

**From:** Matin, Councillor Hannah

**Sent:** 24 February 2025 16:41

**To:** Legister, Linda; Lorber, Councillor Paul

**Cc:** Clinton, Charlie

**Subject:** Re: Tesco Express, Unit C, 100 Beresford Avenue, Wembley - Notification of Hearing

Hi Linda,

Thank you for your patience while I looked into this.

Unfortunately, my council colleagues are unable to attend on my behalf on this day and time.

Whilst I won't be able to attend the hearing, I don't want to withdraw my objection as I believe this issue is very important to residents.

I would be grateful if someone would read my contributions below for consideration by the committee at the hearing please.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Hannah

### **Councillor Hannah Matin's contributions to the hearing**

\*Please note, this is not in opposition to the operation of Tesco in Alperton, it is in opposition to another business being granted a license to sell alcohol in Alperton.

Since being elected as a Councillor for Alperton in 2022, one issue that has been repeatedly raised by my constituents is street drinking and the related concerns about littering and public safety. The excessive availability of alcohol in our ward is having a detrimental effect on both local residents and the environment.

Street drinking has become a persistent issue in Alperton, leading to a rise in antisocial behaviour that directly impacts the safety and wellbeing of our community. Parents worry for their children as alcohol consumption takes place at all hours of the day, while our streets are blighted with discarded cans and bottles from those who fail to dispose of their waste responsibly. This is a serious problem that affects public health, the appearance of our local area, and places an additional strain on both Council and Police resources. Approving yet another alcohol license would only exacerbate these issues and must be carefully reconsidered.

As a resident of Alperton myself, I experience these challenges firsthand. Living with a severe visual impairment, I rely on my wonderful Guide Dog, Wendy, to help me navigate my surroundings independently. However, even a simple walk around my own ward becomes a risk due to broken glass from discarded alcoholic bottles. If Wendy were to step on shattered glass, it could cause serious injury and require an emergency visit to the vet. I always ensure I am accompanied by someone when walking in Alperton for this reason. On multiple

occasions, I have had to be guided away from dangerous areas to keep Wendy safe. No resident, let alone those with additional accessibility needs, should have to face such hazards in their own community.

I also recognise that this issue extends beyond Alperton. I know many Councillors across Brent have had similar concerns raised by their constituents. To help address this, I urge the committee to consider introducing a cap on the number of businesses allowed to sell alcohol in any given area. This would be a step in the right direction toward tackling the problem.

Another practical measure, which I know is already being implemented in some cases, is to require all businesses with alcohol licenses to place identifying stickers on their alcoholic drinks. This would help enforcement teams track where littered bottles and cans originate, allowing them to work more effectively with businesses to manage the issue.

I have outlined key reasons why granting another alcohol license in Alperton would be detrimental to our community. Many residents have already voiced their opposition to an increase in alcohol-selling businesses in the area. I sincerely hope the committee will take these concerns into careful consideration.

Thank you.

**Councillor Hannah Matin**

Liberal Democrat Councillor for Alperton

London Borough of Brent