



Chief Officer of Police Representation in relation to an application  
for grant of premises licence made under Part 3 Section 17  
Licensing Act 2003 (S18 Licensing Act 2003)

### Details of person making objection

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Name of Chief Officer of Police        | CC Tim Smith  |
| Postal Address:<br>(Area Headquarters) | Medway Police Station<br>Purser Way<br>Gillingham<br>Kent |
| E-mail address                         | Carrie.knight@kent.police.uk                              |
| Telephone Number:                      | 07811986063   |

### Details of premises representation is about

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Name of Premises:   | Monarch Local                                |
| Address of premises:  | 18 Arden Street<br>Gillingham<br>Kent<br>ME7 |
| Date application received by police   | 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2014              |
| Date representation sent to Licensing Authority   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2024                 |
| <p><i>Must be within 28 days of receipt –</i><br/>The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005. Part 4 Reg. 22.</p> |  |

**The Chief Officer of Police has received an application for the grant of a premises licence made under the provisions of Section 17 Licensing Act 2003, and under Section 18 of that Act, asks the Licensing Authority to consider these representations in respect of: -**

*Please tick one or more of the licensing objectives that the representation relates to:*

|                                  |                                     |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Prevention of crime and disorder | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Public Safety                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Prevention of public nuisance    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Protection of children from harm | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

### Is this a representation regarding the Designation of Premises Supervisor under S18 (9) Licensing Act 2003? **NO**

If yes, complete the following statement: -

The relevant representation within the meaning of S.18(6) of the Licensing Act satisfy the requirements of S.18(9) of that Act and are as follows:

Due to the exceptional circumstances of this case, I am satisfied that the designation of the person concerned as the premises supervisor under the premises licence would undermine the crime prevention objective because ....

N/a

*Please use separate sheets where necessary*

The relevant representations within the meaning of S.18(6) of the Licensing Act satisfy the requirements of S.18(7) of that Act and are as follows:

**Please give the reason for the representation and detail the evidence supporting it:**

Kent Police make representations against the granting of a premises licence for the above address due to the following Licensing Objectives:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- The prevention of a public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

Please see attached.

*Please use separate sheets where necessary*

**Suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy the representation or other suggestions the Licensing Sub Committee may take into account:**

*Please use separate sheets where necessary. Consider s106 Licensing Act 2003.*

Reason for Representation:

Please see attached word document.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 3/10/2024

Print name: Carrie KNIGHT

Force Number: 11605

pp Chief Officer of Police for the Police Area in which the licensed premises are situated

Representation may be made at any time during the 28 consecutive days starting on the day after the day on which the application to which it relates was given to the authority by the applicant. Please return this form along with any additional sheets to the Licensing Authority. This form must be returned within the Statutory Period.

## **Representations regarding Monarch Local, 18 Arden Street, Gillingham –**

Kent police have been asked to review an application for Monarch Local, 18 Arden Street, Gillingham.

Having reviewed the application Kent Police request that this is not granted for the following reasons.

The applicant has indicated that the premises was previously a public house, and they would like to open a small convenience store with other services, including parcel services, coffee machine and a hot snack cabinet, as well as the sale of alcohol. The application states that the premises would like to be open 24 hours a day.

Monarch local is located on Arden Street, Gillingham, on the junction with Fox Street, which is within 30 seconds walk of the main high street. The area in which this premises is positioned consists of both residential properties and a vast number of businesses. These consist of restaurants, retail/convenience shops and bars. Some of which already sell alcohol on an off-sale basis.

The premises has been identified as being within a Cumulative impact policy area (CIP) which is outlined by Medway council's cumulative impact and stress area policy. The policy was renewed in 2024 and expires in 2027. The area also covered by a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) which were previously known as 'Alcohol Control Zones'. These zones restrict drinking alcohol in designated public places.

The area itself, in which the premises is located is a deprived area of Medway which suffers a high volume of alcohol related crime, disorder, and public nuisance. Evidence suggests that this area has a high volume of the following –

- Anti-social behaviour
- Domestic abuse
- Criminal damage
- Assault
- Public order
- Arrests for drunk and disorderly behaviour
- Alcohol relates ambulance call outs.
- Hospital A&E assaults
- Street drinkers, public urination, and exposure

An area of concern is that of street drinking and its associated nuisance. Street drinking and its associated antisocial behaviour can impact on people's perception of the physical environment and more importantly their quality of life and safety. Groups of drinkers can sometimes be intimidating and stop people using public spaces or facilities and live in fear of crime.

A street drinker can be defined as the following: "A person who drinks heavily in public places and, at least in the short term, is unable or unwilling to control or stop their drinking, has a history of alcohol misuse, and often drinks in groups for companionship. People who are street drinkers are likely to be at increased risk of causing harm to themselves or others and may be involved in antisocial behaviour such as begging, or rowdy drunken behaviour, that can be intimidating or even violent".

As stated, the area in which this licence is sought has been identified as having such problems. As well as concerns for the public, there are also concerns which includes begging, intimidating behaviour, litter, and public urination and defecating, all of which clearly show public nuisance and will in no doubt cause crime and disorder. The local beat officers for Gillingham high street have

already indicated that these problems continue. They state there are problems with vehicles parking along the high street, street drinkers causing ASB and littering. Kent Police have concerns that granting this licence may escalate these concerns.

The application has been reviewed and it is noted there is no mention of the premises being within a CIP/PSPO area or how the premises intends to promote the licencing objectives to alleviate such risk. There is no mention on the application that stresses the issues with street drinking and its associated anti-social behaviour or how they intend to ease such concerns or what they intend to do to ensure the sale of alcohol will not add to the concerns already highlighted.

It is however reviewed on the application that the premises is small enough to be well managed and will have CCTV, an incident book detailing refusals including age, drunkenness, criminal matters, and violence. It is also noted that there will be prominent notices on display asking customers to leave quietly and respect the local area. There is no mention on the application of how the premises will assist in dealing with the issues surrounding the CIP and PSPO, for example there is no mention of having a consideration such as the selling of only low strength beers/ciders or no single cans sales. There is no mention of any staff training or how they will address customers who are felt to be "street drinkers". There is no reference as to why the premises would like to remain open 24 hours a day, which will be a concern.

Due to the premises being within a CIP area it is the understanding that Kent Police will refuse the application in all but exceptional circumstances unless the applicant can demonstrate the premises would not adversely affect the licencing objectives. Having reviewed the application there is very little that has been provided which will alleviate the concerns raised.

The purposed conditions which have been offered by the applicant do not demonstrate exceptional circumstances and are in fact minimal to reach the objectives of the area. It is felt that there are no conditions which could be added to this licence that could promote the licencing objectives or address the problems within the area. It is felt that if the premises was granted then the issues associated with alcohol related crime, disorder and public nuisance would continue or increase which in turn will go against the licensing objectives, prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and protecting children from harm.

Based on the above Kent Police respectfully request that this application be refused.