

■ Sheringham Avenue  
Southgate  
London  
N14 4UH

■ ■

Licensing Team  
London Borough of Enfield

[licensing@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@enfield.gov.uk)

4<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Sirs

**Applicant – Ozgur Celebi**  
**Premises – Oakwood Café**  
**Address – Oakwood Park**

I wish to make representations in respect of the above application.

I wish to oppose the grant of a licence to sell alcohol on the grounds that the applicant cannot satisfy three out of four of the Licensing Objectives.

Prevention of crime and disorder and  
Prevention of public nuisance

The Park has experienced a series of disturbances, misdemeanours and criminal behaviour over a lengthy period of time. Examples of these are

- empty canisters of nitrous oxide (laughing gas) in heaps around the Park together with the balloons used for inhaling;
- armed police were recently in the park responding to a report of a man with a gun having been seen in the Park;
- the Fire Brigade had to be called numerous times last summer to extinguish fires in both the small copse by the Lakenheath entrance and also the larger copse in the middle of the Park;
- adults have been seen in the Lakenheath copse smoking drugs;
- youths can sometimes be heard in the Park after closing, often with quad bikes;
- the amount of litter left strewn around the Park is continually increasing.

And I am sure that those on the Licensing Committee will remember very clearly the occupation of the Park by travellers last July.

I am in little doubt that the serving of alcohol by the café will increase the number and severity of these incidents as a result of both the effect on behaviour of the consumption of alcohol (especially amongst the young) and also the increased attendance in the Park by those attracted by the alcohol. The café will also almost certainly become a target for theft as being an unobserved building where alcohol is kept overnight.

If this licence is granted, who will police it? The Metropolitan Police cannot do so as they do not have the resources. We no longer have the Parks Police. Oakwood Park now has the service of only one groundsman, not the two employed up to last summer. The current groundsman works very hard to maintain the Park to a high standard. His time is required for that purpose. He cannot be expected to continue to maintain the Park to the current level and also police this licence and carry out the extra work of clearing up after trouble.

These issues together indicate that these two licensing objectives of crime, disorder and public nuisance are not satisfied.

#### The protection of children from harm

The café abuts the children's playground and is frequented mainly by those with young children. Whilst I acknowledge that there are circumstances where alcohol may be served in the presence of children, I would suggest that it is highly inappropriate to do so where around half the clientele in the establishment are children aged under 10.

This does not satisfy this licensing objective of protecting children from harm.

#### Summary

Whilst I am in little doubt that many people who would consume alcohol under this licence would do so responsibly and in accordance with any conditions, the vast array of likely negative effects upon this Park by those that would ignore the conditions mean that the dangers by far outweigh any possible benefit.

I note also that the costs of any damage to the Park will have to be met by LBE at a time when funds are very restricted and would be better directed to other services.

Consequently, as the applicant cannot satisfy the majority of the licensing objectives, I submit that the Licensing Committee is statutorily bound to deny the application.

Yours faithfully

**Mrs Caroline Parsons**