

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 June 2025 20:47
To: licensing <licensing@bridgend.gov.uk>
Subject: Licence objection

Rhybudd: E-bost allanol yw hwn - sy wedi dod o sefydliad/unigolyn y tu allan i'r Cyngor. Byddwch yn wylidwrus wrth glicio ar ddolenni neu agor atodiadau.

Caution: This is an external email and did not originate from within the Council. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the licence application made by Sukhwinder Singh of VS Stores, 2 Prince Road, Kenfig Hill, CF33 6ED.

My objections to the licence application are as follows:

There is private accommodation directly opposite the premises which houses residents with alcohol addiction and substance misuse issues. This is a major concern as these people already congregate outside their premises and on the bench four doors down from the store to engage in such activities, which intimidates and scares local residents, as well as the knock off effect of litter being left at that location (especially glass bottles) and anti-social behaviour.

There is also a council run hostel (Glyn Cynffig) two streets behind the store which is a rehabilitation centre housing residents with issues resulting from substance misuse (drugs and alcohol).

It would take only a few minutes to walk from there to the store.

VS Stores used to be an old post office and general store without an alcohol licence, therefore it was not a magnet or temptation for people with these issues. As a retired police officer, I am well aware of the risk of temptation for substance users and alcohol dependents when such items are readily available to purchase on their doorstep. It is less of a temptation if you have to actually make a conscious decision to go out of your home to a store further away to purchase alcohol and/or other addictive substances.

I believe that Bridgend Council have a duty of care to the residents of those premises housing vulnerable people, as well as to the local community who would suffer the adverse effects of alcohol being available at VS Stores.

The premises, as it was before, has never held an alcohol licence as it has not been necessary, and that has been an asset to the local community and surrounding streets. There are many other off licence establishments locally that are open all day should someone feel the need to purchase alcohol and they are within walking distance from the proposed licenced premises. Why do we need yet another one? Surely this is just another way of spreading custom very thin between the stores which will lead to loss of custom to established stores?

There is a Bargain Booze store a couple of minutes walk away on Commercial Street, along with a Morrisons daily store on the opposite corner so there is no shortage of places to purchase alcohol or groceries. There are also many other shops along Commercial Street and the adjoining Pisgah Street; within 0.8 miles there are eight off licence stores, and that is without all the public houses and clubs readily serving alcohol. And in the other direction, there are several other off licence stores and licensed pubs/sports clubs within walking distance.

We have a lot of alcohol related anti-social behaviour in the area. I know that lots of it goes unreported, however it is an issue for local residents. As a result, a lot of local residents have installed private doorbell cameras/cctv cameras due to the behaviour of obviously intoxicated people at all hours of the day and night.

There is no parking at the location as there are yellow double lines along the street directly outside the shop. The opposite side of the road where there aren't yellow lines is constantly full with parked vehicles of residents, and customers of other local businesses. At times of high volume traffic (such as school pick up and drop off times) it is hard to get down Prince Road as it is due to double parking and careless parking.

There is also a takeaway restaurant on the end of the street, next to VS Stores, which has several delivery vehicles parked on the double yellow lines from 4pm daily, which causes issues for drivers and pedestrians as they often park on the pavement or on the actual corner of the street which causes problems with visibility of potential hazards for motorists. If VS Stores was granted a licence, then this would obviously cause more traffic in the area, more cars

parking illegally and more risk to pedestrians and other road users, as well as congestion at the location. It would also cause more noise pollution for local residents as the store has never been open late.

I would also like to bring to your attention that a cafe opened in 2021 at 6, Commercial Street, Kenfig Hill, which is literally around the corner from VS Stores (doors away) but was denied planning permission for that business as a result of the Highways Agency stating that the location of the cafe would pose a disruption to the flow of traffic as they have double yellow lines on the road directly outside the premises. This business, as a result, closed after just three months of trading. There is no reason to suspect that this issue wouldn't still be an issue at VS Stores.

Suzie's cafe owners were also told by the planning department at Bridgend Council that it was unlikely that planning permission would be granted anyway due to the proximity of local schools. This again, will still be an issue for VS Stores as the school is still in the same place, 0.2 miles from VS Stores (directly across the main road).

There is an infants school steps away from VS Stores, and a primary school a few streets away (0.4 miles). Both schools use the Talbot Institute (a building directly opposite VS Stores) on a regular basis for school events and concerts (during school hours and outside of these hours). The Junior school also uses the facilities of the infant school, and to do this they walk the pupils across from their school to the other. This means that quite regularly we see young children crossing the roads (with teachers supervision) in the area.

A premises readily selling alcohol in that exact area all day will just attract the attention of more undesirable characters as well as more traffic which in turn will impact the young children who may be travelling between the schools and to the Talbot institute. They do not need to be exposed to such behaviour while they are attending school events.

There is a licensed premises, Kenfig Hill Labour Club, directly opposite VS Stores, so if anyone is desperate for an alcoholic drink, then it is readily available. We do not need an off licence in the exact same area.

And does anyone really need to be purchasing alcohol at 6am in the morning or at 10pm at night? The hours applied for are totally excessive for a small

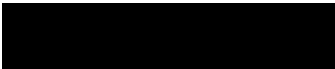
store servicing just a few streets as the other stores locally serve the streets closest to them. This store will not be a destination store as it will not be offering any service that isn't already available locally at other locations.

I thank you for taking the time to read and consider my objections and would please ask that you take my objections on board when making your decision.

I would have submitted this sooner however the licensing application notice has only appeared on the stores' front door in the past few days having previously only been displayed on the closed shutters, which would not have been seen during opening hours or in the day time.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.