

Division/Station : High Wycombe

From : Andy Dean
Licensing Officer

To : Licensing Authority
Wokingham Borough Council

Ref :

Date : 26 April 2018

Tel.No. 01865 309275

Subject :

OBJECTION - BP Sonning Connect M & S Simply Food, Woodley

Licensing Authority,

I Andy Dean on behalf of the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police wish to Object to the application by the above premises for a full variation to sell alcohol over a 24 hour period from what it is at present. It is felt that the application will further undermine the Licensing Objectives and in particular the Prevention of Crime and Disorder.

Thames Valley Police believe that the premises have not taken into account the amount of crime they have reported within the last financial year (1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018) in actions in trying to prevent such crimes occurring.

The reported crime is covered below and also provided in Appendix A.

Total number of crimes recorded –	109	= 2 a week
Biltings (theft of fuel)	34	= 31% of total crime
Total number of Thefts / Shoplifting –	73	= 67% total crime
This breaks down to:- Alcohol	26	=35% of theft
Meat	29	=40% of theft
Foodstuffs	13	=18% of theft
Other	5	=7% of theft

Due to the demand recorded on our database the local policing team supervisor – Sgt Smith – has attended the premises and spoken with the Area Profit Protection Manager for BP and he gave the usual negative response to practical solutions offered to help prevent the shoplifting and biltings e.g.

1. The use of Security Guards – they challenge the validity of this as to would not be the guards job to tackle offenders. They also employ a non- confrontation policy for their staff.
2. Level s of staffing;- the Sgt indicated an evening he had attended the location to purchase some food and there was a queue of 6- 8 persons and one member of staff – to authorise petrol pumps, watch the shop and deal with customers
3. Pre Pay pumps – turned down flat as they want customers inside to pay in case they might buy items
4. RE configuring the shop layout to put target items closer to a line of sight of the tillpoint so offenders can't hide behind shelves etc. but layouts are set up by Head Office and can't be changed for individual sites.

They also confirmed what we already knew that they were being targeted again and again by the same offenders who obviously found it easy to steal and not be challenged –complaining that we have done nothing about it – however 2 prolific offenders have recently been arrested and convicted for a number of these offences.

Thames Valley Police fully accept that in an ideal world we would have more officers to deal with the crimes committed nowever that is no longer the case and companies including this one have to find other ways in trying to prevent these issues and utilise their own resilience more readily.

They are a Licensed Premises and under the Licensing Act 2003 they need to be meeting the Licensing Objectives and in particular the Prevention of Crime & Disorder, which they seem to have a total disregard for other than reporting it all and expecting our officers to investigate it all which we will and do do if the evidence is available.

It appears to Thames Valley Police that the company will not listen to advice on crime prevention from the police and wish to do nothing to reduce the crime that is occurring regularly within their premises.

In view of this Thames Valley Police are objecting to the extending of their licensing hours.

Andy Dean
On behalf of the Chief Officer of Police