



26 Eaton Village  
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18<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Licensing Team, Environmental and Regulatory Services, WODC,

**Re: LICENSING ACT 2003**

**Application for New Premises Licence – Off Sales Only, Post Office And Shop The Memorial Hall Park Road North Leigh Oxfordshire OX29 6SA.**

Thank you for your email of 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022 informing North Leigh Parish Council that there has been an application for a New Premises Licence for the Post Office And Shop at The Memorial Hall Park Road North Leigh Oxfordshire OX29 6SA.

The Parish Council has had a chance to consider this licence at our Parish Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

We believe it is our overriding responsibility to ensure that North Leigh continues to benefit from the existence of a village shop and post office. This is an important amenity for the village and is well supported by the residents and was an excellent resource during covid lockdown. We understand that there is only one applicant applying to carry forward this business and to make it a viable business, the sale of alcohol has been included as part of their business model. The new applicant has stated that their intent is not to become an off license but to provide a limited stock of wine and beer as a convenience for customers using the shop. We understand that the “Challenge 25” policy, to prevent the purchase of alcohol by minors, is not mandatory but we would recommend that the staff of the new applicant adopt this policy in the shop.

We are cautious that the sale of alcohol at the village shop may increase the likelihood of public nuisance, and disorder, but on balance we feel that we need to be pragmatic in accepting this possible risk, weighing it up against the certainty of the shop continuing.

The trustees of the Memorial Hall have granted the opening hours of the shop as 07:00 to 20:00 7 days a week (although the current tenant does not open for these full hours) and they do not intend to vary these hours for the new applicant. The trustees have requested that the applicant restricts the times in his application for an alcohol licence to align with these stated hours. The Parish Council recognises that the shop is an independent business and as such they decide what products to sell. We are in agreement that the new applicant should be permitted to have an alcohol licence that extends to the duration of opening hours stated above.



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We would also like to add the proviso that if the provision of an alcohol licence leads to complaints of public nuisance, crime, disorder or harm to minors then we would request that WODC review the terms of this licence.

Yours faithfully

North Leigh Parish Council