

## Appendix C

**From:** DAVID BAINS <>

**Sent:** 09 August 2026 11:53

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

**Subject:** Objection to Application for a New Off-Licence 75 Richmond Road - Gillingham

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### **Objection Letter – Proposed Off-Licence**

Licensing Department

Gravesham & Medway Shared Licensing Service

09/08/2026

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Subject: Objection to Application for a New Off-Licence**

I am writing to formally object to the application for a new off-licence at 75 Richmond Road Gillingham ME7 1LS

I am writing to formally object to the application for a new off-licence at 75 Richmond Road, Gillingham ME7 1LS. My objection is made under all four licensing objectives of the Licensing Act 2003: (1) Prevention of Crime and Disorder, (2) Public Safety, (3) Prevention of Public Nuisance, and (4) Protection of Children from Harm.

#### **1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

The proposed premises would add yet another alcohol outlet to an already saturated area. Within a five-minute walk there are three existing off-licences, and this application is approximately one minute from another licensed premises. Evidence consistently shows that high concentrations of alcohol outlets increase:

- Street drinking
- Anti-social behaviour
- Loitering
- Littering and environmental degradation
- Demand on police and community safety services

The North Ward already experiences elevated levels of alcohol-related disorder. Introducing an additional outlet will intensify these problems and undermine efforts to reduce crime in the area.

#### **2. Public Safety**

The locality has a history of alcohol-related incidents, including aggressive behaviour, unsafe gatherings, and public intoxication. Increasing access to cheap alcohol will heighten risks to residents and their families.

There are also traffic and road-safety concerns. Illegal parking already occurs outside nearby businesses, including delivery drivers obstructing bus stops and pavements. A new

off-licence will attract additional vehicles stopping unlawfully, creating hazards for pedestrians, bus users, and schoolchildren.

It is important to remind the committee that Richmond Road sits within a deprived ward, where vulnerability to alcohol-related harm is significantly higher. The Council has previously acknowledged the dangers of increasing alcohol availability in such areas.

**Relevant Case Study** – Ordnance Street, Chatham (Refused Application) Medway Council's Public Health Directorate stated during that hearing:

"This is a very deprived area. It houses 3% of Medway's population, yet accounts for 15% of all Medway's domestic violence incidents. More than half of domestic violence incidences are alcohol-related. It is also proven that the number of licensed outlets in an area increases the number of domestic violence incidents."

The same risk factors apply directly to Richmond Road and the surrounding North Ward.

### **3. Prevention of Public Nuisance**

Residents already experience persistent nuisance linked to existing off-licences, including:

- Noise disturbances
- Littering alleyways and streets
- Public drinking
- Congregation of individuals in residential areas

For example, individuals regularly sit and drink on Trinity Road near the Best One on Richmond Road, leaving bottle tops and other waste in plant boxes and on the pavement. A further outlet will increase footfall, noise, and late-night disturbances, worsening an already problematic situation. I myself have witnessed drinking outside the Medway Supermarket, 124 Richmond Road, Gillingham.

### **4. Protection of Children from Harm**

This licensing objective is severely compromised by the location of the proposed premises.

The application is directly next door to an infant and primary school.

Children walking to and from school are already exposed to:

- Public drinking
- Disorderly behaviour
- Discarded alcohol containers
- Intimidating or unsafe situations involving intoxicated individuals

Adding another off-licence near the school gate will normalise alcohol misuse in front of young children, increase their exposure to harmful behaviour, and create an environment that is wholly inappropriate for a school setting. This alone should be grounds for refusal.

No responsible licensing authority should approve a new alcohol outlet immediately adjacent to a primary school in an area already struggling with alcohol-related harm.

### **Conclusion**

The cumulative impact of existing off-licences in this area is already severe. Crime, disorder, public nuisance, safety risks, and harm to children are all present and increasing. Approving another licence at 75 Richmond Road—especially directly beside an infant and primary school—would be unsafe, detrimental, and contrary to all four licensing objectives.

Additionally, the sheer number of off-licences within a 5–10 minute walk is unsustainable for existing businesses and risks triggering a price war on cheap alcohol, further driving harmful consumption and community decline.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Licensing Committee refuse this application in full.

Regards

David Bains





