



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

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TERRITORIAL POLICING

Brent Police Licensing Unit

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Your ref: 223674647

Our ref: 01QK/518/16/157

Brent Borough Licensing Department

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Date: 12th October 2016

Police representation to the Premises Licence application for 'Gordon Lane & Sons' 189 East Lane, Wembley, HA0 3NE.

I certify that I have considered the application shown above and **I wish to make representations** that the likely effect of the grant of the application is detrimental to the Council's Licensing Objectives for the reasons indicated below.

I am of the opinion that the risk to the Council's objectives can be mitigated by removing the requested variations or attaching conditions to the Licence as shown below.

Officer: **Nicola McDonald**
Licensing Constable PC 157QK

An officer of the Metropolitan Police, in whose area the premises are situated, who is authorised for the purposes of exercising its statutory function as a 'Responsible Authority' under the Licensing Act 2003.

The application has been made for a premises licence under section 17 of the act.

The Police representations are primarily concerned with crime and disorder and prevention of public nuisance.

The location for this application is in an area currently suffering with alcohol fuelled crime and anti social behaviour caused by habitual street drinkers. These drinkers congregate/socialise directly behind this shop. The street drinkers consist of groups of men mainly of Eastern European origin. Their presence and behaviour is intimidating and can be threatening especially for females and violent when heavily intoxicated. Within the last year they have accumulated disused furniture to utilise for their gatherings. Over the past year numerous initiatives involving Police and several council departments have taken place. This has included physical clean up operations to remove all the empty alcohol drinking containers and public health to deal with human waste. Licensing officers both council and Police have educated and taken action against current licensed premises and also charity workers from

'OutReach' and CRI have and still attend the location on a near weekly basis in an attempt to engage with these males and offer assistance for their health and wellbeing. See photos of Peel Road and to the left of Tesco taken before any action on 3rd March 2016.

As a consequence the area behind the shop has now become a gathering place for these drinkers including workmen at the end of the working day.

It is disappointing that even though the staff working at this shop are aware of the problems and have had contact with the safer neighbourhood officers, they had been seen consuming drinks and smoking with these males at the side and rear of the shop. In fact the street furniture at the side of the shop has been adapted to a makeshift ashtray for those who congregate (see photo's NM/1 and NM/2 27/09/2016). Brent Police licensing are aware of complaints generated from local residents and passerby using the railway station, who describe the area as a human toilet and landfill site for street drinkers mess.

The whole of the London Borough of Brent became a 'controlled drinking zone' in an attempt to disperse this exact type of problem, however the location these males are gathering now is on private land and the congregation appears to be permitted by the applicants staff. I have visited this shop twice during the consultation period receipt of the application; on neither occasion was the applicant present. The staff members had limited knowledge of English language. One of these occasions was 27th September 2016. Please see attached photos taken of the rear of the premises showing abandoned rubbish, alcohol containers, and a small void area in the building extension (currently under planning enforcement investigation) at the back of the premises. There was evidence of abandoned food and alcohol containers a strong smell of urine, giving the indications someone was sleeping rough. A reason why these males are collecting at the rear of 189 East Lane is that it is the only premise open 24 hours daily along that stretch of road. With the added commodity of alcohol that these males are addicted to, is a recipe for disaster causing further misery to the local community.

Another shop selling alcohol will add to the already existing problems. Within the last year there have been thirteen reports of alcohol fuelled crime within a small vicinity of this shop (the cross roads East Lane/Harrowdene Road/ Peel Road). Below is a brief outline more details from the reports can be provided for a hearing:

Cris 1921062/16 Drunken males fighting in the street
Cris 1916495/16 Male arrested for being drunk and disorderly
Cris 1914393/16 male shoplifting alcohol
Cris 1913935/16 Assault, suspect drunk
Cris 1910071/16 Assault, suspect drunk
Cris 1907700/16 Males fighting in the street
Cris 1905569/16 Criminal damage, suspect drunk
Cris 1904191/16 Assault, suspect drunk
Cris 1902751/16 Theft of alcohol
Cris 1902751/16 Racially aggravated disorder, suspect drunk
Cris 1930087/15 school girl assaulted by drunken male after declining his proposals
Cris 1926948/15 possession of controlled drug
Cris 1926585/15 Criminal damage to street furniture

Although this area remains a demand on Police and local authority resources, there have been some improvements. Police together with partners, local residents and businesses are continuing to work hard to reinforce the licensing objectives.

However the management of this shop are currently not dealing constructively with this problem and authority to supply alcohol should be refused.

To grant this application would not be promoting the licensing objectives crime, disorder and anti social behaviour would increase.

Yours Sincerely,

Nicola McDonald PC 157QK
Licensing Constable Brent Police