

Response to licence application [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

All our submission centres around

Public safety /Prevention of Public Nuisance

I would like to make two introductory points.

Firstly, our overriding view is that this application is inappropriate for a house in a small residential close such as Stroud Close. Whilst considering our position we asked a few neighbours for their views and as news of the application spread, 17 out of 18 individuals, living around number 4, signed a petition affirming the view that a licence to sell Gin through an online shop, was inappropriate in a small close such as ours.

1 The photograph shows how close together houses are. This photo was taken from our [REDACTED] There are 4 properties in the frame 3,4,5 and the garden of no 10. You can see how close together they are.

2 The map shows the layout of the whole Close, houses are close together and the road is relatively narrow with a small turning circle at the end of the close. We know that Mr Trimmer held a licence at his last property, we would like to draw attention to how different 4 Stroud Close is to [REDACTED], which was situated on a quiet country road, with enough space for vans to pull off the road and turn around out of public sight. In Stroud Close space at the front of number 4 is limited and on a corner.

And secondly, Mr Trimmer's response to our concerns focussed on the fact that it was just a hobby- we do not consider this relevant, since businesses grow and circumstances change.

The scale of the operation is of concern. In your application you say my 'very limited' sales are either local orders or online postal orders.

What is the capacity of your Still?

What is the length of time from putting in the neat alcohol into the Still to bottling the gin?

Licensing hours of 8.00 – 6.00 every day and 8.30 to 12.30 on a Saturday confirm concerns about the business expanding if the licence is granted. The evidence of his web site is that Mr Trimmer is actively seeking new customers and stockists for Beaucroft Beverages. This is clearly a business likely to grow.

In addition, we note that Mr Trimmer has four other companies registered at 4 Stroud Close: Triad, Taron, ATC Contractors and At Lets, do these businesses also involve traffic into the Close?

Storage In his response to our objections Mr Trimmer said that he will store up to 46 bottles in the garage basement, on the licence application he says he has the capacity 0-4,999. Could you clarify what that means? If allowed will the licence identify the limit of what can be stored in a residential property? Mr Trimmer you describe the garage basement as having concrete on all 4 sides with a metal locked door. What are the floor and the ceiling made of?

Will there be air conditioning in the storage area? The south side of our properties become very hot on hot summer days.

Fire hazard and Risk Assessment Storing commercial quantities of alcohol in a residential garage constitutes a fire risk to residents, since it is unlikely that residential fire protection would be adequate in the case of a fire. The property is situated on the corner and is very close to other homes- a mere few feet in one instance, the spread of fire could put lives at risk. Has an official fire risk assessment been carried out? Have any recommendations been carried out?

Advertising As I have already said Stroud Close is a small, quiet, residential close. Advertising the sale of alcohol on-line will clearly broadcast the location of the store and the availability of alcohol stored in a residential property. This carries security risks for number 4 and surrounding houses. We are concerned that strangers will be attracted to the area which may lead to trespass or opportunistic crime in nearby houses or gardens.

Air pollution- Since the close is small, vans or lorries would need to reverse out or turn on a small turning space, either way this would create noise and, more of a worry, diesel fumes., a known health hazard. [REDACTED]. We are concerned because our garden, where we love to sit, [REDACTED] Mr Trimmer's front garden where deliveries would be received. (as shown in the photograph)

Narrowness of road-There is limited space for vans or lorries to pull off the road in front of number 4. Experience of builders working on properties, including no 4, with trade vans parked on the narrow road, confirms that this would be a problem which would be exacerbated by increased traffic. This could result in restricted access for emergency vehicles and weekly refuse collection.

Manufacture- the preparation of the beverages Mr Trimmer makes requires filtration. The process is illustrated on the Beaucroft Beverages website. It shows how herbs are steeped in gin or vodka to create the individual flavour. Where does filtration and bottling take place? Does Mr Trimmer also plan to do this in the garage? Would these additional manufacturing processes also need a fire risk assessment?

Harm to children

On the Beaucroft Beverage website age verification appears to be a tick box. At what point is the age of the purchaser checked?