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Flat 2,  
1,B Garfield Street,  
Watford,  
Herts.  
WD24 5HA  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2013

02 DEC 2013

Dear Sir,

My name is Nicola Bradford and I live in a flat at the above address.

This flat is situated above 111 Leavesden Road, Watford, Herts WD24 which is a local shop currently trading between the hours of 0800 and 2000 hours.

I have been made aware that this shop has applied for a license to extend its opening hours and sell alcohol.

While I support local business and have no issues with the current hours of trading I feel I must take this opportunity to express in the strongest possible terms my opposition to this license application.

I have personal reasons to object to this as I am a shift worker and the loud noise of the three shutters opening and closing after eleven o'clock at night would interrupt my sleep when I have to get up for work at four thirty in the morning. The two bedrooms in my flat are both situated directly above the shop and so I don't have the option to sleep in a different bedroom. When I moved into this flat, 9 years ago, the premises below were offices and when the metal shutters were fitted they were only being used between the hours of 0800 and 1830, and so, causing no disruption to me.

However, personal objections aside, I find no good reason for another licensed premises in an area which is already well served in this capacity.

Silta Mini Market at 189 Leavesden Road and Londis at 71 Gammons Lane, are both within a 5 minute walk of 111 Leavesden Road.

There are 3 pubs, Dunnings Bar, The Prince George and The Wishing Well also within 5 minutes walk.

On St Albans Road between Leavesden Road and Balmoral Road there are 10 shops open 'til late' that sell alcohol. One of these is specifically an off-license. This is a total of 15 licensed premises within a 5 minute walk of 111 Leavesden Road.

It seems clear to me that there is no urgent requirement for additional licensed premises in the area.

All logical considerations aside there is also the fact that I have some concerns under your own Licensing Objectives.

**Crime and Disorder** - While I know that the licensee cannot be held responsible for the actions of consumers leaving their premises it would be naïve not to recognize that the change of trading hours will draw a different and more varied clientele. This is a quiet street and the presence of strangers would be noticed at late hours under normal circumstances, but the presence of a late opening shop lends legitimacy to those who may be in the area for criminal purposes.

**Public Safety** -It is reasonable to assume that most of the clientele visiting a late licensed vendor of alcohol could already have consumed a fair amount. As such, is any provision made by the vendor relating to the fact that they have no previous experience dealing with highly inebriated persons? Are there additional alarms going to be put in place should a customer become irate? Are there sprinklers in the shop to prevent the spread of fire to the flats above should a customer decide to vent their rage against the shop owner? While these may seem melodramatic questions it is only realistic to realize that the customers at a late night alcoholic shop will in all likelihood be already inebriated and while I have great faith in my fellow man, I do recognize that there are those who, when under the influence of alcohol act in ways which are totally anathema to them in their day to day life. If they have had to come to what is the SIXTEENTH licensed premises in the area it is a possibility that they have been refused elsewhere and by now will be in a state of some frustration!

**Prevention of Public Nuisance and Crime and Disorder** -.For the reasons listed above (inebriated customers with a lack of inhibition) Public Nuisance and Crime are my main concerns. As I mentioned before the sound of the shutters are alone are enough to interrupt my rest. However the possibility that the shop could encourage individuals or groups to congregate in to the small hours in front of my home is a genuine concern. There are already people who choose to smoke in the small car park at the back of my flat. This is of some concern when I arrive home, as I am a female who lives alone. Not only do I feel I have to be vigilant going to and from my car but I am also concerned that I could be revealing to a potential house breaker the fact that my house is left empty while I work. It is uncomfortable and disconcerting enough dealing with this during the day but my feelings of vulnerability will be magnified tenfold if I have to deal with these people late at night.

I am not the only female living alone in my building and I know my neighbour will be writing to you with similar concerns. I do not define myself by my gender alone but I am well aware that the chances of a lone female becoming the victim of robbery/assault are significantly higher than that of a lone male in similar circumstances.

I am not remotely suggesting that the shop as it is currently run sets out to attract an anti-social clientele, I am merely suggesting that a change in its hours and license will in all likelihood bring a significant change to the people who choose to shop there and will cause a significant increase in anti-social behaviour in the immediate neighbourhood. I have already had to chastise a male in the car park for urinating in public and can only imagine that this kind of uninhibited behaviour will become more common.

I also think it only reasonable to assume that there will be an increase in litter due to the extended hours and sale of additional consumables. Will there be provision made for additional litter bins or collections? Will this be the responsibility of the licensee or the council?

Who do I speak to if a customer urinates on my front door or in my in my car park? Am I expected to clean it up or will the responsibility lie with the licensee or the council who gave him the license?

There are three flats in my building and all of the residents have the same concerns. We shall all be contacting you regarding this matter and hope that you will consider it with the seriousness it deserves.

I am not given to sending frivolous letters of complaint. I am a fair and reasonable woman but I strongly feel that granting this license will not only have a negative impact on my life directly but also on that of my neighbours, some of whom are either not confident enough to contact you and oppose this license and some of whom perhaps lack a certain fluency to express themselves adequately.

In this matter I speak on behalf of the residents of Garfield Street and Leavesden Road and also on behalf of common sense and I oppose this license application.

Yours sincerely

MISS N. BRADFORD