



**VW - Merton Borough  
VW - Wimbledon Police Station**

Licensing Team

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14<sup>th</sup> August 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Police Representations**

#### **Re: Application for a New Premises Licence – Mitcham News**

On 24th July 2018, I received a copy of an application for a new Premises Licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 for Mitcham News, 25 Upper Green East, Mitcham, CR4 2PE.

The application can be summarised as follows:

An existing newsagent/tobacconist/convenience store wishing to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises. Alcohol sales from 9am to 11pm daily.

**The Metropolitan Police Service wishes to make the following representations with regard to all four Licensing Objectives:**

- 1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder**
- 2. Prevention of Public Nuisance**
- 3. Public Safety**
- 4. Protection of Children from Harm**

The premises is situated in Mitcham town centre, opposite a public green, the Clock Tower, and street market. Mitcham town centre is within a Cumulative Impact Zone specifically for Off-Licences. Mitcham News is in the very centre of the CIZ, in an area where crime and anti-social behaviour from street drinkers is a serious problem. Police Officers and Council Wardens deal with incidents of crime and ASB within the immediate vicinity of Mitcham News on a daily basis. There are regular incidents of urinating in

public, littering, verbal abuse from intoxicated street drinkers who loiter in Mitcham town centre close to the many shops that sell alcohol. Opposite 25 Upper Green East is Mitcham Clock Tower, this historic landmark is surrounded by benches that have become adopted by street drinkers, behind the benches are bushes that street drinkers use to hide their cans and bottles, and discard them when empty. Members of public, including children feel intimidated and are sometimes verbally abused as they walk past. The local shops report regular petty thefts and loss of business due to street drinkers loitering close by.

Local Police and welfare services continue to offer help and support to street drinkers, to try to divert them from their damaging behaviour. Police also enforce controlled drinking zones, public space protection orders, with Community Protection Notices and Criminal Behaviour Orders and Common Law. We feel that we are fighting a losing battle as the culture of street drinking is so strong.

Despite vast sums of money being spent on the regeneration of Mitcham town centre, there is still an overwhelming feeling of poverty and crime in the area due to the constant presence of drunks.

In the last year, two convenience stores in Mitcham town centre have lost their licences to sell alcohol due to their evidenced contribution to problems of crime and ASB. The loss of their licences solved these problems in the respective vicinities overnight. One of these premises, at 37 Upper Green East, is only a few doors along from Mitcham News.

Mitcham town centre does not need, and cannot cope with yet another Off-Licence. There are currently 12 shops within 300 metres of Mitcham News that are licensed to sell alcohol, all of which cumulatively contribute to alcohol related crime and ASB.

The following reports exist on Police systems referring to Alcohol Related Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour, looking back just 12 months..

- 31/07/2018 Upper Green East – Drunk/Disorderly, Assault, Criminal Damage
- 26/06/2018 Upper Green East – GBH, Shoplifting from Off Licence prems (Drunk)
- 20/05/2018 Upper Green East – MURDER of Arunesh Thangarajah (NFA)
- 28/04/2018 Upper Green East – Criminal Damage to Off Licence prems (Drunk)
- 13/04/2018 Upper Green East – Affray, Drugs o/s Off Licence prems
- 14/02/2018 Upper Green East – Affray, Drugs o/s Off-Licence Premises
- 12/03/2018 Upper Green East – Theft of Alcohol, possession of a knife, damage
- 11/03/2018 Upper Green East – GBH linked to off-licence premises
- 23/01/2018 Upper Green East – Assault, suspect drunk o/s off-licence prems
- 02/12/2017 Upper Green East – Public Disorder, Possession Knife, threats
- 21/11/2017 Upper Green East – GBH, victim drunk
- 15/09/2017 Upper Green East – GBH, victim drunk
- 15/09/2017 Upper Green East – ABH, fight between street drinkers
- 02/07/2017 Upper Green East – Criminal Damage to off-licence premises
- 05/05/2017 Upper Green East – Drunk/Disorderly, Drugs

- 23/05/2017 Upper Green East – Handling Stolen Goods, street drinkers
- 16/05/2017 Upper Green East – ABH, victim very drunk street drinker
- 06/05/2017 Upper Green East – Criminal Damage, suspect drunk
- 03/05/2017 Upper Green East – GBH, victim very drunk
- 16/04/2017 Upper Green East – GBH, drunk street drinker
- 08/04/2017 Upper Green East – GBH, victim drunk
- 01/04/2017 Upper Green East – ABH, victim drunk
- 30/05/2018 Mitcham Fair Green – GBH, victim drunk
- 25/05/2018 Majestic Way – Assault, Robbery, victim street drinker
- 28/10/2017 Majestic Way – GBH, fight between street drinkers
- 20/10/2017 Majestic Way – Assault on Police, shoplifting, Drunk/Disorderly
- 12/10/2017 Majestic Way – Shoplifting (Alcohol)
- 22/07/2017 Majestic Way – Shoplifting (Alcohol)
- 05/06/2017 Majestic Way – Shoplifting (Alcohol)

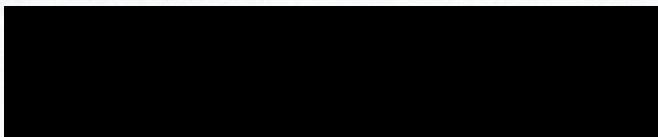
It is my absolute belief that any additional shop premises selling alcohol in Mitcham Town Centre WILL contribute to and exacerbate the existing problems of crime and anti-social behaviour. If Mitcham News are granted a Premises Licence, they will increase the quantity and availability of alcohol consumed in the street, and will therefore proportionately increase crime and asb.

Prior to the submission of this application, the applicant's solicitor informed me of their intention. I immediately asked for a meeting with him and his client. During that meeting, I described my serious concerns and hoped to dissuade the applicant from applying. I explained that even with a number of control measures in place (now listed on the application), it would not be possible to negate the potential impact on the Licensing Objectives within the proposed location.

With my help, the applicant has attempted to address the Cumulative Impact, but has not gone far enough.

**The Metropolitan Police Service urges the committee to REJECT this application.**

Yours faithfully



Russ STEVENS PC3852SW P191701

Licensing Officer

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