

From:

Sent: 03 June 2016 16:37

To: Business Licence

Subject: Just Deals Grocers & Winemarket Shop, case reference 223602318

Dear Sirs,

Thank you first of all for reviewing the alcohol licence for this shop and giving us an opportunity to voice our concerns in an official procedure rather than sending complaints off all over the place in the hope that someone would respond and help us deal with the anti-social behaviour issue at 36 Station Parade.

I can confirm persistent occurrence of the same on and near the entrance to our property of Cassandra Court, which I have good reason to believe to be caused by people purchasing beverages and snacks for immediate consumption from the off-licence in question directly adjoining Cassandra Court in 34 Station Parade.

I have lived as a shared owner at this housing association property for 15 years and can say from experience that while there has always been some antisocial behaviour in the easily accessible off-street communal area outside the building, this used to be limited to people relieving themselves of any kind of bodily waste on their way home at night in the summers, as unpleasant as that is in its own right.

Before 34 Station Parade was converted into a convenience store with an off-licence (there had been applications to turn the under-used office into a nursery even before then, the council should have records of that), I and my neighbour [REDACTED] had written to the licensing department of the council in response to the note posted on the door of [REDACTED] Station Parade but it appeared later that my letter hadn't been received. In it I had voiced my objections against giving the licence to sell alcohol based on my fears that turned out to be only too justified once the off-licence started operating.

While initially the staff at the off-licence used our communal waste bins to dispose of their commercial waste at the end of a business day, overloading our bins so the council refused to empty them, now it is just their customers who time and again are kind enough to dispose of their own beer cans and such (if they don't leave them standing on the walls or lying in our carpark) in our residential bins after they have consumed their content on our private residential property.

This has got so bad that we have asked Genesis to secure the property, and the housing association is currently drawing up plans to create yet another gated community in response to this persistent trespassing and antisocial behaviour that doesn't stop at trespassers harassing residents for asking them to leave the private property they are on. I'll give just one example of this that relates of the last set of photos of 6 May 2016.

All the pictures are just some situations I came across in the last 14 months alone, named by date and time of the picture having been taken. All of them show that the reason people hang around Cassandra Court is to drink, and all of them hopefully illustrate the nuisance and the threat this behaviour is to residents on arriving at or leaving home.

This kind of behaviour can start as early as around 4pm, when what looks like day labourers return from their work and buy a drink to have on our premises with some cigarettes, blocking the pedestrian access to the private car park and forcing residents to ask permission to get through to their homes.

It also comes from groups of youths who due to a lack of communal spaces for them to meet up in, congregate on our premises as well, depending on the weather and school holidays from before lunchtime to late at night. The gangs late at night have noisy conversations outside my windows so I can't sleep [REDACTED] [REDACTED], consume drink and drugs, urinate, sometimes sit in the little porch at the front door, thus blocking the access or exit for residents coming or leaving home at night, and swearing at and threatening residents who ask them to move on. The police have not been particularly helpful when called as at least in my case, once after getting through to an answering machine at night, I only received a call back the following day.

The last 3 pictures were taken over a period of 10 minutes only last month, which makes it clear that people are not just stopping briefly and then moving on after making their purchase. The last picture was taken from the street as I left home, and the young man facing me who stands outside the off-licence alerted the group who had taken over the wall and pavement just next to 34 Station Parade to the fact that I was photographing them. The young man in the white t-shirt standing on the pavement in the picture then crossed the street to confront me. He demanded my phone, then demanded that I delete the picture, or else he would call the police. Fortunately, a male passer-by stopped to intervene in case the situation got out of hand, otherwise I might have been assaulted again.

I sincerely hope that you will help us get rid of this continual day- and nightmare by withdrawing the licence to sell alcohol for the convenience store at 34 Station Parade.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and kind regards,

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[REDACTED]

mobile: