



		license and if he/she is present at the property
<b>Prevention of public nuisance</b>	X	<p>The premises, which was originally a 'corner' shop is in the heart of a residential neighbourhood. It is still subject to a tribunal case. I state that whilst neighbours have accepted the decision by the judge we are still subject to a level of nuisance that should not be accepted in a dense residential area. Nuisances which allude to below will be further exacerbated by the customers no longer needing to sit and eat food. They can congregate in larger groups as they are not sat with space to eat nor will they need to sit but can stand and lean. The noise and smells from drinkers and smokers who will be able to stand outside the shop and wander up and down the terrace with the smell from their cigarettes and vape drifting into our homes which cause us to close our windows. Drinking without food increases the number of smokers and this will have a detrimental effect upon the area. I believe there should be a smoking shelter away from the resident's houses! Has this ever been considered by Environmental Health? Other establishments must take this into account.</p> <p>The light pollution from the extensive outdoor bulbs which allow outdoor drinking (al fresco) affect us closest to the shop. By allowing customers to drink without food increases the likelihood of additional disturbances of this kind especially in the summer months which often have customers straggling along the footpath and sitting on our walls! If alcohol only was allowed then there would be the possibility of inebriated customers to deal with as well.</p> <p>I have noticed that that shop has put a sign up for customers to respect neighbours but this is not enforced. No one adheres to this and once customers are there merely to drink it is unlikely that they will respect the residents as once seated they are unaware/ignorant of their residential surroundings Complaining and providing proof (of the novice variety) will be exhausting and from past experience be of little use.</p> <p>Serving alcohol without food also increases the likelihood of excessive consumption often later in the evening. Cars are already left in our limited residential parking spaces. With increased consumption without a meal it is likely that this will be exacerbated. In conjunction we have numerous taxis pulling up and beeping their horns until late at night. This is more than likely to increase as patrons drink rather than eat.</p> <p>I would like to know how they will address these issues, with immediate effect, after advice from Environmental Health, in order to meet standards seen at other establishments in the area i.e. The Cotton House.</p>
<b>Public Safety</b>	X	<p>I understand that Environmental Health and the Fire Officer must review operating schedules to ensure that public safety is paramount at all times. I am concerned that the shop has only 1 single door exit at the front of the building with no exit at the rear. It is elevated at the rear. With additional footfall from passers-by</p>

		<p>who are seeking an alcoholic beverage without food and the likelihood that the room will be busier I would like the establishment to be reassessed as I would assume that there is a lack of public and staff safety. If this was a new establishment then rigorous assessment of the premises would be undertaken, especially as it immediately adjoins residential properties.</p>
<p>Protection of children from harm</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Use this space to provide further information in support of your representation or to explain any supporting documentation you have provided with this representation:**

As a resident that has seen the area change considerably since The Village Stores was granted this licence I fear that the further reduction in regulations that hold the owners to account will create even more distress to the residents. We are still awaiting them to act upon the outcome of a Tribunal held in the summer of 2018, which they have appealed and presented untruths to the council about their current practice whilst awaiting the outcome of the appeal. Whilst I am aware this has no bearing upon the license request it does demonstrate that they do not abide by the spirit of the law and care very little for their trading affected upon their immediate residential neighbours.

This establishment should already have a separate smoking shelter away from the front of the terrace and, if they were serious about the affect the establishment had on residents, a ban on any congregation outside the front of the shop after 6pm for eating, drinking, smoking or conversing on telephones due to the noise disturbance in, what they acknowledge as, a dense residential setting. Without this it is difficult to see how we can trust the weak statement they make in their application that under **(a) General – they will have signage to ask all patrons to be courteous and keep the noise down.** Other establishments have been required to provide far more than this in order to have such activities permitted in a dense residential area.

The current licence allows alcohol to be served with food. Whilst it has been noticed on many occasions that this is not adhered to at least the Village Stores are aware that they need to self-monitor and could be held to account if they blatantly over step the line. This is reassuring and provides us with a certain amount of confidence that the store will not become too raucous nor simply a drinking establishment. Buying alcohol with a meal is very different from buying alcohol without. The way customers behave and the nature of their visit to this residential neighbourhood is a different social event. This needs to be taken into account as whilst the shop states that it does not wish to become a pub if its sole aim is to make money, as a business, then it will always take the line of least resistance. Serving alcohol without food is a pub/wine bar even if you can still get food it is still a pub in the eyes of the cliental.

The request for the change in their license is a convenience for the stores and does not consider the affect this will have on the residents who are already plagued by the change in nature of the store. It is not correct that dog walkers and cyclists wish to purchase alcohol without food, neither do passing shoppers, who are driving! The request is to secure the ability to act in a different manner. The store wishes to attract a different cliental, customers who, currently do not come to the store as they would need to eat. This is not a business responding to the wishes of its current customers but one that is seeking to expand its customer base, recklessly ignoring the affect this would have on the nearest residents in this village.

Unfortunately, we have lived with the morphing of this establishment over many years. At the Tribunal, to which we were called as witnesses, we were advised by the Authorities Barrister that The Village Stores would never seek a change of license so we could remove it from the borough councils' case against them. It seems his advice was incorrect. I have no faith that the shop will cease its gradual change from local convenience store to wine bar come night spot. Agreeing to this change of license plays yet further into the owners' hands (who ever this currently is) and leaves residents bemused as to what can be agreed to business, if played correctly and over time, in a residential area.

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Please tick as appropriate:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>I object to the application being granted at all</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>I object to the application being granted in its current form</b>

**Are there any changes the applicant could take which would alleviate your concerns detailed above?**

YES       NO

