

Dear Sirs

**Re: North Leigh Post Office Store, Memorial Hall, Park Lane, Witney, Oxfordshire OX29 6SA
Licensing Act 2003
Notice of Application for Premises Licence**

I refer to the above and write with reference to the above application.

A copy of the Notice is attached. Unfortunately, I have been unable to locate the licensing application on your website as there appears to be no reference number.

I must express concern for the application which has been made in respect of the above property and in particular the hours applied for, which appear to be Monday to Sunday 6am to 10pm. I wish to object to the premises licence for the above property and note the four licensing objectives set out in the Notice, which also appear to be contained in the Licensing Act 2003.

My concerns are as follows:

1. The provision of a licence for such extended hours i.e. from 6am to 10pm seven days a week makes the availability of alcohol in a quiet residential village inappropriate. The fact that alcohol can be purchased from such an early time in the morning to so late at night, has the potential to create a public nuisance, with members of the public being able to buy alcohol and then consume alcohol on the streets in the surrounding area, as distinct from pubs which provide a venue for alcohol consumption.
2. The Parish Council have recently expended significant sums of money in renovation of the children's playpark, just across the road from the shop to which the application relates, which has historically been used by teenagers and young adults as a place to congregate during the evenings, and the availability and the provision of alcohol up to 10pm in the evening, represents an increased risk of public nuisance, and potentially damage to an important facility for young children within the village by way of vandalism.
3. In addition, North Leigh Memorial Hall contains a Library, and the Youth Club and the facilities within the Hall itself are used by young groups such as a Dance School. To bring young people into close proximity with a premises providing alcohol for sale, at times when children will be using the facilities within the same building is undesirable.
4. The proximity of a retail establishment selling alcohol immediately opposite a school, also presents a further risk to child safety.
5. My principal objection to the licence being applied for is the other late hours at which alcohol will be available for purchase. By allowing alcohol to be purchased into the evening and at night, this has the potential to create a nuisance within the village and anti-social behaviour in a residential area at the heart of the village which is regularly used by children, as mentioned above.
6. The expansion of the shop, and potentially increased hours of trading, also represents a potential public safety issue with regard to cars parking on Park Road to use the shop. The Memorial Hall has inadequate parking facilities at present, with only six or so car parking spaces available, and with the potential increased footfall for use of the post office, is likely to increase parking on Park Road itself, which is an important thoroughfare through the village and is also on a bus route.
7. I consider that the licence applied for is not appropriate to the village, which already contains two pubs, and whilst it is acknowledged that it is not a valid ground to object on the basis of damage to

other trade there is, already within the village adequate facilities for the purchase of alcohol. The provision of alcohol in public houses is a more regulated environment for the sale of alcohol, with a lower risk of children under the age of 18 being able to purchase or, consume alcohol purchased by others, which cannot be regulated as easily in a retail environment.

The extensive hours which are applied for, particularly past 5:30pm, which would be a normal village shop closing time, are not appropriate to a village location and, for the reasons set out above, run the risk of an increase in crime and disorder, present public safety and nuisance issues, and also run the risk of placing children potentially at harm.

It is pointed out to the Council that the Post Office has operated successfully (and financially so) for many years without an alcohol licence, and I consider that the potential problems created by the Council granting a premises licence, considerable outweigh any benefits.

I would be grateful if you could kindly acknowledge safe receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely

GAVIN M CLARK