

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 May 2020 11:10  
**To:** Austen Young <Austen.Young@watford.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Proposal to licence 132 Ridge Lane

Dear Mr Austen,

Thank you for the email responding to my objections to the application for licensing number 132 Ridge Lane for the sale of alcohol.

I have read through the conditions agreed between the Police and the applicant. Like many things in life there is a difference between the letter of a set of conditions and what almost certainly could happen in practice.

I have two concerns:-

i) general: there is no indication of who is going to monitor the conditions, how frequently the monitoring will take place and what the penalties are for breaking them.

ii) detailed and specifically:-

1. Bona fide addresses can be anything. The addresses could be residential or could be that of a warehouse and still be bona fide.

2. there is no indication here of what form the verification will take place, it could be, for example, by simply ticking a box, or it could require a Passport number. Government and Official organisations, the Home Office for example, go to detailed lengths in verifying personal details of applicants.

3. the word "remotely" can mean a variety of things. Does it mean "on-line" and if so why are the words "on-line" not used? Remotely could be telephone, email, anything other than personal calling. And if this is what is meant then why is personal calling not specifically excluded?

4. there no indication of the method of limitation on the numbers arriving to collect "goods" at any one time. The applicant could agree to any number of customers attending an agreed time slot in much the same way that GP surgeries and Hospitals operate appointments.

Your point about the difference between the conditions for Licensing and those for Planning are, I am sure, of immediate concern to you. As someone likely to be on the receiving end of the effects of any change in the use of 132 Ridge Lane, the distinction between Licensing and Planning is immaterial. By any metric the application is for a significant and material change in the use of 132 Ridge Lane. To me it makes no difference whether the formal processes require Planning and or Licensing approval. As a layman I am astonished that Planning permission does not have to be obtained first.

Please note that I am sure the applicant at 132 Ridge Lane is an honourable person and with honourable intentions, but one must look beyond the current owner.

It would seem that anyone, with a mind to, would be able to drive a coach and horses through the conditions agreed with the Police and claim that they are met. Thus you may conclude that I should like my objections to stand.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

On 15 May 2020, at 18:39, Austen Young <[Austen.Young@watford.gov.uk](mailto:Austen.Young@watford.gov.uk)> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your comments. As you have made representations, I am required to start arranging a licensing hearing to determine this application.

A hearing may not be needed if your representations or the application are withdrawn. To this end, I would like to advise that the Police have agreed a number of conditions with the applicant. These conditions would form part of the licence, should it be granted, and dictate how the business would operate. These conditions are as follows:

1. The Premises Licence holder or Designated Premises Supervisor shall ensure that orders of alcohol are dispatched to bona fide addresses only.
2. The Premises Licence holder shall advertise their age verification policy online, and inform customers before the sale is completed that age and identity verification may be required at delivery in accordance with the Premises Licence holder's age verification policy.
3. All orders of alcohol shall only be accepted if they are made remotely.
4. The Premises Licence holder shall ensure that customers may only attend the premises in person by prearranged single time slot appointment only.

The condition regarding orders of alcohol being made remotely reflect the fact that this business is looking to sell alcohol, primarily cocktail kits at this time, online. The premises are not going to operate as a normal shop, and this is reflected in the application. The alcohol will be dispatched by courier/post, but there may also be occasions when alcohol is collected by customers. The condition regarding customers only being able to attend by prebooked appointment only allows the licence holder to control the number of people who attend the premises, and at what time they attend, which may help with your concerns regarding parking.

I must advise that the matter of changing the use of the premises is a matter for planning and not licensing. I mention this because you specifically mention this phrase in your comments. Planning and licensing are completely separate regimes, and make determinations based on their own legislation. It is therefore possible for someone to apply for, and be granted, a licence or planning permission without holding the other. However, I can advise that our planning team have contacted the applicant with regards to whether or not they require planning permission.

I would be grateful if you could advise if the conditions agreed with the Police address the concerns that you have raised in your objection. If you are happy with the Police conditions, and you would like to withdraw your objection, I must ask for confirmation of this in writing. Reply to this email is acceptable. If you still have concerns, and would like your objection to stand, I would be grateful if you could confirm this to me as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries.

Regards

Austen

**Austen Young**  
**Senior Licensing Officer**  
Community Protection  
Watford Borough Council  
Town Hall, Watford, WD17 3EX  
01923 278476

[watford.gov.uk](http://watford.gov.uk)

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**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 13 May 2020 14:55

**To:** Licensing (Watford) <[licensing@watford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@watford.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** [mark.watkin@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.watkin@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

**Subject:** Proposal to licence 132 Ridge Lane

Austen Young  
Senior Licensing Officer  
Watford Borough Council  
Town Hall  
Watford  
WD17 3EX

13 May 2020

Dear Mr Young,

Proposal for the Sale of Alcohol at 132 Ridge Lane, Watford, WD17 4SY

I have lived in Denewood Close for more than fifty years and have seen local developments and planning proposals come, and go. Never have I seen such a singularly inappropriate proposal as that for a licence to permit 132 Ridge Lane for the Sale of Alcohol by Retail.

I object for all of the reasons spelt out, eloquently, in the letter to you from [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Ridge Lane.

132 Ridge Lane is a private residence and to permit it to be a location for the sale of alcohol is a material change of use of the property. I am sure, too, Ridge Lane is known to the Council, it is a relatively narrow road with sharp bends both before and after number 132. It is invariably busy, used as an alternative through route for traffic both into and out of North Watford. One wonders how the proposers envisage the extra regular deliveries taking place safely at number 132, in addition to Ridge Lane on-line deliveries.

You may care to also take note that a very short distance away from number 132 is the entrance to playing fields and a playground which I believe is called Orchard Park. Children are often to be seen walking (and cycling) to the park along Ridge Lane.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
Denewood Close,  
Watford, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]