

From: Murray, Teresa [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 March 2017 15:43
To: francis, mandy
Cc: bowler, nick (external); Dan McDonald; murray, teresa (external); [REDACTED]
Subject: License review for City Minimart 3 Cazeneuve Street

Hi Mandy, thank you for ensuring I received a copy of the Licensing committee's agenda.

I am writing in support of the license review requested for the above premises which is in my ward(Rochester East).My ward colleague Cllr Bowler and I have been kept fully informed about the conduct of the premises owner and the associated impact on the local residents. In the last year there has been a very obvious deterioration in both standards of cleanliness around the premises and the owner's ability /and or willingness to prevent poor behaviour from customers by regulating alcohol sales properly .We have received many reports of unruly behaviour which has caused neighbourhood disturbance and a palpable increase in on street drug dealing especially in the small alleyway next to the shop because drinkers also congregate there having made purchases.

We have shared reports from our constituents with the designated PCSO, visited the area a number of times and worked with local housing associations to try to improve security of the properties they manage nearby to prevent their tenants being adversely affected by the behaviour of customers at the shop who buy alcohol there. We understand that the owners have ignored informal interventions by the local PCSO and continued to sell alcohol to underage drinkers as well as stocking products with a very high alcohol content.

Finally ,the activity at the premises has also attracted rough sleepers who were using the garage area of a nearby block of flats where entry gates were not working. The gates were fixed following a joint investigative walk we managed to put together with all relevant agencies but our PCSO has reported that the gates are again not functioning over the last month with the resulting interest by rough sleepers. As before I am working with the responsible housing association to rectify this situation.

Cllr Bowler and I therefore support the license being revoked and urge the committee to take that option.. This would not disadvantage anyone who wishes to purchase alcohol in a legal and responsible manner as there are other retail premises nearby in the Delce and John Street where alcohol can be purchased as well as a nearby Public House the Man of Kent, where the owner works very closely with police and takes robust action both against attempted underage purchasing and unruly drinkers.

Please ensure the councillors on the licensing committee have sight of this correspondence and include it in the evidence they are using to make a decision. It would be helpful if you could confirm that this request can go forward.

Thank you

Cllr Teresa Murray