

Licensing Act 2003**REPRESENTATIONS**

Name	Sarah Tranter
Company/Organisation/ body you represent	Resident and member of Rochester City Centre Forum
Address	
E mail	
Telephone number(s)	

Name of the premises	Tesco Stores LTD
Address of the premises	Tesco Express Unit 1, Pullman House, 90 Corporation Street Rochester Kent ME1 1NH

General comments – What are the general reasons for your representation? (Specific comments against the licensing objectives are in the next section)	<p>I visit the High Street almost every day for shopping, meetings, and leisure and am totally invested in our fabulous High Street. I am a member of the Rochester City Centre Forum (was chair for 6 years until July this year).</p> <p>I volunteer as a welcomer at Rochester Cathedral and also volunteer at Jaspers Community Café above the library in the High Street.</p> <p>I am also responsible for planting up the lamppost, tubs and railing baskets with beautiful flowers each year. They are funded by money generated by our not-for-profit, independent Vintage & Artisan Market. Residents and businesses have a vested interest in the High Street being a safe and beautiful place to be, where we can welcome visitors. The tubs are planted up in King's Orchard which is owned by the Cathedral. The centre of Rochester is like a village - we all know and look out for each other. There is a sense of pride and a desire to preserve and enhance what we have. None of it is taken for granted. We all work hard together.</p>
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- The premises is in a cumulative impact policy area because of identified alcohol related issues. The Police are regularly in attendance and have been responsive and supportive of our community but far too much time and money is spent on alcohol-related problems. Another place to buy competitively priced alcohol in a prime tourist arrival spot will put more pressure on resources.
- 'Off sales' in this area are a concern. There are several premises selling off sales in the High Street already. Tesco being so close to the station and bus stop will inevitably mean in my opinion, that people will stop off there to buy alcohol cheaply – therefore more of it – and arrive in the High Street to wander around with open cans and bottles. It will also affect our own independent shops and take trade from them.
- Rochester is the 'Jewel in the Crown' of the Medway Towns with regards to tourism, shopping at independent stores, great quality eating places, historic buildings which add up to it being a stunning place to visit.

All of the below are valid and serious reasons why I am so concerned about more off sales in or close to the High Street. All of this takes place every day in the area.

- Street drinking – people walking with open cans and bottles in their hands.
- Begging – there are so many people begging – sitting in shop doorways, outside empty buildings and on street corners that it feels quite unnerving being asked for money every 50 yards or so.
- Rough sleeping – there are regularly people sleeping in shop doorways with cans visible in their bags.
- Alcohol related litter is a big problem. Medway Norse do a sterling job in picking up cans and bottles but they can't be following every inebriated person all the time. The underpass from the station to the Riverside residential area is a problem area for rough sleepers and litter. I have spoken to residents who feel this is a no-go area after dark.
- Anti-social behaviour. Yes - I feel intimidated by groups of people who's language is foul, who's behaviour is leary and loud. So many families enjoy the beauty of the High Street – there are schools nearby and it's really unpleasant and at times embarrassing when we have so many visitors who come here and they witness at times aggressive behaviour.

A representation MUST refer to one or more of the following licensing objectives.	Tick which objective(s) your representation is relevant to	Evidence supporting the representation against the relevant licensing objective. (continue on separate sheets if necessary)
The prevention of crime and disorder	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Regular anti-social behaviour - men and women staggering in the High Street, shouting at each other.</i> • <i>Public disorder – I don't keep a log of times and dates as noisy, leary and lewd behaviour is such a regular occurrence in the High Street</i> • <i>Damage – when cleaning out the flower tubs 2 weeks ago – I found beer glasses and cans. During the summer, it is a regular job to be done. I consider that to be damage.</i>
The prevention of public nuisance	yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Litter – we are fortunate that the High Street has dedicated sweepers – I see them out each day with their litter sticks picking up cans etc. this all costs money</i> • <i>Shouting and swearing and also being told 'what are you looking at?' is something I have experienced more than once.</i> • <i>Begging – at least 4 beggars in the street today and more over the past weekend – 14, 15, 16 Dec 2024</i> • <i>Rough sleeping – Sunday 15 Dec 11.30am 2 sleeping bags with a person in each lying down in the High Street.</i> • <i>Public drinking – this is such a regular occurrence (often on Saturday mornings)</i> • <i>Having spoken to residents and the warden at La Providence (sheltered accommodation for the elderly) – they have been more concerned in recent months since the Visitor Centre closed as they have had hundreds more people using the walkway past their houses. It's become noisier and created anxiety for some.</i> • <i>At our first Artisan Market on Sat 9th March we had very real problems with inebriated people at the Blue Boar Lane area, which upset a lot of shoppers</i>

Public safety	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Broken glass – regular at Blue Boar Lane</i> • <i>Stabbing at Blue Boar Lane carpark – Farmers Market was delayed in opening on Sunday Dec 15th due to police presence</i>
The protection of children from harm	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>I recognise that Tesco have a far stricter checking system for underage children to buy alcohol – but it can be passed to younger people when outside. The fact that there are special offers on cheaper drinks will make that more likely.</i> • <i>We want to protect our children from seeing and experiencing the effects of people drunk and behaving badly.</i>

Are there any conditions or modifications to the application or licence that would address the representations?	<p>I know that I will be shopping at Tesco (I have a card!) and am actually pleased I won't always have to cycle over to Strood for food items but I do not feel we need another off-sales outlet considering the CIP and how the incremental rise in off-sales alcohol is affecting our community and the area as a whole detrimentally.</p> <p>Let's have some more really good choices in food in the space.</p>
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Signed Sarah E Tranter _____

Date 19/03/25 _____

Please return this form along with any supporting evidence to **The Licensing Dept., Gravesham Borough Council Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU** or e-mail licensing@gravesham.gov.uk

Representations must be submitted to the council within 28 days of the date on the notice displayed on the premises or the date specified on the public notice in the newspaper.