

## **Representation from Councillor Dawn Welsh**

Received email on 20 July 2022

Dear Rebecca,

Thank you for emailing me with your request for representation, it was extremely timely. I was just about to raise the issue of the conduct of this shop with licensing anyway, as it has been raised with me by residents and I have personally witnessed some potential issues.

I have lived (***redacted address detail***) , not far from this shop, for 20 years now, and since it recently changed hands, I have noticed a marked increase in anti-social behaviour which I can directly attribute to this shop, details of which are:

- Whilst walking past the shop a couple of months ago, I witness two people (male and female) sitting in the rear fenced yard of the shop clearly very much the worse for wear on either drink, drugs, or both. The shop has cctv all around it with a large screen at the counter, so I fail to see how the owner could possibly have unaware that they were there
- Whilst driving past the shop a few weeks ago I witnessed the owner, with a group of about 5 teenagers who I would say were about 15 years old, showing them something in the boot of a small red car. It seemed a very unusual thing for him to be doing and the way the teenagers were looking about them to see who was looking, looked very suspicious.
- Only yesterday evening, as a friend and I stopped at the junction of Church Road, waiting to pull out on to Old Durham Road, there was a man stood outside of the shop quite clearly smoking cannabis.
- On the odd occasion I have been inside the shop recently, there is always a couple of men milling around, looking decidedly dodgy and as soon as you walk in the conversation stops. I'm afraid I have been around the block enough times to have a very well-developed radar for when something isn't quite right.
- As I now live (***redacted address details***) , I am very much aware that teenagers use it (***inserted St John's Church yard for context***) on a regular basis to congregate and drink alcohol. Some of these teenagers I know to be 15 & 16 years old, and without fail, the bags they have from when they have purchased the alcohol are always blue plastic. I also know that of the two shops at the top of Church Road, it is Sheriff Highway Stores which uses blue plastic bags, as the shop on the other side of the road uses white carrier bags. Therefore, I can only conclude that this shop is directly contributing to the anti-social behaviour of teenagers drinking alcohol in the church yard.
- It has also been raised with me, by a number of parents in Low Fell, that they know their 15/16 year old sons are walking up to Sheriff Highway stores specifically to purchase alcohol and single use vapes, as it is widely known amongst the teenagers of Low Fell that this store will sell these items to them - without asking questions.
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In conclusion, it is my considered opinion that the current owner is not suitable to hold a licence for the sale of alcohol and tobacco, as his conduct contributes to harm to minors, anti-social behaviour, potential criminal activity and a general nuisance to residents of the area

Kind regards  
Councillor Dawn Welsh  
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**From:** Rebecca L Sparrow <[RebeccaSparrow@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:RebeccaSparrow@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 23, 2022 1:29:37 PM  
**To:** CE Licensing <[Licensing@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:Licensing@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Elaine Rudman <[ElaineRudman@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:ElaineRudman@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Tim Briton <[TimBriton@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:TimBriton@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; 'licensing@northumbria.pnn.police.uk' <'licensing@northumbria.pnn.police.uk'>; Anneliese Hutchinson <[AnnelieseHutchinson@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:AnnelieseHutchinson@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Peter Wright <[PeterWright@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:PeterWright@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Stewart Sorrell <[StewartSorrell@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:StewartSorrell@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Tracey Johnson <[TraceyJohnson@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:TraceyJohnson@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Gemma Thompson <[GemmaThompson@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:GemmaThompson@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Emma Lucas <[EmmaLucas@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:EmmaLucas@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; 'Firesafety.licensing@twfire.gov.uk' <'Firesafety.licensing@twfire.gov.uk'>; Alice Wiseman <[AliceWiseman@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:AliceWiseman@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Saira Park <[SairaPark@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:SairaPark@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; CE Environmental Health <[EnvironmentalHealth@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:EnvironmentalHealth@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Mike Aynsley <[MichaelAynsley@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:MichaelAynsley@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Sonia Stewart <[SoniaStewart@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:SoniaStewart@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; CE Highway Events <[CEHighwayEvents@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:CEHighwayEvents@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Eleanor Cockbain <[EleanorCockbain@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:EleanorCockbain@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Julia Sharp <[JuliaSharp@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:JuliaSharp@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; All Council Members <[AllCouncilMembers@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:AllCouncilMembers@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Adam Lindridge <[AdamLindridge@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:AdamLindridge@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; Gemma McDermott <[GemmaMcDermott@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:GemmaMcDermott@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>; CE Planning <[Planning@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:Planning@gateshead.gov.uk)>; Angus Pinder <[AngusPinder@Gateshead.Gov.UK](mailto:AngusPinder@Gateshead.Gov.UK)>  
**Subject:** 220720 Licensing Act 2003: Application to review a premises licence- 168-170 Sheriffs Highway, Gateshead, NE9 5SD

Good Afternoon

Please find below information regarding an application to review a premises licence

Responsible Authorities should have already received copies of the application via email. If you haven't yet received your copy please let me know.

**Application to review a premises licence**

**Applicant:** Gateshead Council's Local Weights and Measures Authority

**Premises & Address:** 168-170 Sheriffs Highway, Gateshead, NE9 5SD. This premises is sometimes referred to as Sheriffs Highway Stores.

**Summary of application:**

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022, a test purchase exercise using a 15 year old child volunteer was carried out at the premises and the child was sold a bottle of Desperados Beer. This is an alcoholic beverage containing 5.9% alcohol.

The application relates to the licensing objectives of prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm.

**Date Received:** 22 June 2022

**Last Date for Representations:** 20 July 2022

**Deadline for Hearing (if required):** 17 August 2022

If you require more information about the application please email the Licensing Team via [licensing@gateshead.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@gateshead.gov.uk) and we can assist.

If you wish to make a representation you must do so in writing on or before the last date of representations (as detailed above). To be considered a relevant representation you should refer to the licensing objectives. For clarity the Licensing Objectives are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public Safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm.

I've attached a representation form as some people find this useful when they make representations. However, please note that you do not have to use this form.

Kind regards

Rebecca Sparrow  
Licensing Officer

**Economy, Innovation and Growth,**

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