

From: Councillor Linda Kirby
Sent: 16 November 2015 18:42
To: Licensing; Councillor Jeff Hanna
Cc: Al Patel (alpesh.patel3@met.police.uk); MCDONAGH, Siobhain (siobhain.mcdonagh.mp@parliament.uk); darren.mercer@met.police.uk; Councillor John Dehaney; Jonathan.Phillips@met.pnn.police.uk; Barry Croft (Merton) ; Amanda Woodhall; Pat DeJesus
Subject: RE: Premises/Club and Gambling Licensing Applications
Importance: High

Re: The Application for Ambaal Stores (see below)

The MP, Siobhain McDonagh and I have now had two meetings with the MP, police, Anti-social behaviour officer, Licencing officer and residents on the anti-social behaviour that takes place associated with the purchase of alcohol from this premises.

Ambaal Stores operates in the early hours of the morning, against its licencing hours. Despite a meeting with the licensing officer, this early morning opening has continued. I am attaching minutes of those meetings.

It is the wish of local councillors, residents and the MP that the licence for this premises is withdrawn.

Regards

Linda Kirby
Graveney Ward Councillor

MINUTES OF ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AT GARDEN AVENUE JUNCTION WITH STREATHAM ROAD AND RELATED ISSUES

9am MONDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2015

Venue: Ladbrokes Shop, Streatham Road

THOSE PRESENT: MP Siobhain McDonagh, Local Councillor Linda Kirby, Police: Gavin Bolton, Inspector Darren Mercer, Vere Bowyer, Anti-social behaviour officer: Amanda Woodhall; Licensing Officer: Barry Ladbroke reps: Barry Phillips & Matthew Czaja,

Residents:

COUNCILLOR LINDA KIRBY AND MP SIOBHAIN HAVE BEEN RECEIVING COMPLAINTS OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND NO ACTION SO FAR HAS RESOLVED THE PROBLEM.

RESIDENTS' CONCERNS EXPRESSED AT THE MEETING

1. Worsening situation - Large gatherings of males who get drunk and intimidated local residents during the day and through the night at this junction. They frequent Ladbrokes and AMBAL stores.
2. Alcohol being sold in the early hours of the morning at the AMBAL store on the corner of Garden/Streatham. Evidence reported of opening and selling alcohol at 12pm, 1.30 and 2pm.
3. Drink, broken bottles, food and smoking debris litters the area.

4. Drug dealers are operating from cars.
5. Car registrations of dealers have been reported but no action taken.
6. Urinating, spitting and swearing in the street.
7. Cars speeding up the road 40 -50 mph – speed tables requested
8. Drinkers getting into cars and driving off.
9. Police are called regularly but when they do attend they are laughed at. They have told residents they do not have the necessary powers to resolve the issues
10. After midnight a guy walks through them with a cricket bat which he swings about.
11. Entrance to Garden is dark because of trees making it more threatening.
12. Lots of families in the area intimidating for them in the daytime and for both men and women returning home at night.
13. Resident at No 3 had to pay £595 to get a bar erected on her wall to stop them using her wall.
14. They stand at her gate.
15. Stench of urine is dreadful
16. Flytipping at that junction is frequent – Council only remove after it's reported – often there for a few days.
17. Entrance to street isn't cleaned even though it is off a main road shopping parade.
18. Attempted theft of resident's motorbike. He came out of shop to find one of the group on his bike. He had to deal with the matter on his own.
19. Local police are around sometimes in the daytime.
20. The whole Streatham Road area up to the bridge at the border with Wandsworth is a continuous mess.
21. Melrose Avenue – accumulative problem.
22. Rubbish is put out by shops and is strewn all over the street.
23. Bins have been removed so there is nowhere to put waste. Place is now a tip.
24. Eleven premises sell alcohol in this stretch of the ward.
25. A number of residents are willing to attend court if action is required.

RESIDENTS WANT TO KNOW

No of arrests that have been made;

What data has been gathered?;

What litter fines have been imposed?;

Why undercover work is not being carried out?;

What happened to the Dispersal Zone?;

LOCAL COUNCILLOR RESPONSE:

Cllr Linda Kirby reported: These issues have been reported now over a significant period of time. They were also raised at our Public Meeting in July. Despite this, nothing seems to have happened. If the elected representatives from the area can't get action then who can?

The minutes of our Public meeting in July were referred to the Director Of Environmental Services requesting that the licence of AMBAL be revoked as the owner is breaching licencing. I now find the Licencing officer in charge has no knowledge of this. Apparently, a form was not completed that would have triggered the process.

Environment will be informed of the meeting and asked to respond.

Local councillors receive info on all licencing applications and oppose new premises or those wishing to sell licence. Recently successful in getting one turned down despite the police's willingness to let it go ahead.

Linda Kirby is happy to pass on information and to liaise between the agencies and residents. Emails and contact details needed to be able to do this.

POLICE RESPONSE

A joint response is needed. Dept of Environment missing at the meeting (Siobhain apologised for not inviting them. Linda Kirby will ensure minutes go to the Director for action). Merton's Anti Social Behaviour Team will work with them on this plus the local police who do patrol the area when they are on duty,

Community Intelligence – 2 arrests have been made and 2 houses raided twice in the last six months.

5 Community Protection Notices have been issued to street drinkers. The problem is that these orders have not been enforced against.

The police commit to increasing their presence in the area from Tuesday night from 8pm-1am

They have limited resources so can't maintain this as a long-term solution.

Need to identify the key people responsible. Then will visit the homes of those causing the problem, research whether they have social housing or are in receipt of benefits. Threats of restriction to these will be used as a deterrent.

Accurate details have been hard to obtain, spellings of name often inaccurate.

Photographing people who have not committed a crime has legal consequences so police are not free to do this.

Since law change last October, Police are able to install a 48 hour dispersal zone.

Drug issues should be reported directly to 999

LADBROKE'S RESPONSE

They operate until 10pm

They believe the main issue is alcohol. The area is strewn with drink debris. They didn't clean up this morning to prove it.

They work in a challenging environment. Their team police the shop.

15 individuals who've caused problems elsewhere have been banned from using their premises.

If they're recognised, they're rejected.

They don't police the streets. Once people have left their business they do not accept responsibility for their actions.

Ladbroke's happy to work in partnership. It was suggested a steering group should be set up to meet regularly to look at Enforcement, prevention and intelligence. They should have a sustainable action plan with short, medium and long-term goals.

They believe the local media should be involved.

They will review their weekend CCTV info

THE LICENSING OFFICER

Licensing has power to review business licences. If they are not Fit & Proper that can be : revoked, suspended or further conditions added.

They have an intelligence data base

If sufficient evidence is submitted action can be taken.

Every application is advertised

Standard form has to be completed – qualifying issues are: Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Nuisance, Safety, Protecting Children from Harm.

MP'S SUMMARY

The meeting was called to address residents' concerns and to create solutions. Grateful to all those who took the time to attend and to Ladbroke for allowing us to hold the meeting in their premises. She will work with partners to try to resolve the issues. She believes that Ladbroke's presence in the community is also a magnet. Whilst they may not be doing anything illegal, they nonetheless attract the unwelcome night-time gatherings in the area. The following action has been agreed:

- Police and Council will work together to deal with : Street drinking, drugs, speeding and mess.
- Police will increase presence in area from Tuesday 2nd October between 8-1pm.
- The Licensing Officer will visit AMBAL to look at their licencing agreement.
- Residents will record their evidence and give to Cllr Linda Kirby for her to gather together and present to police and licensing. This can be done by email, handed to Cllr John Dehaney at the Monthly Surgery at the Community Centre this Saturday 10-11.
- Ladbrokes to identify landlord of property so that the Council can request action over the dangerous state of the paving at the forecourt of their shop.

A FURTHER MEETING IN A MONTH'S TIME WILL BE ORGANISED TO CHECK PROGRESS.

GARDEN AVENUE MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting held at 9am on Tuesday 3rd November 2015

Venue: Ladbrokes Streatham Road

Since the last meeting the situation has improved.

All attendees were visited by our Anti-Social Behaviour Officer, Amanda Woodhall but only one person gave a statement. Amanda has forwarded a Diary Sheet that residents can use to note down information. These will be attached to the minutes and should be returned to Amanda.

Police advised that they have a database of 50-55 names and addresses of individuals that have congregated in the area over the last 18 months.

The local police team have visited over 20 individuals in their homes and issued Community Protection Warning to both the individuals and their parents. The parents were unaware of the problem. A couple of the individuals involved have complained about the parents being involved. With the warning they have been issued a map of the area they must not congregate in. They have had to sign the map agreement. If they breach the agreement they will be issued with a Community Protection Notice that will be operational for 2 years and will impact on their lives.

Police will continue to work through their list in this way.

Inspector Mercer has issued 48 hour dispersals zones for the whole area over each of the last 4 weekends.

If the problem persists we have to report or it will not be possible to continue with these dispersal zones. They are reliant on evidence of anti-social behaviour from local residents.

Residents report that whilst they may not be gathering in Garden they are in the other avenues – Park & Melrose particularly.

Licensing and Ambaal Stores,- The licensing officer was not present but reported through Siobhain that he had visited the store. Is meeting with the owner, is investigating CCTV footage and will make unannounced visits.

Local councillors are disappointed that this work has not been completed in the 4 weeks since we last met.

Residents have continuing evidence of AMBAAL stores being open at 1.15am.

Police are also doing some work on licensing in the area but do not wish to share that information at present.

Residents reported that although the gatherings on the street may have ceased, with the exception of last Saturday night, there are youngsters drinking in cars and speeding up and down the Avenues at alarming speeds. The police have requested registration numbers. These should be forwarded to PC Al Patel.

The police will investigate this and support local councillors in requesting that a Speed Survey be conducted.

Rubbish

Residents reported individual littering and fly-tipping concerns that were recorded for action.

Presentation of Waste letters are being issued to residents who dump waste outside of their Friday collection period. Local Estate Agents have also been contacted about the waste service that the borough offers so that new tenants know what to do.

Commercial Waste agreements will be checked for the local businesses to ensure they are disposing of their waste responsibly.

2 bins will be erected either end of Streatham Road as an experiment to see whether this improves the cleanliness.

Ladbroke's has installed new paving on its frontage as requested. Residents believe a sand bucket is needed to collect cigarette stubs that currently litter the place.

Further meetings will be held if the matter persists. The local councillors and police will have their regular public meeting in February. The newsletter that precedes this in January will highlight the issue and give residents a chance to give an update.