

Kings Heath Residents' Forum,
54 Grange Road,
Kings Heath,
Birmingham B 14 7RJ

10 July 2016

Birmingham City Council,
Licensing Section,
PO Box 17013,
Birmingham B6 9ES

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Licence Application No.96450
McCawly's Convenience Store and Off Licence,
52 High Street, Kings Heath,
Birmingham B 14 7JZ

Kings Heath Residents' Forum objects to the above licence application on the following grounds:

1. Kings Heath High Street is currently served by two, twenty four hour convenience stores, one which is licensed in addition to Asda supermarket which is open from 7 am to 11 p.m., Monday to Saturday and until 4 p.m. on Sunday, in the immediate vicinity of the proposed convenience store. Additionally, at the other end of the High Street there is a licensed convenience store which is open until 2 a.m. and Sainsbury's which is open until 8 p.m. on weekdays.
2. The City Council is introducing a Public Space Protection Order under the Anti-Social Behaviour legislation October 2014 to address widespread concerns about anti-social behaviour in Kings Heath which have been raised by local residents. There is a high density of residential property in and around the High Street whose residents have been affected by antisocial behaviour caused by late night drinking. These include residents in flats over shop premises on the High Street. The proposed residential development of the Kingsway Cinema will increase the residential population potentially adversely affected by another alcohol retail outlet. The increase in noise, litter, traffic and antisocial behaviour will have a serious negative impact on the quality of life of residents living on and around the High Street.
3. There exists robust evidence from research, police crime data, local authority data and planning appeal decisions which indicate that the size of the late night economy (alcohol, entertainment and food provision) are a major contributory factor to levels of crime and disorder. In particular density and capacity (size of venue, number of premises and operating hours) can have a significant impact on the levels of crime and disorder.

Research on cumulative impact by Shakeshaft et al (2008:XIII) states;

'The most reasonable interpretation of existing data is that there is a cumulative and negative effect of increasing alcohol availability and outlet density on drunkenness and alcohol related problems especially for those who live in the immediate area of licensed premises. Consequently, placing restrictions on the total number of alcohol outlets in a given area (regardless of their type) their density and their trading hours are likely to be desirable policy outcomes given community concern about the current rates of alcohol related harm. Conversely policies that increase alcohol availability is likely to increase both alcohol related problems and community concerns'.

Once the 'tipping point' has been reached where there are too many alcohol outlets in an area, leading to increased and unacceptable levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, it is very difficult to rescind licences and reduce the negative impact on the community of the increased sale of alcohol.

4. The absence of public toilets can lead to users of the late night economy outlets urinating and defecating in the street or in alley ways. Increasing the availability of alcohol in Kings Heath could exacerbate this problem.
5. The Forum has received reports of smashed glass bottles and litter being left outside the convenience store at the corner of the High Street and Mossfield Road which has a licence until 2 a.m. to sell alcohol. Increasing the number of 24 hour convenience stores with a licence to sell alcohol will exacerbate the litter problems which Kings Heath has already in view of the numerous fast food outlets already operating throughout the High Street.
6. There is only one Designated Premises Supervisor named on the licence application, Mr. Didier Rolland Nana Tchonga. In order for alcohol to be sold, there must be a DPS present. It would not be possible for Mr.Tchonga to be present twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. Therefore he would not be able to comply with the terms of the licence.
7. All staff should be trained to apply the sale of alcohol restrictions on under-age drinkers but there is a possibility that increasing the availability of alcohol twenty four hours a day on the High Street could increase the risk of under-age drinking in the area with the attendant anti-social behaviour issues for the community and risks to the health and well being of minors by under-age drinking.
8. The nearest police stations to Kings Heath are Bournville and Stechford. The absence of a local police station exacerbates the length of time which antisocial and violent behaviour on the High Street occurs before the police arrive to intervene and restore order.

For the above reasons Kings Heath Residents' Forum is registering its objection to the licence application for 52 High Street, Kings Heath.

Yours faithfully,

Jonathon Jaffa
Chair
Kings Heath Residents' Forum