



Licensing Services  
Chesterfield Borough Council

Friends of Stand Road Park

5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Licensing Officer,

**Application by Layals Ltd for a license for off sales of alcohol from Cricketers Inn Convenience Store, Stand Road, Chesterfield.**

I am instructed by the committee of Friends of Stand Road Park to write to you to object to the above license application.

***Our interest in the matter***

Friends of Stand Road Park are a community group made up of park users and other members of the community who have an interest in Stand Road Park.

Our mission is to see the park transformed into a community park that is ***safe and enjoyable for everyone and something the community will be proud of.***

Although our mission is not yet fully achieved we have made great progress since our group was first established. Over the last twelve years we have made improvements to the park to a value in excess of £250,000. The improvements include the provision of a multi use games area and skateboard park to allow teenage children to engage in constructive recreational activities and help steer them away from antisocial behaviour. We have also provided a small café in the park pavilion that is staffed by our volunteers on Saturdays during the football season, a play area for very young children and a designed wetland feature planted with wet-loving plant and tree species.

***Our objections to the license application***

The premises to which the application applies are on Stand Road and located immediately adjacent to the park. In particular, the premises are just a short distance from the skateboard park and multi use games area both of which are popular with teenage children.

Our committee believes that the granting of a license for the off sale of alcohol from premises located so close to the park and, in particular, so close to that part of the park that is popular with teenage children, will inevitably increase the likelihood of incidents involving alcohol fuelled antisocial behaviour and criminal damage to the park.

We believe that granting a license would work against the “prevention of crime and disorder” and “prevention of public nuisance” licensing objectives as well as the objective aimed at “protection of children from harm”. Although any licensing conditions would include the standard conditions aimed at preventing the sale of alcohol directly to children and young people, there have been plenty of examples of young people getting hold of alcohol purchased on their behalf by young adults and we believe that there will be a real risk of this happening at Stand Road if the license is granted.

Although the level of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at the park has reduced over the last ten years, thanks to the efforts of the local Police Safer Neighbourhoods Team working in partnership with Friends of Stand Road Park, it has not been eliminated altogether.

Incidents of violent behaviour and criminal damage, which our intelligence indicates to have been fuelled by the consumption of alcohol, have occurred in the recent past. Examples include the following, all of which were reported to the Police:

- On the Friday evenings of 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> September 2017 there were incidents involving violent altercations on the park involving verbal abuse and fighting.
- On 8<sup>th</sup> September criminal damage to recently planted tree saplings, which we believe is linked to the foregoing altercations, occurred and was subsequently reported to the police.
- On a date in January 2018 a woman walking on the park with a young child in a buggy was assaulted by a drunken man. Another woman who came to assist was beaten on her arm with a bottle. The incident was reported to the police.

We believe that the granting of a license will increase the risk, and therefore the frequency, of incidents of these sorts of alcohol fuelled, anti-social and criminal behaviour at Stand Road Park and this will act to undo the great progress that has been made over the last few years in making our park **safe and enjoyable for everyone**.

Yours Sincerely,

Chairperson – Friends of Stand Road Park