



From: Police Licensing Team,
Addington Police Station
Addington Village Road,
CROYDON CR0 5AQ

To: The Licensing Committee
Bernard Weatherill House,
8 Mint Walk,
CROYDON CR0 1EA

Tuesday 6th April 2021

Re: Licence for 20 Russell Hill Road, Purley, CR8 2LA

Members of The Licensing Committee,

I respectfully submit the following representations under the Licensing Act 2003 for the proposed premises licence application for 20 Russell Hill Road, Purley, CR8 2LA.

The proposed licence hours on the application are 07:00 hours and 23:00 hours, 7 days a week, for sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises. The application states the premises will comprise a ground floor retail unit. The applicant's intentions are that these premises would operate as a retail store selling general grocery and home goods.

The premises is situated on a busy one way system in the Purley Town Centre. Located on the corner of Pampisford Road and Russell Hill Road which is actually the A23. The premises has residential premises above and all shops, restaurants in Russell Hill Road have residential accommodation above.

The premises is located on a double lined red route and vehicles are not permitted to stop outside.

The application was submitted to Police on 9th March 2021, within the application some conditions had been offered by the applicants solicitor to address how the premises would adhere to the four licensing objectives. However due to the location of the premises and knowledge of current issues at other similar premises namely Tesco and Sainsburys, Police required further conditions to be added in order to ensure this premises does not add to the Crime and Disorder in the area. Therefore, Police began to liase with the applicants representative.

On Wednesday 24th March 2021 PC Garrod spoke to Mr David Crank, the applicants representative and explained that the area is subject to shoplifting but more specifically theft of alcohol and this has led to anti-social behaviour in the area being caused by beggars and street drinkers. It was asked that the applicant provide some mitigation on how they would deal with these issues. This was followed by an email to Mr Crank with two additional proposed conditions, namely an incident report log and the use of SIA door supervisors during licensable hours. In the email PC Garrod stated that at the very least we would like to see security at peak times to deal with shoplifters and beggars, which are a highlighted problem in the area.

Having received no reply to this correspondence PC Woods sent a further email asking if Mr Crank had taken instruction from his client. As the previous ward officer for Purley, PC Woods added – I was a dedicated ward officer in Purley for nearly four years before joining the Licensing Team. I can confirm this area is extremely vulnerable to ASB, shoplifting and beggars. I frequently had to deal with Cycle Republic (premises previous occupants) as homeless people including drug and alcohol addicts would sleep rough in the attached underground car park. A reply was received by Mr Crank stating he would forward the information to his client.

On Thursday 1st April 2021 PC Woods sent a further email asking for an update. Mr Crank replied stating he had taken instruction from his client, the incident book condition was acceptable. He continued "In relation to the condition regarding security there is still some debate involving the prospective but confidential tenant on how to approach this and I do not see, because of holiday absences etc. that this will be resolved this week and understand that you would want to protect your position by putting in a representation. However, I would hope that there then can be further discussion once I have further instructions. Obviously the picture that you have painted requires consideration but we seek to avoid a condition that is overly restrictive".

On receipt of this email PC Woods telephoned Mr Crank to discuss further. Mr Crank stated that the client wished to remain confidential and it would be best to submit representations in order to protect our position.

The premises licence was submitted without a Designated Premises Supervisor, we appreciate one will be appointed before the premises opens. However the owner of the premises and ultimately the person to whom a licence will be granted, has instructed that their identity be withheld from Police. So, although we have been liaising with Mr Crank the applicant's representative we have been unable to speak with the applicant directly to outline our concerns regarding the Crime and Disorder that this premises will potentially generate.

At this point in the submission I would like to refer the Statutory 182 Guidance for the Licensing Act 2003.

8.48 All parties are expected to work together in partnership to ensure that the licensing objectives are promoted collectively. Where there are no disputes, the steps that applicants propose to take to promote the licensing objectives, as set out in the operating schedule, will very often translate directly into conditions that will be attached

8.46 While applicants are not required to seek the views of responsible authorities before formally submitting their application, they may find them to be a useful source of expert advice on local issues that should be taken into consideration when making an application. Licensing authorities may wish to encourage co-operation between applicants, responsible authorities and, where relevant, local residents and businesses before applications are submitted in order to minimise the scope for disputes to arise.

The application was submitted by Mr Crank with a standard set of conditions outlined within how the four licensing objectives would be met, however it is clear that Mr Crank has not taken into account the ASB in the immediate area and exponential rise in shoplifting of alcohol since the covid pandemic started in March 2020.

8.47 Applicants are expected to provide licensing authorities with sufficient information in this section to determine the extent to which their proposed steps are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives in the local area. Applications must not be based on providing a set of standard

conditions to promote the licensing objectives and applicants are expected to make it clear why the steps they are proposing are appropriate for the premises.

I would also like to refer to the Croydon Council Statement of Licensing Policy under the Crime Licensing Objective section 5.2 which states:

5.2.1 Croydon Council is committed to reducing crime and disorder within the Borough and creating an environment where people feel safe.

5.2.4 The Council considers that the promotion of the Licensing Objective to prevent crime and disorder also places a responsibility on licence holders to work in partnership to achieve this Objective.

5.2.5 The Council will expect applicants to demonstrate in their Operating Schedule that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained so as to minimise or prevent crime and disorder in and around the vicinity of their premises and events.

Under Public Nuisance objective, there is further guidance in the policy, which states:

5.4.10 The Council will expect applicants to demonstrate in their Operating Schedule that they have identified satisfactory measures and will implement and maintain these so as to prevent public nuisance, having due regard to the style, characteristics and activities of their particular premises and events and of the locality.

In relation to other named premises in Purley, we have been working extensively with them to tackle on going ASB and increased shoplifting. We have also made contact with the local SNT in order to provide the most up to date information regards recent ASB. They have confirmed the issues are current and still an ongoing concern.

We therefore cannot support an application for a licensed Premises that refuses to engage with Police at the application stage. As we feel they will become a target as other licensed premises have taken measures to deal with increased crime and disorder. I have consulted with my Licensing Sergeant for the Borough of Croydon on this application and he supports this representation owing to the fact that outside of all the Section 182 guidance and the Croydon Council Statement of Licensing Policy listed above, the reasonable person test also must apply, it is not proportionate or reasonable to expect a responsible authority to support an application for Licensable Activity of 16hrs a day to a unknown operator whom refuses to engage and demonstrate how they would promote the Licensing Objectives.

I thank the Croydon Licensing Committee for its consideration of these matters and would be glad to assist with any further enquiries they have if required.

Yours Sincerely,

PC Zoe Garrod 2801SN

Croydon Police Licensing Team

Please find below images of 22 Russell Hill Road, Purley, CR8 2LA, courtesy and copyright of Google Images:

