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Sent: Sunday, January 4, 2026 10:56 AM

To: Licensing

Subject: Application for a Premises Licence , Gepeto Ltd , 42 High Street , Chatham ME4 4DS

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Hello - the City of Rochester Society objects to the above application as follows : -

1 . Prevention of crime & disorder . The applicant requests the sale & supply of alcohol from 9am to 11pm , 7 days a week .. The premises is described as a ' general store / groceries & alcohol ' .If the application is granted , it will effectively be an off licence . This premises lies within the Chatham High Street Cumulative Impact Area where there is a high concentration of premises selling alcohol for consumption both on and off premises . It is classified as a ' high risk ' area in terms of crime & disorder , anti social behaviour , public nuisance , alcohol related issues etc . To add yet another premises selling alcohol , particularly late into the evening , greatly increases the potential for related crime & disorder . It will also attract those already intoxicated customers who have left other licensed premises in the area who may be walking towards Rochester etc and again there is potential for greatly increased disturbance / crime & disorder which will directly affect local residents and other businesses in the vicinity ..It is also worth noting that there has been a significant increase in all types of residential accommodation in this area and therefore many more citizens will be affected by any increased crime & disorder .The Operating Schedule with this application gives very little information on how this Licensing Objective will be satisfactorily addressedand how residents & other businesses will be safeguarded .

2 . Prevention of Public Nuisance . Some of the points in paragraph 1 above apply here . In addition ,there is potential for increased littering particularly from discarded alcohol containers which is dangerous , unhealthy & unsightly .There will be an increased likelihood of customers urinating and vomiting in residents' & businesses doorways . There are also clear implications for much additional noise nuisance .. The Operating Schedule refers to signage at the premises asking customers to leave quietly. This is unusual for an off licence , but illustrates the potential for associated public nuisance . Will this premises be selling high strength alcohol ? Again more detail is required on how this Licensing Objective will be complied with .

3 . Public Safety . The applicant seems to have somewhat misunderstood this Objective . The Operating Schedule merely ' not serving to drunks ' The Licensing Act 2003explains that it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure their premises is safe for public & staff for the activity taking place both inside & immediately outside the premises (eg : queuing , access , means of escape etc) .What provision is in place for staff training & what will be the staffing levels ? Again , the Schedule gives little detail that addresses public safety properly .This is of real concern .

4 . Protection of Children from harm . There appears to be some misunderstanding of what is needed here . This objective includes moral & psychological harm as well as physical harm . There is now a very broad responsibility on Premises Licence holders to protect children in many different ways .Examples of relevant conditions can be restrictions on the hours children may be present on the premises or restrictions on the exclusion of children under certain ages . There could also be requirements for an accompanying adult in some circumstances. This Licensing Objective has not been sufficiently addressed ..

The City of Rochester Society has concerns and reservations on this application as set out above & requests that very careful consideration be given by Medway Council to granting a Premises Licence in this instance . Many thanks .

Chris Webb , for The City of Rochester Society