

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
C O U N C I L

Mike Hooper
Democratic Services
City of Wolverhampton Council

09 May 2017

Dear Mike

Application for a premises licence: Shell Triton, 95 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 9NQ

Following my letter dated 28 April 2017, submitted to the Licensing Authority in respect of the above-named premises, I have been in touch with Solace Community and would be grateful if this letter could be shared with the committee as part of the hearing.

As outlined in my initial correspondence I have concerns around the proximity of the above-named premises to Solace.

The Solace Community is a non-profit organisation that provides specialist supported housing for individuals who have experienced homelessness. The majority of these individuals are dependant drinkers and users of illicit drugs, with some of these in structured treatment with Recovery Near You. The clients of Solace face many vulnerabilities requiring sensitive care and a positive environment to aid their recovery and re-integration into normality.

The 31-bedded accommodation on Tettenhall Road is normally at full capacity throughout the year, demonstrating the demand for such service and the high number of alcohol problem drinkers. Since Solace commenced their services from the Tettenhall Road base in 2014, they have worked within the community to build positive relationships with residents and businesses alike and feel the relationships are in a stable position. Understandably with such service being housed within a residential area there is the risk of community tensions, fortunately through the proactive approach Solace has adopted, tensions in their opinion are not concerning.

Solace has also worked with the Premier Shop which is located in close proximity of the Shell garage. The Premier are licensed to sell alcohol, however Solace has worked with this business and hold a good working relationship with its staff and owners. For example, Solace regularly meet with Premier staff to discuss any problems arising from Solace clients. If required, Premier is made aware of concerning clients and will subsequently refuse to sell alcohol where appropriate. In such incidents Premier will contact Solace immediately to make them aware. This arrangement has enabled the care of clients to be effectively managed.

Solace has serious concerns about granting another licence at such close proximity and feel strongly that it will negatively impact the recovery of their users. Furthermore, they feel the licence is likely to cause community tensions and could bring Solace into dispute with residents.

I would be grateful if the committee can take this information into consideration during their decision making process. If required, Solace are happy to be consulted further.

Thankyou

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