



Part of the SEA VIEW TRUST

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE!

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Wednesday, 20 May 2020

Re Application for an Alcohol Licence for the proposed CO-OP store on North Drive

Dear Sir

I am writing to you as head teacher of Anchorsholme Primary Academy to express my gravest concerns about the application for the selling of Alcoholic beverages at the proposed Co-Op store for North Drive, in relation to the following issues :-

1 The prevention of crime and disorder

Over the past few years we have seen an increase in alcohol related crime and disorder in the proximity of our school. We have had to invest significantly in providing 2m high perimeter fencing to try to prevent trespass onto our school site for the consumption of alcohol. We were regularly having to comb our school site each morning to remove remnants of alcohol drinking waste. Our tram, located on the schools site, has frequently been broken into for the purposes of drinking alcohol.

2 Public safety

Like many schools, we have a number of evening events and indeed we host a dance school who have lessons and performances that take place in the evenings. On many occasions pupils, parents and staff have felt intimidated and on occasions threatened by people under the influence of alcohol, causing a disturbance on East Pines Park which is adjacent to our school. Indeed during a recent open evening when we were seek to recruit new families for September 2020, there was a large group of people on the park drinking alcohol. This was witnessed by many prospective parents and their children. Our intake for September is almost twenty less than it has been for over 15 years and we feel that the park incident was a significant contributor to this.

3 The prevention of public nuisance

This very much links to the above paragraph. On a daily basis, our children exposed to a number of people who are clearly under the influence of alcohol. Access to yet another retailer is only going to increase the likelihood of this.

4 The protection of children from harm

This is of course our greatest concern. This is not only the potential of physical harm from others who are under the influence of alcohol, but also the long term implications of increased availability of alcohol in the local area and the temptation it will give to them and their families in the coming years.



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For many years, the government have campaigned about the removal of fast food outlets near to schools due to concerns about the health implications for children, and yet it seems ok to sell alcohol next to schools.

I am aware that the number of existing alcohol retailers in close proximity to our school is not a consideration in this situation. However, I must stress that we already have two establishments within 40 yards of the school that sell alcohol and these are undoubtedly contributing to the issues I have listed above. To add to this situation seems ludicrous and will undoubtedly intensify the alcohol related issues we already face as a school.

I appreciate you taking the time to consider my concern and hope that it helps you to make the best decision for our pupils and our wider school community.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graeme Dow". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'D'.

Graeme Dow