

Mr Zulfiqar Ahmad

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Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Business Hub 6 L1S
AB10 1AB

We are writing to register our objection for premises licence by Union Spark Ltd for Mastrick Grocer, 9 Greenfern Place, Aberdeen, AB16 6JR. Our Objections are detailed below.

Overprovision of licensed premises in the locality

The licence proposes that alcohol be sold for consumption off the premises between 10:00 until 22:00 seven days a week. Granting a licence would provide a further source of alcohol within an area already populated by a public house, and four off licenced premises (Spar, a convenience store on Springfield Road and two further stores in Clunnie Place).

Securing public safety and public nuisance issues

The profile data for Mastrick shows that a large proportion of this community is heavily reliant on a variety of pensions and benefits payments which are accessed through a Post Office. Our elderly customers in particular tell us that they feel "intimated" by the rowdy atmosphere in the shopping precinct and feel that they have to be on their guard when they come to collect their benefits. For example, they will tend to use our internal ATM machine rather than the one sited outside the Clydesdale Bank as they feel it is safer to do so. The link between access to alcohol and crime and disorder is well established and we believe that a licence would serve to dilute community safety.

Aberdeen City Council has invested heavily in regenerating Mastrick Shopping Centre (new paving, benches, lighting etc). Littering, vandalism and other public nuisance issues are likely to result from this grant.

Protecting and improving public health

The Scottish Index for Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) is the Scottish Governments official tool for identifying concentrations of multiple deprivation. 2009 data, reveals that Mastrick is among the most deprived (combined domain) data zones in Scotland. It is particularly interesting to note that Mastrick scores poorly within the crime and health domains and has emerged as one of Aberdeen City Councils "hot spots" for anti-social behavior and community safety issues including alcohol and drug abuse and youth disorder. Underage drinking outside Lewis Road shops, Mastrick Community Centre and Mastrick Church are issue that are presented to Mastrick, Summerhill & Sheddocksley Community Council time and time again. Making alcohol more readily accessible is likely to fuel this problem further.

In summary, we believe that the premises are unsuitable as they are positioned directly opposite to a Post Office and that a licence could lead to increased public nuisance, increased crime and disorder and may well be detrimental to public health in Mastick.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]