



NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

WG401 (11/97)

MEMORANDUM

To:
Amanda Jones
Licensing Officer, Coventry

Ref:

From:
Ian Tipton
Police Licensing Officer

Ext:
8313061

Date:
4th June 2018

SUBJECT:

Formal Objection to the granting of a Premises Licence to Cocoa

1. The Cocoa Caffé is situated in a food hall which presently offers a range of fast food style restaurants each with their own designated seating areas marked by low level moveable screens. Each restaurant is solely responsible for their own premises. These restaurants attract a cross section of ages, which includes many young families and school age children, particularly in holiday periods. As a result the sale of alcohol from any premises within the food hall will attract a different clientele. Because of its open style and the ability of shoppers to move from one restaurant to another it has the potential to impact on the other unlicensed restaurants who may find persons drinking alcohol within their premises. The need for measures to prevent this movement is therefore important but cannot be delivered by the applicant alone and the West Orchards security staff would have an important part to play. The applicant has to satisfy that they can uphold any conditions placed on the licence and that they will uphold all of the licensing objectives.
2. As a result I object to the granting of the new premises licence for the following reasons;
 - The present design of the applicant's premises is open plan, with low, single horizontal wooden poles segregating the seating area from the public area. ~~Without a high number of suitably trained staff on the premises, the sale and consumption of~~ alcohol in such an open plan area will allow drinks to be passed on, allow persons to move to other unlicensed premises or to the adjacent public toilets and consume alcohol and therefore increase the risk of proxy sales, under-age consumption and Child Sexual Exploitation.
Protection of Children from Harm.
 - The sale and consumption of alcohol has the potential to change this café into a bar. The introduction of alcohol will change the atmosphere of what is presently a fast food child friendly family area. Without robust policing and early interventions by West Orchards Security there will be an increased impact throughout the shopping centre including the untrained staff in other unlicensed food outlets who may well be confronted with persons consuming alcohol.
Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Prevention of Nuisance.
 - The food floor is located on the third floor of the West Orchards shopping centre with balcony's, stairs, lifts and escalators. The consumption of alcohol will introduce

a greater risk to the free and safe passage of persons throughout.

Public Risk.

- In the application the West Orchards security staff has been identified as providing foot patrols within the shopping centre food court. However, having had discussion with the West Orchards security management they will at present only intervene when there are incidents of disorder or antisocial behaviour. They would not get involved in any alcohol related issues including under-age drinking unless it was accompanied by disorder or ASB. It should also be noted that a little less than half of their security staff are SIA qualified to deal with alcohol related incidents. Even if they eventually agree to support the applicant in the upholding of the four licensing objectives they will not always be able to offer suitably trained staff to enforce the conditions placed on the applicants premises, to deal with alcohol related issues within the Café itself, prevent alcohol leaving the Café, deal with alcohol consumption in other unlicensed premises or outside those premises which is covered by a Public Place Protection Order.

All four licensing objectives.

3. It should be noted that I have had continuing discussions with the applicant and his agent throughout. This to resolve what I judged to be weaknesses in the conditions outlined in the application. These discussions eventually led to the following agreed conditions, which I believe are essential for the application;
 - Signage to clearly indicate that no alcoholic drinks may be taken outside the premises.
 - At the point of sale the customer will be informed by a member of staff that no alcoholic drinks can be taken outside the premises.
 - The sale of alcohol is ancillary to the purchase of food and will be decanted and served at table.
 - 'Proxy Sales' notices to warn against the purchase of alcohol on behalf of a child.
 - All staff to receive training on Child Sexual Exploitation, this will be documented and refreshed on a 12 monthly basis.
 - All staff to be trained in basic licensing laws.
 - Refusals are to be monitored and documented.
4. As part of these discussions with the applicant I have asked to be provided with a written assurance that the West Orchards Security will respond as required to any alcohol related issues within the food hall. I do not believe that the applicant can uphold the four licensing objectives without the full and tacit support of West Orchards Security. If that assurance was to be forthcoming I would not object to this application for a premises licence. To date the applicant has been unable to provide that reassurance.
5. In summary, the present design of the Cocoa Caffè does little to prevent alcohol, possibly quite innocently, leaving the premises and being taken to other unlicensed premises or consumed in an area designated with a Public Space Protection Order. I do not believe that staff working within the premises can effectively monitor the external barriers and once alcohol has left the premises they cannot intervene.
6. For these reasons I object to the application.

Ian Tipton
Police Licensing Officer
Coventry Police NPU.