

Statement from PC Marcus FULLER – Written on 11/10/2024 -

I am writing this statement after being made aware of premises licence application for Monarch Local, 18 Arden Street, Gillingham, which requesting to open a new off licence with a 24-hour licence. This statement will include my representations to why I object to this application.

My role is that of a Beat Officer for Gillingham South, I along with a colleague mainly look after the businesses and residents which reside along the High St and neighbouring Streets and Roads. I witness on a daily basis the affect that alcohol consumption has in this area and the anti-social behaviour it causes. Gillingham South includes a large Public Safety Protection Order zone which covers the whole on Gillingham High St, The PSPO is in place in this area due to the ASB being caused by members consuming alcohol in public, loitering, and making others feel unsafe whilst going about their daily business.

There is already multiple off licence premises in the area where the proposed application has been requested, with another store not more then a 5 minute walk from this proposed site already holding a 24 hour licence. The area does not require another 24 hour off licence in this area due to the presence of this store already being in the surrounding area, to add, this store causes issues along the High St, with members of the public buying alcohol from the store and drinking it on the benches which are in close proximity. With the PSPO in place there should be no alcohol consumption on the High St but this is not being discouraged by the licence holder of this premises. This premises is also in a pedestrianised zone, with access to the road being only for delivery vehicles to make deliveries between 17:30 – 00:00 and 00:00 – 10:30 with no parking, every day there are vehicles driving down the High St to this premises with multiple vehicles being seen parking along the High St and entering the store, This has led to multiple vehicles parking up, with the occupants standing around outside their vehicles, drinking, eating, playing music from their vehicles, causing general anti-social behaviour. I have had residents come up to me while I've been on patrol complaining about the anti-social behaviour, saying that this behaviour can be going on into the early hours of the morning. I believe having another 24 hour licence premises so close to this would increase Anti-social behaviour in this area, as well as the spreading the ASB over a greater geological location.

The location of the proposed licence is on the corner of Jeffrey Street, with a junction into Fox Street, this area of road has double yellow lines, The area already has issues with vehicles parking on double yellow lines or in non-parking areas, there are car parks available but these are not used with members of the public unwilling to pay to park their vehicles for a short time, this will cause traffic issues along this stretch of road with the junction to Fox Street possibly being blocked by these vehicles, this is a safety issue to the local residents.

The area which the proposed licence is also in an area known for violent crime, and further access to alcohol in the area, with alcohol being known to attribute to violent crime, could increase this once again affecting the local resident's safety.

So in summary I am against this proposed 24 licence proposal, as the beat officer for this area, a great deal of my time is spent dealing with violent crime, shoplifting and alcohol misuse. There should be a reduction in the number of licenced premises in the area and not an increase, Public perception should be that we are trying to reduce access to alcohol and the anti-social behaviour this causes and not be seen to turning a blind eye these problems and potential increase the issues that affect the area. **PC 30557 FULLER**

Statement from PC Matthew Knight – written on 11/10/2024

This statement relates to the application for a licence to sell alcohol at the premises previously known as the Monarch public house at 8 Arden Street, Gillingham ME7 1HG. I am one of the local beat officers for the Gillingham area mainly tasked with policing the Gillingham High Street. I have been made aware that there is an application for an alcohol sale licence at this address which I have major concerns about and staunchly oppose.

Currently there is a big issue with alcohol consumption on the High Street which is causing a lot of antisocial behaviour in the area and also increasing the amount of crime in the area. Currently in the Gillingham High Street area we already have a high concentration of licenced premises for the relative small area the High Street sits on and I cannot see any benefit to the local community in adding more.

From reviewing the application I have multiple concerns but I would like to highlight two main ones from this. Firstly the application for a 24/7 licence, I feel this is completely unnecessary and inappropriate. By selling alcohol in this manner I believe you are promoting and enabling irresponsible and excessive drinking which is a big driving force in causing ASB in the area.

With more and more alcohol sales increasing antisocial drinking and public drunkenness there is a very real threat of falling into "Broken Window Theory" whereby increasing the perception of ASB and lawlessness in the area we risk significantly increased the probability of the public feeling unsafe in this area.

This has a massive effect on local businesses as members of the public will not want to visit the High Street and thus will not be spending money in the area supporting the local economy. The High Street is already struggling in this respect and is causing both small independent businesses and large national retail partners to withdraw from the area causing empty store fronts and leading to the image that High Street is failing.

The High Street already has one store that has obtained such a licence and they are one of the main focal points for ASB and crime in the area due to the fact alcohol can be purchased with ease at any time of the day and as such is very popular with our known "street drinkers". This store I refer to is

also causing an enormous issue in regard to moving traffic offences, parking issues and antisocial use of vehicles in the area. Vehicles are parking on the High Street in inappropriate, inconsiderate and often hazardous positions almost always in restricted and pedestrianised areas. Groups will congregate around these vehicles playing loud music, revving engines and worryingly consuming alcohol around the vehicles. As stated this all relates to an existing store but I strongly believe by allowing another such store in this area will mirror and compound this issue for the local community.

My second most pressing issue is the location of this proposed licenced premise. This address is located 40 meters from the High Street on a blind double "S" bend around 5 meters from the Fox Street junction and 15 meters from the Arden Street junction. This area is surrounded by double yellow parking restriction lines and both these mention road have permitted parking restriction and are often extremely busy. I can foresee that the introduction of another licenced store will cause a major issue with parking in the area and as stated the address is located on a tight double "S" bend I believe it will cause a very real danger to road users with customers parking outside the store as they do with other stores.

Overall there is a clear and real issue with alcohol sales in this area so much so that the local council have introduced cumulative impact policies to tackle this issue and allowing another licensed premises in this area whether that be a 24/7 licence or not just goes to undo the work local council and police efforts in the area to combat these issues.

I believe from walking down the High Street and only seeing retail premises it is easy to forget that the High Street has a large domestic population with residential property above and next to the retail units. These residents have a right to a calm and peaceful existence and the right to feel safe in their own house free from harassment and ASB and not feeling unsafe traveling to and from their homes. By increasing the amount of alcohol sales in this area will directly have a negative effect on this which should not be allowed. **M.KNIGHT 14548**

**From:** paul page  
**Sent:** 11 October 2024 16:04  
**To:** Carrie Knight PC 46011605  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL - Carrie this how I feel

11<sup>th</sup> of October 2024

Dear Carrie Knight,

I Paul Clooney are advising you not to give 18, Arden Street a 24hr alcohol licence.

These people care about making money not thinking about the welfare of the residents on the street. My daughter suffers from anxiety which she has seen fights outside our house, the cab station window smashed and Police knocking on our door in the early hours of the morning as we have CCTV due to the Monach Pub. Although we have seen constant trouble outside our house the trouble ended 11pm when the pub shut.

By you giving a 24hr alcohol licence to 18 Arden Street this will attract drunken dossers which will cause anti social behaviour in the area. Bottles smashed, windows smashed and noise which will keep residents awake and frightened. Also shoplifters will cause a big problem when confronted by the owners of 18 Arden Street.

smashed bottles left on the floor unattended would harm young children and old age people walking by. Council sweepers are not often around to clean up which means I would have to do it. Police are under funded and this will cause a waste of tax payers money. Some months ago I spoke personally to Naushabah Khan the labour MP for Gillingham concerning BabBa 24hr off licence on the high street. Going to work early hours of the morning down and outs, tramps, winos are smashing bottles fighting and intimidating people walking by. I can't understand why can't they have a licence up to 11pm instead of 24 hours.

The thing about BaBa 24hr Off licence there are no houses around that shop only high rise flats.

But us CNC cab station Number 14 and number 16 will have to live with this profiteering nightmare.

Also this will cause my property in the future having trouble selling due to this 24hr drunken binge.

My grand children come over at the weekend which trouble will cause a devastated impact on there health. Please do not give them a 24hr licence because if you do you will be wasting tax payers money and be responsible for the mental health of good people living within the area.

My wife suffers from depression since I bought this place in 2020 she take amitriptyline tablets to calm her self down. This 24hr off licence will cause her more problems to her health. Once again please consider my application and other residents in the area. The early hours of the morning would mean people parking outside our house with there music blaring while entering the off licence. There is an alley way on the back of our house where small crowds drink and talk loud which wakes the residents in the area. By having this off licence will encourage people to congregate and make a nuisance of the selves. If people went to the off licence and bought goods and went home that would be fine. But that is not the case most Saturday nights, fights on Fox Street are frequently happening due to male and female intoxicated by alcohol from Babba.

18 Arden Street gets this licence it will cause mentally and personal break up towards me and my family.

Paul Clooney

**From:** Caprece Kyriacou  
**Sent:** 17 October 2024 14:32  
**To:** Carrie Knight PC 46011605  
**Subject:** EXTERNAL - Regarding 18 Arden street.

Dear Carrie,

I am advising you to not allow 18 Arden street a 24hr alcohol licence as my parents take care of my little ones in the evening due to work commitments and not only will this affect my parents this will also affect my children's well being.

You allowing a 24hr alcohol licence will encourage the drunks to become a nuisance to the public and can lead to fights, properties being smashed and time being wasted with police having to be constantly called out when this can be avoided.

My eldest daughter is autistic and can get very over whelmed with loud noises which can make her very distressed and with this shop being right next door will affect her mentally and emotionally meaning she won't want to stay with my mum and I will have to stop working and this affects us all.

Please just take into consideration my parents and children's well being, my application to reasons why it shouldn't be allowed and the consideration for the residents in the area.

Many thanks Caprece