

Merton Council

Licensing Sub-Committee

12 July 2018

Supplementary Agenda 2

8 Additional Information - BP Oil UK Ltd - Wimbledon Chase SF 1 - 2
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Further Elaboration of argument regarding my representation as an Interested Party to the application by BP Oil UK Ltd for extension of licensed hours for sale of alcohol at 314 Kingston Road SW20

I had planned to attend the meeting on 12th July but find I am unable to do so because I am having a course of treatment at hospital on Wednesdays which unfortunately has side effects for 24 hours or more. Hence I elaborate below the arguments I might otherwise have made orally.

In my original submission I made two points. The second is something in which I believe but is essentially an intellectual benchmark setting proposition for point 1 in this context.

Focussing on my point 1, there is a distinct possibility, or even probability, that a person buying alcohol in the small hours of the morning will consume some of that alcohol before they reach their home or destination address. In that case they will violate the second and fourth Licensing Objectives. If they drink two cans of beer, they will be committing a crime by driving with more than the permitted level of alcohol in their blood; and will also be a risk to Public Safety, both to themselves and others who may be abroad, by virtue of their impaired judgement.

Turning to the combination of Licensing Objectives one and two, consider the case of a group of persons (one, two or more), who are abroad on foot at 3 or 4 am, using an all night facility to buy alcohol. I submit that such persons, having bought alcohol, are highly likely to then consume some or all of it while on the streets. If they do so then nuisance in the form of noise is highly likely and the dropping of empty cans and bottles is a distinct likelihood. This latter is of course a crime which is all too prevalent already. One only has to observe the street side along Kingston Road, between Rothesay Avenue/Wimbledon Chase Station and Martin Way – on both sides - to find there is already such a problem.

In relation to Licensing Objective four, sale of alcohol to persons abroad between midnight and 7am, who have already consumed more alcohol than they can handle, has an obvious potential to lead to violent disorder – a crime, a nuisance and a threat to the safety of the innocent night worker making their way home say.

Finally, put simply, what reasonable reason does an ordinary person have for purchasing alcohol in the small hours of the morning? One type of person who may seek strong drink at such an hour is the alcoholic. Such people need help with their problem not the facility to make their own situation worse by consuming yet more drink.

In the light of the above I submit that the application under consideration clearly fails against most of the Licensing Objectives and should therefore be refused.

Dr M J Foster
5th July 2018

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