



Licensing Department
Central Bedfordshire Council

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22/11/2016

Dear Sir or Madame,

RE: Application to vary premises licence 2000540 Prestige Express 15 High Street North Dunstable

On behalf of the Chief Officer of Bedfordshire Police, I wish to make the following representations in relation to the application to extend the supply of alcohol from 8am – midnight daily, to 24-hours daily at Prestige Express. It is the view of Bedfordshire Police that this proposed change will undermine the prevention of crime and disorder.

Prestige Express is situated on the main high street through the town, immediately adjacent to a pub. That stretch of the street has 4 pubs and clubs within 150 metres of each other. The area within 100 metres of Prestige Express has seen 93 recorded crimes between 01/01/2016 and 11/11/2016, 59% of which occurred between the hours of midnight and 5am. The majority of the offences in this period were assaults.

Whilst Prestige Express itself has not seen any recorded crime in this period, the data presented demonstrates that the majority of crime in the area takes place between midnight and 5am. Nearly all of this crime is either linked to or has taken place immediately outside licensed premises.

Adding a premise into this area that is making off-sales is highly likely to add to the crime and disorder already being seen. The section of road where Prestige Express is situated is not accessible by vehicle, so the only overnight trade is likely to be the foot traffic of people leaving the pubs and clubs. There is a good chance that people leaving between these times will be intoxicated, which raises a further concern that the majority of Prestige's potential custom during these hours will be people who are already drunk.

All of the licensed premises currently open between the stated times in this 100 metre area are pubs and clubs that utilise door staff to control entry, manage disorder, and manage persons leaving the premises with bottles and glass that could potentially be used as weapons. Prestige Express will not have this control at the door, and even if they did people will still be leaving with

glass bottles and containers.

High Street North in Dunstable is the second highest location for anti-social behaviour in the Central Bedfordshire area, with 60 recorded incidents in the year period running 11/11/2015 to 11/11/2016. The highest location for anti-social behaviour in Central Bedfordshire over this period is the nearby Court Drive in Dunstable Town Centre, with 63 recorded incidents.

The area within 100 metres of Prestige Express has seen 113 anti-social and nuisance incidents between 01/01/2016 and 11/11/2016. 15% of these occurred between midnight and 5am. These incidents are varied and range from reports of fights and drunken aggression, to people causing a general nuisance. The addition of a premise making off-sales in the early hours of the morning will give people the previously unavailable option to purchase and consume alcohol in the street, which is likely to increase associated crime and nuisance.

In addition to these factors, staff at the premises have failed two police and trading standards joint alcohol test-purchase operations on 24/06/2016 and 25/08/2016. On each occasion staff sold alcohol to people under 18 years of age, each receiving a fixed penalty notice. These failures add a further concern over how responsibly the sale of alcohol is, and will be, managed at the premises.

Yours Sincerely,

LP MITCHELL

Liam MITCHELL
Licensing Officer