

From: Peter Bowyer
Sent: 27 October 2020 14:27
To: Licensing <Licensing@reading.gov.uk>
Subject: Representation - premises license application - Oxford Road Supermarket

Dear Licensing

Please record the following as a representation in respect of the Premises License application for Oxford Road Supermarket, 267-271 Oxford Road. I write on behalf of the Oxford Road Safer Neighbourhood Forum.

Oxford Road has a chronic problem with alcohol-related anti-social behaviour, with its roots in groups of (sometimes homeless) street-drinkers who roam the area's off-licenses purchasing single cans of beer or cider and consuming them as they go.

The location of the premises in the application is particularly prone to ASB, being close to the Reading West railway bridge and the area around McDonalds, which is a gathering point for street drinkers.

Recently the street bench in this location has been removed in order to provide a less welcoming environment for them, but the ASB continues.

It has been demonstrated in the case of other premises in the area that the adoption of a license condition restricting sale of strong (more than 5.5% ABV) alcohol, and also preventing the sale of quantities less than 4 of any alcohol, has a beneficial effect on the levels of ASB around those premises.

On this basis, the SNF requests that in pursuance of the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and ASB, and the prevention of public nuisance, conditions be placed on the license for these premises to this effect.

It is noted that the proposed conditions contained in the license application feature a clause which attempts to have the same effect - limiting sales of single cans of strong alcohol alone. This is not considered adequate.

Regards
Peter Bowyer
Chair, Oxford Road Safer Neighbourhood Forum