

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 August 2015 14:59  
**To:** Licence All  
**Subject:** LN/200500384 Application to vary.

Dear Sirs,

LN/200500384 Variation Application Shell Sandhurst Filling Station

1. I am [REDACTED], Living at [REDACTED] Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, [REDACTED], next door to the premises in question. I have lived at this address for more than 10 years. (My telephone number is [REDACTED]; Please text if the telephone is switched off. My e-mail address is [REDACTED])

2. This Filling Station is situated in a fundamentally residential enclave, bisected by the main (Yorktown) road; this is an orderly and respectable neighbourhood. For residents purchasing alcohol, the Sandhurst Co-op is less than 5 minutes' walk and there are a half-dozen supermarkets no more than 5 minutes' drive away in any direction (Crowthorne, College Town, Owlsmoor, Meadows). These shops are open daily for very long periods.

3. I would question what type of trade this application is intended to attract.

It is unlikely to be local residents, who have no need to go to a petrol station to shop for alcohol, especially before breakfast!

It presumably aims at the "passing motorist", though few morning commuters require alcohol to start the working day and for those that do, it is hardly public-spirited to provide it. (In view of the continuing campaign against "drink-driving", it seems self-contradictory to facilitate offence by prolonging the availability of alcohol at an outlet specifically for drivers.)

However, at so unsocial an hour as 6a.m., the likeliest customers, in my view, will be the compulsive and improvident, who cannot brook the least delay in satisfying a craving for alcohol; in short, alcoholics, not "responsible drinkers". This unusually early-morning source of booze will draw undesirables from surrounding areas to infest the neighbourhood, not least the nearby Park, a large open space and carefully maintained amenity. It would be too much to expect alcoholics to abstain from consuming their purchases until they have left the neighbourhood.

Inebriates are entirely devoid of social awareness, consideration for others and, frequently, of decorum! (I, for example, cannot be the only main road resident who has been rudely woken from deep sleep in the dead of night by the passage of noisy drunks, meandering along (or in) the road, bawling at full voice; the usual outcome is the loss of the remainder of the night's sleep.)

4. While the neighbourhood in general faces nuisance or worse, quite obviously any disturbance on the garage premises, whether noise or misbehaviour, will have the greatest impact on the residents next door (No.100). We are entitled to a reasonable night's sleep (not necessarily only the the exact 7hr interval between 11p.m. and 6a.m. to suit the applicant's convenience) and, while I recognise that this cannot anyway be guaranteed (see 3 above), I do not accept increasing the probability of disturbance by what amount to an invitation to drunkards.

Further, past experience has shown that misbehaviour on those premises easily spreads to these.

A particular feature of these two properties (100 & 102) is their separation by a very low brick wall at the front; in front of Hodge's is a small parking area and, on the garage side, a forecourt 'bay' formed by the solid wall of the building, where customers use the vacuum-cleaning machine. This nook is therefore out of sight to staff inside and (I believe) unmonitored by any surveillance system.

Though less problematic recently, I have often in the past been troubled by hordes of pubescent children, who, having initially assembled on the garage side, smoking, drinking and making noise enough to compel attention, increased in numbers and unruliness so as to overflow and run riot in Hodge's courtyard. I have found these confrontations and ejections personally arduous and stressful to handle and on a couple of occasions, if I recall correctly, I have had to invoke the police. Messrs Hodge have been obliged to instal a locked gate to their side passage to stop it being used as a urinal.

While juvenile aggravation is improbable in the early morning, if children can spot a "secret nook", so can alcoholics impatient for instant gratification, with what I fear will be equally deplorable results.

5. As I understand it, granting this application will permit the sale of alcohol throughout the day (saving only exactly 7 hours' intermission overnight) on every day throughout the year, without respite. It is a provision as unnecessary to the residents of the enclave in which this one garage is situated, as undesirable in its prospective clientele, conducive to public nuisance and disorder, if not crime. A grant, even if not directed to the benefit of residents, should at least not be to their detriment. Therefore the application should be refused.

Yours faithfully,

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