

Dr. Sarah Wollaston M.P.

Member of Parliament for Totnes



House of Commons

London

SW1A 0AA

Email: sarah.wollaston.mp@parliament.uk

Naomi Wopling
Licensing Officer,
South Hams District Council
Follaton House
Plymouth Road,
Totnes
TQ9 5NE

SW/ns
9th November 2015

Letter by email: naomi.wopling@southhams.gov.uk

Dear Ms Wopling,

I understand that an application has been made by Morrisons, of Coronation Road, Totnes, TQ9 5DF to vary their licence to enable them to sell alcohol from 6.00am to midnight every day. My reasons for objecting to this application remain the same as 2012 when Morrisons made a similar application for an extension to their licencing hours.

Sale of alcohol commencing at 6.00am may encourage street drinking which can adversely affect the quality of life for residents by causing noise litter and general nuisance. There is a high risk of disturbance to neighbours near the premises.

In the mornings children converge on the area on the way to school and early access to alcohol will only encourage underage drinking. Morrisons target children at the checkouts with the low-level displays of sweets and chocolates; selling alcohol at the same time children are on their way to school, normalises alcohol as if it were part of everyday behaviour. This is unacceptable and potentially damaging to children. I would like to emphasise the danger to children from exposure to alcohol related anti-social behaviour and it is a well-known fact that children may ask adults to purchase alcohol for their consumption.

Contd.....

Parliamentary Office:
Tel : 0207 219 5129
Fax: 0207 219 5019

Constituency Office:
Tel : 01803 868 378

Having been a police forensic examiner for Devon and Cornwall Police, I know first-hand that victims of crime are often the result of alcohol fuelled behaviour.

If the application to vary the license is granted I feel conditions should be put in place;

- A personal license holder should be on the premises at all times
- Strong beer and cider should not be sold during the extended hours
- There should be no advertising of cheap alcohol outside the premises
- Refusal register to be maintained
- License limited to part of the premises
- Challenge 25

I am also concerned that should this licence be granted, a precedence will be created and all licensed premises will then apply for a variation to their licences, otherwise the Council will be seen to favouring a particular outlet/brand.

Please can you confirm that my objections have been registered by replying to my Constituency Office at Station Road, Totnes, TQ9 5HW or by email to nina.smith@parliament.uk

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Wollaston', written in a cursive style.

Dr Sarah Wollaston MP