

**Watts, Taylor J.**

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**From:** Mohamed Ismail [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 November 2024 22:31  
**To:** Watts, Taylor J.  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting Notes

Hi Taylor,

Further to our meeting yesterday with yourself and gwent police we have considered the objections raised in regards to the license applications for booze corner and Welsh road stores. We have taken on board all the concerns raised and reevaluated. Unfortunately due to today's economy we are financially struggling as a small independent business. Rent increases, utility costs, wage increases and the rising cost of merchandise all contribute to this along with footfall on the high street becoming less. We honestly believe that if our licensing application is successful it would mean the difference between keeping the businesses afloat and viable or very possibly closure. This is not based purely on alcohol sales as a large percentage of customers would also purchase other items while in the store, we are losing a lot of this trade as customers would rather go somewhere they can buy everything they want in one transaction. The only reason we are asking for a variation of hours is to save the businesses. Many businesses have closed in chepstow town including The Lion and Mythos, factory shop, even newly opened businesses planning closures or for sale due to poor turnover including LT16, Chicken hub, salkaara, Within 2 minutes walking distance Tesco have a 24hr licence but have not operated since the start of covid, and now close their store at 12am, Welsh road stores already opens Friday and Saturday evenings until 2.30-3am, the only difference being that we are not permitted to sell alcohol after 12am. Gwent police have expressed concern about potential customers becoming confrontational if refused sale after new licensing times if approved, but we are already refusing alcohol sales after 12am without this being an issue. Anti social behaviour is obviously another concern, but we hope with amendments being proposed this would combat the issue. After discussions today we really want to go forward with the mindset of not only helping our struggling businesses but to work harmoniously with local authorities, neighbours and the local community and to be flexible in our original request.

The new proposal would be as follows

- Bringing closure time at booze corner forward to 2am not 3am
  
- Bringing forward closure time at Welsh road stores from 3am to 2.30am  
This would avoid relieving the tail end of customers from local venues and prolonging any noise, ASB and loitering.
  
- Have 2 members of staff on or 1 trained SIA member of staff
  
- We would encourage customers buying alcohol to consume once they are at home.  
Supplying cable tied woven bags with alcohol purchases that would require scissors to open.
  
- Alcohol sales will be refused to anyone who appears under age and who cannot produce acceptable ID. Also any customer who is overly intoxicated would be refused the sale of alcohol. These are standard procedure for business.

We hope with the above  
Amendments to the original licensing requests we can come to an agreement that is suitable for all  
parties .

Thank you  
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