

OPPOSITION TO PREMISE LICENCE APPLICATION

4 STROUD CLOSE COLEHILL BH21 2NX

Public safety /Prevention of Public Nuisance:

Firstly, our overriding view is that this application is inappropriate for a house in a small residential close.

The property which the applicant has recently moved into is very different from his former location where a licence was granted. This former residence is situated on a quiet country lane with electric gates to the drive which is flat with a gravel covering. It appears vans would have had enough space to pull in and turn round to exit completely off the public highway and out of sight. This is not the case at Stroud Close. There is direct access from the street to the house on a steeply sloping forecourt with no gate or any physical security measure. The off-street parking area of this new property is already full with family cars and offers no space for delivery or customer vehicles to pull off the narrow close.

A photo is attached of the former residence of the applicant showing the house and drive.

The applicant's response to our concerns focuses on the fact that Beaucroft Beverages is a just a hobby. It is, in fact, one of five companies registered at 4 Stroud Close and it must be assumed therefore, that Beaucroft Beverages contributes to the overall household income. A significant amount of money has been spent promoting the business with a professionally designed website to attract customers and actively seek new stockists. Traffic can be expected to be large vans delivering stock or collecting for online orders. As business growth is clearly an objective of the applicant when does the scale of the business become a public nuisance? It cannot be guaranteed. What recourse do the inhabitants of the Close have if the licence is permitted and the traffic volume does become an obvious nuisance.

It is likely that traffic will increase in the close as the proposed business hours are between 08:00 and 18:00 Monday to Friday and 08:30 to 12:30 on Saturdays. As the business grows it is likely that local customers will wish to collect their orders to avoid delivery charges. The applicant states that no customers are allowed to visit the address. How can this be guaranteed when the business address is published on the website.

Another significant risk and indeed fear is that of fire. The garage where the applicant produces and stores the product is situated within very close proximity to our main bedroom. Any explosion and subsequent fire would quickly spread and would cause significant damage or injury.

Attached are images of the proximity of the store of alcohol to our property. The position of our main bedroom can be seen on the other side of the hedge to the garage where the applicant intend to store his stock.

Distilleries handle quantities of ethanol which is highly flammable. As the applicant states on his website he distils his beverages. Where does this part of his manufacturing process take place? Is this in his garage also? If so, high risk alcohol is being handled and not just storage of filled bottles.

Has the applicant carried out a fire risk assessment? Is there adequate ventilation as vapour build up could easily ignite. Are explosion proof fixtures used in areas where spirit vapours may be present and are fire extinguishers readily available. Is the fire brigade aware of the business operations taking place at the address. The applicant's response to these concerns shows little understanding of the

very real concern of residents. His statement that bottles are stored in a basement with a metal door do little to reassure. Has the fire brigade visited the property and issued fire risk certificates. If so, can residents please see this up-to-date documentation.

The sale of alcohol online on the applicant's website clearly broadcasts the location of the stored alcoholic beverages and that this alcohol is stored within a residential property in a quiet residential close. This carries security risks for all surrounding properties. We are concerned that strangers and possibly youngsters will be attracted to the area which may lead to trespass or opportunistic crime.

Is the applicant trained to operate the business safely and hold the appropriate licences? Can these licences be produced for the residents to be reassured. These are concerns shared by most of the immediate neighbours. We are against the application out of real concerns that it will harm the character of a previously quiet and crime free close.