison officer for the Alcoholics Anonymous group which meets at Peckham Methodist Church.

In January 2011 a young man aged 18 was murdered in Grove Vale by young people who had been at a party, where alcohol was served, in nearby Dulwich Hamlet Football Club. The *Sun* reported that he was one of seventy youths ejected after a mass brawl at a football club bar. The 18th birthday party at Dulwich Hamlet Football Club was shut early after the fight between two rival groups.

As the Sub-Committee has a duty under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do ALL it can to prevent crime and disorder in Southwark, I contend that the committee will have to refuse to grant Morrison's a licence to sell alcohol in Grove Vale.

As Goose Green School is in Grove Vale, it is important not to increase the number of outlets selling alcohol in order to protect the pupils from harm.

Public safety and the prevention of public nuisance are important issues as literally hundreds of people travel in or through Grove Vale every day:

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Alcohol is a factor in much crime and disorder so people who use Grove Vale should not be put at potentially greater risk by yet another outlet selling alcohol.

If a licence is granted, no one will be able to predict with certainty the negative consequences of people consuming alcohol bought in a Morrison's store in Grove Vale. As prevention is better than cure, and many of the consequences of people consuming alcohol cannot be cured (e.g. the young man murdered in Grove Vale), I hope very much that the licence will not be granted.

Yours faithfully

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 October 2013 16:18
To: Regen, Licensing
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: 18-22 Grove Vale SE228EE

To:
The Licensing Service and Planning Dept. Southwark ? Southwark
Environmental Health and Trading Standards 3rd Floor 2160 Tooley
Street SE15LX

Dear Sir/ Madam

Re: 18-22 Grove Vale SE22 8EE - proposed Morrison store

I wish to object to the licence being granted to sell (more) alcohol in this area. As well a objecting to a Morrisons being allowed to set up in the area. My reasons are below.

The area of Grove Vale is already well served by a large 24 hr Sainsburys and a 24 hr Costcutter, plus two other local small shops struggling to make a living and various takeaways. A Morrisons would inevitably impact badly on them 'sucking the life out of them' - quote James Barber on a debate about a Tesco moving into the space - Morrisons is of a similar calibre and as such would be in direct competition with them. These shops are run by people who are local, who work long hours, give us excellent service, are friendly and make the area what it is today, safe and bright. They are our real local shops not faux Local shops owned by millionaires, this development will make a real difference to our shop owners and their profit and gradually drive them out of business leaving empty shops and a desolate place.

Around the station and under the bridge it is dark, grim and already very littered, the large containers are often over flowing and spilling on to the street. Some of it is caused the local takeaways, Maxim Chicken and Dominos pizzas as people, mainly youth gather there and eat drink and discard the containers. This can only get worse both there and in surrounding streets if there is another takeaway/off licence in the area.

Selling alcohol that late at night will quite obviously will lead, not only to more litter, but more drunken behaviour, aggressive and antisocial behaviour, noise, laughing, screaming and so on. You may or may not be aware that there has been trouble in the area with gangs,

and muggings and threatening behaviour, which, with more alcohol easily available there is a high chance the crime will increase around here too.

There is also the increase in traffic problems as people park as people just pull in and get out for their purchases. A couple of parking spots are not going to service this place. The buses already cause chaos when more than one tries to stop at the bus stop due to it's ridiculous position (directly after the bridge), so cars try to overtake and undertake and so on, more traffic, more problems, more potential accidents. More noise too, what about the delivery of goods, bottles and so on? How are the deliveries going to be monitored so they do not disturb the local population. Early morning will be noisy, later on it will affect traffic.

What started out at the developer trading the moving of a library for planning permission for flats, this has been so changed and diluted (why?, by whom?) that whereas before we were going to benefit from a new, up to date Library in the area, front facing which would have lifted this area, made it more family friendly, bright and useful we now have to suffer an all night down market supermarket selling alcohol to all hours. How can that be of benefit to Grove Vale? With all the problems of young people not being able to get jobs a new library would have been a fantastic addition to the area. Now, this has been shifted to a small area at the back - which if the licence is granted could be used by people drinking their alcohol late at night (urinating, leaving litter, cans etc) which is the exact opposite of the original idea agreed.

A licence to sell alcohol for eighteen hours is absurd, it is way beyond any of the other shops around and so will impact on this area greatly, the only people who would be making their way and buying alcohol there at mid-night are party goers and drunks. At Costcutters opposite they have a bouncer and operate a closed shop arrangement to ensure there is no trouble. Just opening the doors to anyone and everyone is asking for trouble.

So in a nutshell I object on grounds of downgrading our local area, more than likely putting local shops out of business, a shop which is totally unnecessary given what we already have, causing nuisance by noise, drunkenness - leading to aggression and crime, loitering and threatening behaviour and litter from takeaways and alcohol increasing in the surrounding area (so more rats).

I have been unable to get into the office to see the plans and would appreciate a copy them, please send of them to my address below.



ps if by some mis carriage of justice the shop is allowed to be built there should also be a number we can all call at Southwark prominently displayed on the front in case of crime, emergency, complaints etc. relating to this shop.