



Licensing & Out of Hours Compliance Team - Representation

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Premise Details

Application Ref No	M/285938
Name of Premises	Admas Cafe
Address	317 Great Western Street, Manchester, M14 4BZ

Representation

Outline your representation regarding the above application below. This representation should describe the likely effect of the grant of the licence/certificate on the licensing objectives and on the vicinity of the premises.

The Licensing and Out of Hours Team have assessed the likely impact on granting this application, looking at several factors which includes current problems in the area, such as waste, criminal activity, street drinking and the locality to neighbouring residential properties, with any potential risk that the granting of the application could lead to public nuisance.

This applicant has requested a new licence to serve alcohol from the hours of 11.00am to 22.00pm to be consumed on the premises seven days a week, and to be open to the public from the hours of 11.00am to 22.30pm seven days a week.

The premises is located at 317 Great Western Street, in the Moss Side area of Manchester. Whilst the premises itself is on the main road, the area surrounding the premises is highly residential with the café itself being close to the junction of Roberts Avenue. This area is subject to high levels of social, criminal and anti-social behaviour problems and the premises itself has been the subject of complaints from the local community. The applicant previously applied for a licence at this premises in March 2022. LOOH submitted a representation recommending that the previous application be refused. During the previous application process, 11 residents in the immediate area also submitted representations against the March 2022 application which highlights the strong feelings felt against allowing this premises to sell alcohol and exasperate the existing issues already linked to this premises.

The previous licence application in March 2002 was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant. Shortly after this withdrawal, in July 2022, the LOOH team received a complaint that the premises were selling alcohol and opening late despite being an unlicensed premises. The complaint went

on to state that 'around thirty to forty people would hang around the café area, and often open until the early hours of the morning.' citing one example of the café still being open at 03:30 on a Wednesday morning.

As a result of these complaints, in September 2022, LOOH and GMP attended the premises and witnessed a number of males sat at tables smoking shisha. The smoking of shisha pipes in an enclosed space is a breach of the Health Act 2006 and therefore the premises was found to be committing an offence by allowing this. Upon entering the premises, a number of males were also seen to put their bottles of alcohol underneath the tables in an attempt to hide them from view. Such a response by customers suggests to me that the males had been told to do this by the owner of the premises in the event that there was ever a visit from the authorities. On further inspection of the premises, a storeroom was located where a number of boxes of alcohol were being stored and a number of spirit bottles had been hidden behind the doors of a cupboard housing the electricity metre. Due to the overwhelming evidence of licenced activity taking place, the owner, and the current licence applicant, Mr Bereket Amanuel Tesfayesus, was cautioned by GMP and was asked to close the premises. As customers slowly began to leave the premises, further bottles of alcohol were discovered hidden underneath tables where these customers had been sat.

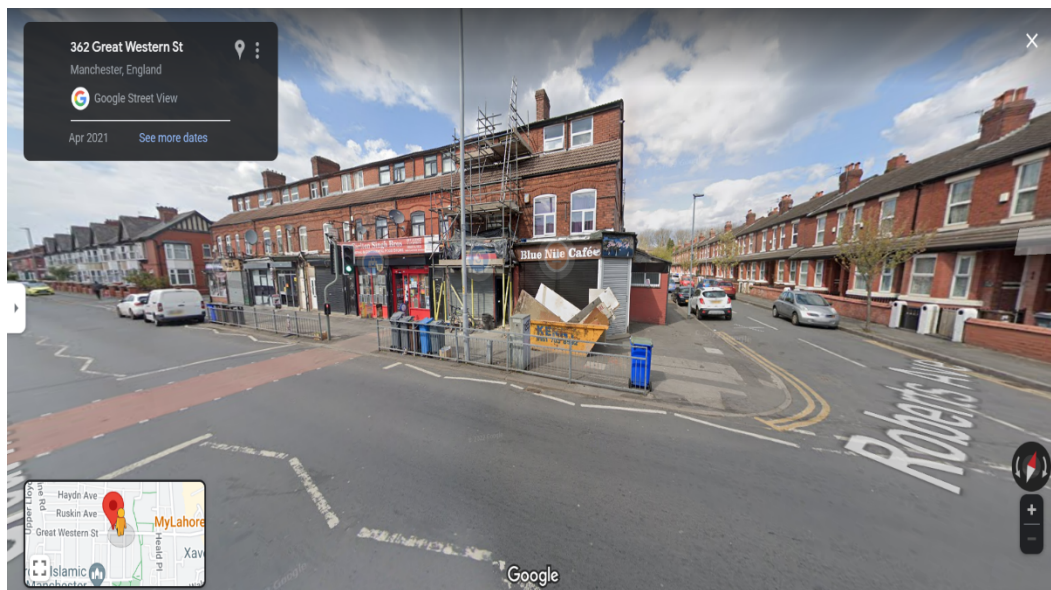
There is concern that this blasé attitude towards rules and regulations would continue if the premises was to be granted a licence. We strongly suspect the premises would continue to operate past the licensing hours they have requested as has already been witnessed. There is also concern that the customers will continue to congregate around the premises and are likely to cause anti-social behaviour and noise within the surrounding residential properties, particularly when leaving the premises.

There has not been any acknowledgement in the application that there are any local areas of concern with regards to public nuisance that would require careful management by the applicant. For example, the management of proxy sales, additional litter and noise and anti-social behaviour. Also, there is potential for increased public nuisance from alcohol related crime and disorder.

Manchester's Statement of Licensing Policy at section 7.12 states that consideration must be given to the general character of the surrounding area, including crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour levels, litter problems, proxy sales and noise complaints.

Considering the previous offences witnessed at this premises, and the lack of any reassurances from the applicant that the issues outlined in the Statement of Licensing policy have been acknowledged, LOOH recommend that this application is refused.

Google Image showing proximity to residential properties. (Scaffolding outside Admas Café location)



Recommendation: Refusal