

To Leicester City Council Licensing Department.

Re: H Ramazani premises licence objection respond.

Premises address: 313 Aylestone Road

Leicester, LE2 7QL.

N.B. Mr Ramazani's response to the original representations are listed below and numbered 1-5, subsequent to those objections, I have listed Mr Clewes responses under the heading of "Answer"

1. Re: no objection to application itself:

Mr Ramazani's Response to Mr Clewes original representation: "First of all, I would like to repeat my all explanation in my application and also would like to additionally add following";

I respect the gentleman who made the objection; however, I notice that he does not have a problem with the application itself, just the opening hours. Therefore, if I was not planning to sell alcohol and selling only groceries he would not feel a need to file an objection.

Answer;

It is not as Mr Ramazani states an objection to opening hours. I have no objection to him opening a shop or any other type of business at this address and to remain open as long as he deems feasible. In fact, I and other residents and will welcome him and his investment into our community. It is simply just the possibility of alcohol being on sale at this site for seventeen hours a day seven days a week that I object to.

2. Re: period that alcohol can be sold

I would like to point out that number 329 (ground floor to the gentleman's home) is a shop which has already been selling alcohol for a very long time. I have carried out my own short investigation and have not found any serious incidents to have occurred in the area.

I would also like to point out that apart from this shop there are two other take away shops opposite and in the vicinity of the gentleman's house which sell alcohol until late at night. I do not believe there would e much difference or change when I open my shop; I will be offering a good quality and competitive service and products.

Answer;

Unfortunately Mr Ramazani appears to have been misinformed regarding the shop/property situated at 329 Aylestone Road. I do in fact own this property but live next door at 327 Aylestone Road. I will declare that I do have a financial interest in the shop trading as Riverview Stores, in the form of rental payments from the shopkeeper who trades from there. However I do not have any other interest financial or otherwise in this shop.

2.

As far as Mr Ramazani's investigation is concerned, I would be very interested in him sharing his sources of information. The reason being is, that as far as I am aware he is not local to the area or even the city. Therefore he must have been dependent on information received from others

It would be fair to say that there have been no recent serious incidents. However this is not my concern. What does concern me and other local residents is the anti-social behaviour; such as shouting, vehicle noise, car doors slamming, radios/base speakers thumping late at night which occurs occasionally. This intermittent behaviour is probably mitigated due to the two licensed Pizza shops delivering almost all (probably more than 90%) of their sales to their clients home address's.

3. Re: people coming from other areas to buy alcoholic products.

I do not believe that people will come from other areas because if you look around Leicester today the vast majority of areas have corner shops and supermarkets selling alcoholic drinks, eg Tesco, Spar, Sainsbury's local and Premier shops etc.

I would like to mention that if more people do come to the area to shop; this will bring customers to all local business and benefit all businesses in the area as a whole.

I would like to notice that Mr Clewes claims to be speaking on behalf of many of his neighbours;

however, only he has brought forward a objection. Surely, other local residents would have objected to my application if they had shared his concerns.

Answer:

I fully agree with Mr Ramazani's assessment of the availability of alcohol around the city and county

What I take issue with is, at what times this availability commences. To explain this in more detail , in our area of Aylestone Park, as far as I am aware there is only one outlet to purchase alcohol from early in the day .This is Aldi at their shop on Aylestone Road. Aldi are open from 8am -10pm Monday-Friday & 10am -4pm Sundays. The distinction to draw here, is that Aldi's is enclosed within their own site and there are always numerous fully trained staff and security on-site to prevent any form of anti-social behaviour occurring. This, I think highlights my concern. The type of street drinker that could possibly be the cause of such behaviour, are fully aware that Aldi is not an option for them and so in consequence could be attracted to a small local off sale outlet to purchase alcohol at 7am.

How I ask myself, will people who need to come to buy alcohol from 7am, benefit other shops in the area most of whom are not open until at least 9am.

3.

The problem with other people making an objection is; the public display of the notice of intent to apply for a licence was placed in the premises (313 Aylestone Road) window. This window was covered, whilst building alterations took place and was too far from the pavement to be readable. It is worth noting that the pavement used by passersby is approximately 30 feet from the shop front.

I did not know anything about this application until my sister read it in the Leicester Mercury; she then casually mentioned it to me. Subsequently I randomly canvassed some local residents and businesses for their views. As the response was overwhelmingly against the hours of alcohol sales, I decided to speak for myself and the other residents. This is the reason that my objection was very "last minute".

4. Re noise late at night

There are many off licences and take away shops around the gentleman's property so I do not see it as a valid point that he is objecting to my application as he has raised no concern about noise from the above mentioned premises. I think the gentleman's reasons are more personal – he is the ex - owner of Riverside off – licence which is below his property and I believe that the gentleman and the new owner of that shop are worried that my business may have negative effect on their business as I will not only sell alcohol but grocery products as well.

Answer:

"Noise late at night"This point I believe has already been discussed fully in my answer @ 2, paragraph 3 of this document.

" I think the gentleman's reasons are more personal"Again this has been fully discussed in my answer 2 @ paragraph 1.

5. Re: suggestion of 10am – 10 pm on Sunday

The hours suggested above are the opening hours of Riverside Off Licence. I believe that it is not acceptable for a business's hours to be dictated by its competitors. I am aware that according to Leicester City Council regulations I could trade 24/7 but I am content to run my business between 7am -12am.

So I believe my respond to Mr Clewes should be good enough not to reject my application by LCC, even surely the hearing not necessary to waste any body's times. But also I do have big respect to LCC any decision for application.

4.

Answer:

Again , I am sorry to say it appears that Mr Ramazani has been misled regarding the name of the shop at 329 Aylestone Road and their hours of trading on Sundays.

So, just to clarify.

The business Mr Ramazani refers to as Riverside off – licence is actually called Riverview Stores.

Riverview Stores trade on Sundays between the hours of 10am – 3pm and then 6pm – 10.30pm. So it is obvious that no one is attempting to dictate to Mr Ramazani which hours he should open.

Again, just to reiterate my point of view. This objection solely concerns the proposed licensing hours applied for in Mr Ramazani's application.

David Clewes ,

20th September 2017