

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

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Statement of: PC Tom WALKER 2104SW

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Officer

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Witness Signature: Date: 10/04/2019

This statement is in relation to a Twenty four (24) hour alcohol license application made by the Shell Garage, 164 Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames.

I am the Tudor Dedicated Ward Officer and I have been in this role for eighteen (18) months.

I believe that the application by Shell would have a detrimental effect on Tudor, the surrounding wards of Canbury & Grove (Town centre) and Kingston as a whole. In order to prevent crime & disorder, to maintain public safety & in a time that police and other resources are being stretched, I believe that the application to sell alcohol over 24hrs should be rejected.

From the period of January – December 2018 the Shell Garage reported six (6) reportable crimes classified as Theft, to which the majority of these crimes are theft shoplifting involving alcohol.

In September 2018 one (1) of these investigations was taken on by the Tudor DWO, a suspect for the crime was identified, arrested, charged to court and subsequently imprisoned for four (4) weeks. The suspect was a known vagrant to Kingston Borough who targeted the garage due to it serving alcohol to 11pm & being away from the council CCTV in the main town centre area.

I believe that if the application is granted it would encourage crime, as described above, anti-social behaviour (ASB), public nuisance and increase in noise level for local residents.

If granted, the Shell Garage would be the only premise in Kingston that members of the public (MOPs) would have readily access to alcohol between the hours of 11pm & 7am. Due to this, places such as Kingston Town Centre, Canbury Gardens & Kingston Riverside would see an increase in ASB, Crime & Noise levels. MOPs would attend the garage to buy alcohol between the above times when every other store has closed. The areas I have described above would be an ideal place for MOPs to go to in order to consume the alcohol. I also feel that the night-time economy is also a major factor in refusing the 24hrs application.

I believe that when the nightclubs (Pryzm/Viper Rooms/Baccus) close at approximately 3am, up to three thousand people will be on the streets of Kingston. With this, the garage on the Richmond Road that is within a two (2) minute walk of the town centre would be the only place that would be selling alcohol at this time. If the MOPs would like to carry on their evening of drinking this would be the only place for them to attend to buy and then consume alcohol. If this did happen, the venue is further away from the transport hubs (Taxi Ranks/Bus/train station) which are used to transport the three thousand away from Kingston and safely home.

Witness Signature:

Signature Witnessed by Signature:.....