

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee

Wednesday, 17 November 2021

Dear Councillor

STATUTORY LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER, 2021

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Wednesday, 17th November, 2021 meeting of the Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee, the following statement that was unavailable when the agenda was printed.

Agenda No Item

- 3 **Licensing Act 2003 - Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence in respect of Aldi, Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 6DH (Pages 3 - 4)**

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact Democratic Services:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 November 2021 00:22
To: Donna Cope <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Elizabeth Gregg <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Licensing Act 2003 – Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence in respect of Aldi, Stafford Road, Wolverhampton, WV10 6DH

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Good evening.

As discussed over the telephone, due to my work commitments I probably cannot be present on the 17th for the meeting on teams due to having a full clinic of patients.

Therefore, I would like to put across some main points that I feel must be considered before the extended licence for Aldi is agreed.

Firstly can I introduce myself, I am an NHS Nurse working for the local trust and work lengthy shifts - 13hrs in fact, including early starts, nights and weekends. As do many (I would guess into the 100's) of the residents that already reside on the Akron Gate Estate and St Modwen development. This is probably due to the developers encouraging key workers to purchase the houses, with attractive discounts and promotions. There is a point to this, it will become clear.

Imagine working a 13hr shift from 7am until 8pm - well more likely 9/10pm due to staffing issues and by the time you get home. To then return and all you want to do is sleep but you have the supermarket open until 12 midnight. Would you welcome this? Would you be happy about this on your doorstep? Day in, day out. Imagine doing 3/4 of those shifts back to back and then wanting to come home to peace and quiet, yet you have a full car park of cars papping, shoppers, banging, clanging, arguing right on your door step when all you want to do is sleep. Now Imagine doing night shifts, working through the night from 8pm until 7am, again no let up.

How many more deliveries would the extended shop opening times bring? Since April 2021 I have numerous videos of these arctic trucks and their inconsiderate drivers coming virtually every hour of the night. At 1am, 2am, 3am, 4am, 5am... when does it end? Multiple times already throughout the night, always more than 1 delivery. They leave their full headlights on, which shine directly through our front of house, as we are directly facing the car park affecting bedroom windows, mine and also my children's.

They are not noise conscious, they are not considerate of their surroundings, they are loud, shouting, laughing and making so much noise getting crate after crate off the trucks. During Covid-19 the government extended the delivery times throughout the night, due to social distancing measures with Covid-19. This was understandable then, but why is this still happening now when these measures have been scrapped? The shop workers do not wear masks, nor do they social distance. So please tell me why these lorries are still continuing being allowed to make

these deliveries through all hours of the night? Again, how many more deliveries will the extended opening times bring? Will there be a queue of Arctic trucks outside my house consistently all night? So basically, the opening times will be extended from 06.00am until 12.00 midnight, but actually it will be a 24/7 store in terms of noise pollution for the neighbourhood, as it virtually is already.

Let me enlighten you to some of the goings on, on Aldi's car park right now, before extended hours are considered and added to the mix which can further impact on these problems and heighten crimes. Multiple evidence suggests criminal activity does take place on this car Park as it stands right now. Do you think that this will increase with extended hours? I do, here's why:

Video evidence has been passed on to the police of crimes that are already taking place on the car Park at various times throughout the day and night. This is because Aldi cannot take, or do not want to admit responsibility for their car park. By denying responsibility for this, these crimes are continuing to take place as there is no CCTV in place, whatsoever. Criminals know this, hence why they keep returning, set days, set times and committing these crimes continuously. This has been discussed with the store manager Matt and his colleagues, he's not interested.

In fact Aldi keep saying it isn't their responsibility and it is the responsibility of Wolverhampton City Council. So, who's responsibility is it? I would like to know who is responsible for the car park? Who's fault is it when someone gets assaulted on there? Who's fault is it when drug dealers keep meeting up on there to exchange goods? Who's responsible when the local homeless man keeps defecating on the floor and through the wire fencing and exposing himself to the world and children see this!? How would you feel if your 6 year old saw a strangers genitals through their window, whilst just playing within their room? This is indecent exposure, who is responsible? Who's responsible when cars are racing around on there like a race track and could potentially kill themselves or some innocent person?

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL OF THIS IRRESPONSIBLENESS ??

Why have I paid over a quarter of a million pound to put up with this? To witness this daily, nightly, weekly. Why is it up to the public to police these things and allow you greedy companies to profit, but put nothing back in to the communities to keep people safe and free from harm? Multiple complaints have already been put in to Aldi regarding all of these issues, again nothing has been done. So tell me why we, as a community should allow you to do what you want, when you rely on us to keep your businesses open.

May I add that all of these above issues have been reported to West Midlands Police and a case worker and police officer has advised me they are in talks with Wolverhampton City Council to see if temporary CCTV can be put in place to measure the goings on mentioned above. Videos and evidence have also been sent to the police.

As a registered professional I feel you have a duty of care to protect the public - and by that I mean the communities who these implications may affect. You must be seen to be acting in the best interest and with good principles of these communities so I ask you to please re-consider allowing Aldi to extend their premises licence as I feel that this is in the best interest of the community and the immediately affected parties surrounding the store. I also ask you to enforce that Aldi must install CCTV to their car park, or whom whoever is responsible for this car Park before someone is seriously hurt and a law suit could be enforced upon yourselves or Aldi.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this and I hope considerations can be taken into account of the information mentioned within this statement.

If you require any more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kindest regards

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Concerned resident of Banbury place/ Akron Gate Estate.