



HEDDLU GWENT POLICE

RELEVANT REPRESENTATIONS
PREMISES LICENCE / CLUB PREMISES CERTIFICATE
UNDER S. 17 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Representations by the Police to be made within 28 Days of receipt of the application.

Date application received: **04/11/2024**

Date representations sent to Licensing Authority:

Name of authority: **Monmouthshire Council**

Premises Name and address: Welsh Street Stores, 21 Welsh Street, Chepstow, NP16 5LL

Applicant's Name: Mr A Patel/ Mrs S Patel

Representations made on the following grounds due to undermining of one or more of the Licensing Objectives.

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder, The Prevention of Public Nuisance, Public Safety and The Protection of Children from Harm

This application for a variation to the Premises Licence has been considered by Gwent Police.

Gwent police object to the proposed increase in alcohol hours for the following reasons:

The applicant has suggested potentially supplying more staff, which would not support sufficiently the licensing objectives of prevention of crime and disorder,

public safety or public nuisance at the time of night suggested, where crime and disorder and drunkenness is a significant problem.

The premises is in close proximity to the late-night pubs and clubs' which is an issue of concern and will support concerns from Gwent police of the premises contributing to drunkenness of members of the public and also drinking of alcohol in the public space, leading to anti-social behaviour, an increase in crime and disorder and public nuisance to local residents in the vicinity.

This is due to the customer base who would want to attend between the hours of 00:00 to 03:00am on a weekend. The public at this time of night is predominantly persons who are attending pubs or bars in the town and majority who are already intoxicated. This would undermine the licensing objectives of prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and also public nuisance. Gwent Police would have first-hand experience in who attends the town on weekend evenings due to the nature of our role and due to dealing with a number of crimes that take place in the late night and early hours of weekends.

Chepstow is a small built-up town, with a high number of residents living in the vicinity, The majority of the population in the area are of 55 years and over. This is based on ONS statistics for the area breaking down age range from survey results. The extension of alcohol sales hours could lead to issues of public nuisance to the elderly residents who reside in the area.

The off license is directly opposite a premises which houses vulnerable persons, who are vulnerable for a number of reasons. Access to off sales of alcohol at the times applied for, could contribute to an increase in crimes taking place at or outside the premises that houses the vulnerable persons and could lead to increasing the vulnerability to the persons and thus becoming more susceptible to being a victim or offender of crime.

The premises is also directly opposite a pub that is open until 2am. ASB is an issue in this vicinity already and has led to noise complaints previously, licensing officers have also attended for a violent attack in the last few months in 2024 in the area in the street at 02:00am in the morning. Statistics also show that Welsh Street, Chepstow has the majority of calls of crimes, violent and non-violent and Anti-social behaviour, including drunk and disorderly.

Another concern is the customers the premises is looking to target in the extra hours- 00:00 hours onwards, drunk persons or persons already under the influence of alcohol will be in the vicinity on a weekend utilising pubs, bars and clubs. There would be a concern of increased risk of selling alcohol to already intoxicated persons.

The premises is an off license only, certain conditions which would be heavily expected on bars or clubs to open on their license passed 00:00am, such as door staff for public safety and prevent crime and disorder taking place at the

premises, this would also have to be applied to another premises looking to operate within those hours.

St Marys Ward had 446 crimes in the last year. A nearby late-night premises has more than double reported crimes than the nearest premises. The crimes are not all related to the premises itself, but rather in the street where the applicant's premises is based. This shows a significant problem in the vicinity of the applicant premises with crime and disorder and public safety. Although not directly attributed to the applicants premises, with later closing hours on the busiest period for the night time premises, Gwent Police are concerned that the extension of hours to supply alcohol will contribute to even more crimes taking place in the area, as the potential customers at that time of night would be the persons making use of the night time premises and those persons involved in the crimes taking place.

In the last year, Gwent Police statistics of crime reported for the area confirm that the highest calls received were of violence without injury 104 ,public order 55 ,violence with injury 50 ,criminal damage 39 drug offences 10. Considering alcohol raises violent crimes by at least 49%, this demonstrates the concern by gwent police of the extension of trading hours to supply alcohol.

As stated by Justice Jay within the East Lindsey District Council V Abu Hanif appeal: "the prevention of crime and disorder requires a prospective consideration of what is warranted in the public interest, having regard to the twin considerations of prevention and deterrence." The Licensing Objectives are therefore prospective and preventative, and as such we submit that in order to ensure that the licensing objectives are upheld with specific regard to the prevention of crime and disorder that this application only be granted with the above conditions attached.

Authorised Officer: PC 1689 WILLIAMS

Date: 16/11/2024

OBJ 2.1