

Bedford Borough Council
Licensing Service
Registration and Records
3rd Floor Borough Hall
Cauldwell Street
Bedford MK42 9AP

Name
Address

Date January 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re Application BBC/PNEW/247/11 Tesco Stores 117 Brickhill Drive MK41 7QF
Closing date for representations 20th January 2012**

As a local resident living in the vicinity of the proposed Tesco Store on Brickhill Drive Bedford, I am extremely concerned to find that an application has been submitted by Tesco Stores for a Premises Licence to allow the sale of alcohol at the above store seven days a week from 06.00 to 23.00.

I understand the application by Tesco has not followed the statutory requirements regarding the display of notices as reported in the Bedfordshire on Sunday on the 25th December 2011.

“A Bedford Borough Council spokesman said: “Tesco has failed to comply with the licensing regulations in this instance.”... “We contacted Tesco to inform them of this matter, and understand that they will place a new notice on site which will give a fresh 28 day period for representations.”

I wish to record my objection to this application under The Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Prevention of Public Nuisance, and the Protection of Children from Harm criteria.

It is common knowledge that consumption of alcohol particularly by those who are young and frequently under age, fuels antisocial behaviour. One has only to pick up both local and national newspapers to see that this is a growing problem. Where youths congregate and buy alcohol even if of appropriate age, those below the age who associate with them are also given and often encouraged to drink alcohol by their older peers.

In a recent study¹ published by Alcohol Concern, **the amount of alcohol drunk by children varies according to how many off-licences are in the area where they live.** Alcohol Concern's chief executive, Don Shenker, in a Guardian article on 3rd September 2011 said: **"The increase in hospital admissions among young drinkers is a cause of real concern and it is particularly worrying that the increased number and concentration of off-licences may be contributing to this. Local areas must have the ability to decide for themselves how many licensed premises they allow..."**

We already have two stores in the Brickhill Drive parade who are licensed to sell alcohol. The shopkeepers are local people who know their local youth and often their parents and are mindful of the effects which abuse can have. A constantly changing number of staff at a Tesco Express will not have this care and overview.

It is also public knowledge that the **Tesco branch at Flitwick Bedford, has failed six trading standards underage alcohol test purchases, over a seven month period as reported in Times & Citizen 4th July 2008.**

In 2011 there were over 354² antisocial crimes recorded in the Brickhill Neighbourhood alone, out of a total of 655 reported crimes (more than 54% of all crimes were antisocial in nature), and more I expect went unreported.

A third store in this small parade and open for longer hours than the two existing business cannot be acceptable, and would only exacerbate an antisocial crime problem, and I would urge the Licensing Authority to refuse this application.

Yours faithfully

¹ Alcohol Concern - One on every corner: The relationship between off-licence density and alcohol harms in young people. (July 2011)

² Ukcristats.com for period December 2010 to November 2011 – Bedfordshire Police, Brickhill Neighbourhood.