

25 Oct 18

Licensing Service, London Borough of Merton  
14th Floor Civic Centre  
London Road, Morden, Surrey  
SM4 5DX

Dear Sir

**Re: License application WK/201807603**

I am amongst others writing to oppose this license application from the business operating from 37-39 Upper Green East (previously 'Costcutter', now known as 'Ronnie's Cutter')

Over recent years the area around Three Kings Pond has been plagued by drinkers at all times of day and night. It has become increasingly noisy, dirty and littered and there has been open use of the pond and surrounding area as a urinal. Local residents have suffered from disturbed sleep, noise, stress, and other issues including aggressive and occasionally violent behaviour from street drinkers in the area.

However, since the business operating at 37-39 Upper Green East had its alcohol license revoked, and the supply of alcohol has been less accessible, the drink-fuelled problems around the pond have declined to a massive extent. The improvement has been little short of stunning, and it coincides with this reduction in the supply of alcohol in the area. Local residents dread the resumption of convenient availability of alcohol as proposed in this application, and an inevitable return of the alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour which has previously taken place.

The proposed licensing hours on the application speak for themselves. From 7am each morning until either 1am (weekdays) or 2am (Friday and Saturday) at night, giving a period of 17 or 18 hours every day for selling alcohol, and obviously ensuring they are readily available to service the night time market.

A previous application from another local store for an alcohol license - again clearly aimed at exploiting the local drinking culture, was rejected due to the on-going drinking problems at the pond and town centre. I would like to hope Merton can again consider the wishes of the residents for peaceful surroundings and reject the application.

Given that the local Police Licensing Officer has requested that Merton issue no further alcohol licenses in the area, due to the prevalence and behaviour of drinkers in the town centre (which has rendered the area 'toxic' according to our local MP), I would again hope that this advice would encourage Merton to reject this application.

Yours sincerely

Sue Cooper

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