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Your ref: Meta Fried Chicken
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Meta Fried Chicken and Pizza 640 Downham Way, Downham BR1 5HN

Lewisham Police Licensing acknowledge receipt of a variation to a premises licence for a Fried Chicken and Pizza shop at the above location. The operating hours range from 1100-0130 Sunday to Thursday and 1100-0200 Friday to Saturday. It is proposed that alcohol will be on sale during this time.

Police object to this application under the following Licensing objectives:

- Prevent crime and disorder
- Prevention of Children from Harm
- Prevent public nuisance

After considering the application, conditions offered by the applicant and taking into account the location of the proposed premises and its environs Police licensing feel that the proposed premises will undermine not only the Licensing objectives but also greatly affect the residences and the quality of their lives. The applicant has failed to take into account and address the negative impact that this premise will have and the extensive hours proposed demonstrate this giving very little respite for residents.

Geographical Location

Downham Way is a very busy road and a highly residential area many shops have residential flats above it and surrounded by other residential premises. The premises is close to the junction of Baring Road which has Grove Park BR Station, a mixture of shops with residential flats above and residential houses and therefore a lot of members of public using the BR Station and local buses to get to the area and walking past the premises. Galahad Road and Reigate Road are close by and are totally

residential. The concern is that if alcohol is allowed to be sold with takeaway food this will have a negative impact on the local residents with the noise and behaviour of a large number of people congregating outside the premises.

The local SNT will be submitting an impact statement outlining a massive issue with anti-social behaviour in Grove Park and a large part of this is coming from street drinkers. There are a large amount of homeless people hanging around the local shops and train station drinking, begging and causing a lot of anti-social behaviour in general. This is a constant topic which is brought up by residents through anti-social behaviour reports to police, in ward panel meetings and local shops and businesses. This premises is right in the middle of where this behaviour is and if the license is approved this will only increase.

The Application (Public Nuisance)

The applicant appears to have covered a lot when first reading the application form, however, I do not feel they have fully considered the impact on the local environment and residents.

The venue is a Fried Chicken and Pizza take-a-way shop in a row of shops with residential premises above all the shops. Further down Downham Way is totally residential and the side roads are also residential.

The area already suffers from begging and anti-social behaviour and will only increase with the additional sale of alcohol to be sold alongside takeaway food and there are a number of benches outside the shop in the middle of the pavement which will encourage patrons to stay in the area eating and drinking creating a lot of noise and intimidating local residents. Although there are a number of bins along the pavement the amount of litter including discarded cans and bottles on the pavement will increase causing health hazards.

The Lewisham Borough statement of Licensing Policy 2020 – 2025

7.9 states: All applicants and licensees should be mindful of potential nuisance issues and take this into consideration when preparing their operating schedules. Night time activities can be particularly intrusive as ambient noise levels drop during this time and most residents sleep. The Council deems unsociable hours for noise between 2300 and 0600. Applicants need to demonstrate how they will address issues such as:

- The avoidance of any congregating and loitering of patrons at or near the premises
- Patrons returning to parked cars in nearby streets
- Clearance of litter or debris from activities at their premises accumulating on nearby streets

The applicant has applied for Late night refreshment and proposes to have off sales of alcohol whilst selling Fried Chicken and Pizza food this will encourage customers to remain in the locality whilst consuming their purchases greatly increasing the chance

of noise nuisance disturbing local residents but also the impact of littering from food packaging, not only on the streets but within the gardens of residential properties.

Children

The applicant states no children on the premises after 2000 hours but there is no explanation how this can be managed or how children can be kept separate. Historically, children who are allowed outside of school during breaks and lunchtime congregate at the local chicken shops, if this application is agreed they will now be mixing with people who have access to alcohol.

The area is densely populated and school children reside in the locality, they will regularly be in the presence of the patrons coming and going to the premises and also subjected to the noise from the premises, this may have a negative impact on their sleep and subsequently their schooling as well as having to share the public transport with people who may well be intoxicated.

The Lewisham Borough statement of Licensing Policy 2020 – 2025

7.22 states: Frequency of drinking is associated with offending in children and young people. The 2004 Offending, Crime and Justice Survey found those who drank alcohol once a week or more committed a disproportionate volume of crime, accounting for 37% of all offences but only 14% of respondents.

Crime

The area is within the Grove Park Ward. Research on the crime database shows this to be a high crime area. Although this is not directly linked to this venue the patrons of the venue may find themselves victims of crime. The applicant has applied for a variation to their licence to run from 1100 finishing at 0130 on Sunday – Thursday and 0200 on Friday and Saturday and to sell alcohol in addition to their existing Fried Chicken and Pizza, We would suggest that in a period of fifteen hours the chances of crime and damage to health from the consumption of alcohol would be greatly increased.

It is our belief that the hours requested to sell alcohol would lead to an increase of crime and anti-social behaviour which would become an extra burden on emergency services.

The Lewisham Borough statement of Licensing Policy 2020 – 2025

7.1 states: The Licensing system plays a key role in controlling and regulating crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour through its focus on the promotion of licensing objectives. This is due to the link between alcohol consumption and individuals' risk of becoming involved in crime and disorder increasing, either as a perpetrator or a victim of that crime. Crime problems that may arise include:

- Violent crime, including sexual assault

- Criminal Damage
- Anti-social Behaviour
- Street Drinking
- Public Disorder Drug Use

Conclusion

After considering the application, conditions offered by the applicant, taking into account the location of the proposed premises and its environs, the Metropolitan Police believe that the proposed premises will undermine not only the licensing objectives but also greatly affect the local residents.

The applicant has failed to take into account and address the negative impact the sale of alcohol over fifteen hours will have on the licensing objectives. Although the area has a lot of business premises there are residential premises above the shops and are surrounded by residential premises.

The local Safer Neighbourhood Team currently have an issue with anti-social behaviour in Grove Park and part of this is coming from street drinkers. They are hanging around the local shops and train station drinking, begging and causing anti-social behaviour in general. This is a topic which is being brought up by residents through anti-social behaviour reports, in ward panel meetings and via the local shops and businesses also. The location of the Meta Fried Chicken and Pizza is in the middle of where all of the anti-social behaviour is so the fear is that this licence being approved will only encourage this.

Allowing this shop to sell alcohol will only increase the amount of reported incidents caused by unruly drunkenness and force residents to remain in their properties.

Police Licensing acknowledge that all options are open to committee but with the application in its current form cannot be supported by Police whilst the licensing objectives are ignored. Police licensing would strongly recommend that this application be denied.

Yours Sincerely,

PC Shaun Rodway

Licensing Officer Lewisham