

From: Sarah Tranter
Sent: 31 July 2025 13:09
To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>

Subject: Newlands Newsagents 111 High St Rochester ME1 1JS application for extended hours

Dear Licensing officers,

I am writing to object to the extended licensing hours proposed by Newlands Newsagents.

I am a member of Rochester City Centre Forum and have been a resident here for 50 years.

I am proud of our heritage and that it is an amazing tourist destination, bringing in 100s of 1,000s of visitors every year who contribute to the sustainability of our Cathedral, Heritage centres, independent shops, restaurants and services.

Newlands is in part of the CIP area put in place by the Council and Police together and it helps to protect this part of Rochester (a highly populated area with residents, shoppers and visitors) from anti-social behaviour. There are already many venues that have off-sales of alcohol, including Newlands.

At our recent Forum meeting at the end of July, PC Heather Greenwood said that she has to work hard with colleagues, using valuable resources to patrol and deal with street-drinking and anti-social behaviour in the High Street. It is a constant and very real problem.

Begging is also a big concern - particularly in the evenings and especially in that area and along the High Street.

The litter is a big problem increasingly in the evenings, resulting in the street being a mess until the cleaners start doing their job in the morning.

Any increase in hours available to purchase alcohol to be drunk off-premises will only add to the pressure for all who work to keep Rochester safe.

At present, Newlands (a valuable shop to all of us in the community) is able to sell alcohol for 12 ½ hours which is a huge amount anyway. To extend them further into the evening would be a detriment to the High Street.

So, to reiterate; I feel very strongly that this application will add to:

An increase in begging

An increase in littering

An increase in anti-social behaviour

An increase in drunken behaviour

We all need to do everything we can to keep Rochester a safe and vibrant place to live.

Yours

Sarah Tranter

From: Shane Waterman

Sent: 11 August 2025 18:48

To: Licensing <licensing@gravesham.gov.uk>

Subject: Newlands Newsagents, 111 High St, Rochester | Objection to Full Variation Application

Subject: Objection to Licence Variation – Newlands Newsagents, Rochester High Street

Dear Licensing Team,

I am writing in my capacity as a committee member of the Rochester City Centre Forum and as the Manager of the Rochester Artisan Market since 2020, to formally object to the application by Newlands Newsagents, Rochester High Street, to extend the hours for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises to 9.30 pm daily.

The premises fall within the area covered by the Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP), which exists to manage the already high density of off-sales outlets in Rochester High Street. The application offers no clear evidence of public need or benefit for the proposed extension, and I have seen no visible effort by the applicant to increase alcohol sales within the current licensed hours — either through in-store promotion, High Street advertising, or social media activity.

Between March and July this year, I personally made more than six 999 calls to Kent Police on market days (one Saturday per month) due to infringements of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which prohibits drinking in public along the High Street. Increasing the licensed hours for alcohol sales in this area would, in my view, increase the likelihood of public drinking and associated anti-social behaviour.

In the absence of a demonstrable public benefit, and in light of the existing issues with alcohol-related disorder in the immediate vicinity, I support the position of the Director of Public Health in opposing this application.

Yours faithfully,

Shane Waterman

Committee Member – Rochester City Centre Forum

Manager – Rochester Artisan Market