

5<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Re: S & G Services Retail Limited application for Premises Licence at Costcutter, Old Stowmarket Road, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9QT

Dear Sir,

I wish to object to the above license application by S&G Services on several grounds.

Firstly the selling of alcohol seven days a week until 11 p.m. and beyond is far too late in the evening and will disturb the natural tranquillity of a peaceful Suffolk village. Such late availability of alcohol is unacceptable and will encourage groups of people to congregate around the store culminating in an increase of late night traffic with the proposed store having easy access to the A14. Such a store would encourage customers to drive for the availability of late night alcohol with an increase in traffic noise and the added problems that come with freely available alcohol at anti-social hours.

Secondly Woolpit did have alcohol available from a local shop called Addisons. This caused a culture of late night drunkenness in the village outside the store which led to acts of vandalism, hooliganism, graffiti and threatening behaviour towards the young and elderly alike. Addisons only sold alcohol until 10 p.m. and there was a great deal of trouble, therefore 11 p.m. is completely unacceptable.

There is a clear and recognised link between alcohol and antisocial behaviour as has been found in Ipswich where they have reduced the strength of alcohol on sale in the town and this has led to a reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour. Therefore, it follows that an increase in the availability of alcohol in Woolpit will lead to an increase in antisocial behaviour and criminal acts in a rural village location, again totally unacceptable. Residents of Woolpit do not want to feel uncomfortable, uneasy or intimidated when walking in their village.

Due to the above reason I respectfully request you to reject this application for Premises licence at Costcutters Woolpit.

Yours sincerely,

Mr I.Belham

4 July 2014

Licensing Team  
Mid Suffolk District Council Licensing Authority  
131 High Street  
Needham Market  
Ipswich  
Suffolk IP6 8DL

Dear Sirs,

APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE AT COSTCUTTER, STOWMARKET ROAD  
WOOLPIT

### **OBJECTION TO GRANT OF THIS LICENCE**

S&G Services Retail have applied for the grant of a premises licence in respect of Costcutter at Woolpit which would have the effect of extending their licence up to 11.00 pm every day of the year plus midnight on New Years Eve.

We object to this application.

The grounds of our objection are the same as those contained in our letters of objection in May 2013 when similar application was made. Since then nothing has improved to make us change our minds, namely that this would be harmful to the community and environs of Woolpit.

Since Costcutters commenced the sale of alcohol in 2013 there has been an increase in rowdiness of youth gathering in the nearby car park at night. The playing field is strewn with beer cans and bottles which we residents have to clear up. A performance of classical cello was disturbed by youths kicking a football against the village hall walls, who when asked politely to desist became aggressive and on finally departing to their cars left behind a dozen beer cans. We have reverted to the state of the village in terms of litter and rowdiness which pertained during the times when Addisons sold alcohol until 10 pm in the evening.

It is a matter of concern that the youth buying beer are the same youths who then drive round the village in noisy motor cars although there is no evidence that the drivers themselves have consumed alcohol.

We also note this will be the only premises licensed to sell alcohol late at night along the A14 corridor for twenty miles in either direction.

To repeat our petition of last May, during the years up to 2011 the village was plagued by graffiti, petty vandalism and disruptive hooliganism. It is a matter of police record that Addisons attracted youth from other surrounding villages who came here in the evenings to purchase alcohol and then congregated in our playing field. Playground equipment was regularly vandalised during the late evening, and so was council property including the shelter in the playing field. Among damage caused and attributable to the late sale of alcohol (much of it under-age drinking) were:

- £600 of damage to playground equipment;
- Ripping up the brick pavers in the Millenium Garden;
- At least six separate kicking down of the fence round the playground;
- Graffiti spray painting of shelter, phone box and street signs;
- Driving of vehicle over front garden lawns;

Fires in and separately destruction of metal litter bins;

Litter including broken bottles on playing fields, hazarding young children.

The playing fields here referred to adjoin the Costcutter site which is the subject of this Application.

Many of these incidents were notified to and recorded by Suffolk Police.

When Addisons closed in 2011, the problems ceased as it was no longer possible to buy alcohol from an off-licence.

We therefore oppose this Application on the grounds that the sale of alcohol in the late evenings is conducive to public disturbance nuisance and disorder, and crime, and is a threat to the safety and well-being of young persons and children in the village.

Yours faithfully,

5<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Re: S & G Services Retail Limited application for Premises Licence at Costcutter, Old Stowmarket Road, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9QT

Dear Sir,

I wish to object to the reapplication for an extended alcohol license by S&G Services on several grounds.

Firstly the selling of alcohol seven days a week until 11 p.m. or beyond is far too late in the evening and will disturb the natural tranquillity of a peaceful Suffolk village. Such late availability of alcohol is unacceptable and will encourage groups of people to congregate around the store culminating in an increase of late night traffic with the proposed store having easy access to the A14. Such a store would encourage customers to drive for the availability of late night alcohol with an increase in traffic noise and the added problems that come with freely available alcohol at anti-social hours.

Secondly Woolpit did have alcohol available from a local shop called Addisons. This caused a culture of late night drunkenness in the village outside the store which led to acts of vandalism, hooliganism, graffiti and threatening behaviour towards the young and elderly alike. Addisons only sold alcohol until 10 p.m. and there was a great deal of trouble, therefore 11 p.m. is completely unacceptable.

There is a clear and recognised link between alcohol and antisocial behaviour as has been found in Ipswich where they have reduced the strength of alcohol on sale in the town and this has led to a reduction in crime and antisocial behaviour. Therefore, it follows that an increase in the availability of alcohol in Woolpit will lead to an increase in antisocial behaviour and criminal acts in a rural village location, again totally unacceptable. Residents of Woolpit do not want to feel uncomfortable, uneasy or intimidated when walking in their village.

Due to the above reason I respectfully request you to reject this application for an extension to the alcohol licence at Costcutters Woolpit.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs B. Belham

# WOOLPIT PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Peggy Fuller, 86 Forest Road, Onehouse, Stowmarket IP14 3HJ

Tel: 01359 245895 email [peggy.woolpitpc.@btinternet.com](mailto:peggy.woolpitpc.@btinternet.com)

30 June 2014

Licensing Team  
Mid Suffolk District Council  
131 High Street  
Needham Market  
Ipswich  
IP6 8DL

Dear Sirs

## **Re: S & G Services Retail Limited application**

Woolpit Parish Council wishes to object to the application made by S & G Services Retail Limited for a Premises Licence at Costcutter, Old Stowmarket Road, Woolpit, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9QT to supply alcohol for consumption off the premises between the hours of 0800 hours and 2300 hours each day except New Year's Eve when between 0800 hours and 2400 hours.

The Costcutter premises are directly next to the playing field and the children's play area. Previously, when Addison's store held an alcohol license until 2300 hours, the number of broken alcohol bottles in the playing field, play area, Millennium Garden (within the playing field area) and the car park were significant. Woolpit Parish Council employs a litter picker and he constantly was collecting empty beer cans and bottles from these areas as well as trying to clear up the broken glass. On several occasions we had to call in the MSDC "hit squad" to clear the area of broken glass. Children who frequent these areas must be protected from the harm these hazards cause.

Another problem was that over 18's would purchase alcohol from Addison's and then give it to under 18's. Whilst this is not the fault of the licensee, these children too need to be protected from the harm alcohol can cause.

It is also noticeable that the number of public nuisance issues in the village have decreased since Addison's store closed limiting the sale of alcohol from stores after 2000 hours. Not only has litter vastly reduced so have many incidents of anti-social behaviour.

There is already the facility to purchase alcohol from a local store until 2100 hours daily and two pubs until 2300 hours. Woolpit Parish Council feels that a license to 2100 hours is sufficient for Costcutter to compete with other alcohol retailers and would ask that this licence is not granted.

Yours sincerely

Peggy Fuller  
Clerk to the Council

The Licensing Team  
Mid Suffolk District Council Licensing Authority  
131 High Street  
NEEDHAM MARKET  
Suffolk IP6 8DL

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014

Dear Sir,

**New Licensing Application by S & G Services Ltd on behalf of Costcutter under the Licensing Act 2003**

I am writing to you to make representations that you do not grant a premises licence at Costcutters, Old Stowmarket Road, Woolpit, Bury St. Edmunds, IP30 9QT for the supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises between the hours of 08.00 hours and 23.00 hours each day except for New Years Eve when the proposed hours would be between 08.00 hours and 24.00 hours.

This application appears to be virtually identical to the original application submitted when Costcutters moved to Woolpit last year!! **In considering that application Mid Suffolk District Council Licensing Authority took account of representations made by Woolpit residents and Woolpit Parish Council and granted a licence for hours restricted from 08.00 to 20.00 hours.**

Since the granting of the original application at Costcutters the amount of litter including drink cans in the areas around Costcutters and in other parts of the village has increased very significantly. I regularly walk my dog in the village and am appalled by the litter scattered on pavements and in roadside hedges which obviously is consequent upon Costcutters sales of alcohol. There is a children's playing field adjacent to the Village Hall and one frequently sees cans lying on the field which is not far from Costcutters. It is my understanding that a recent Woolpit Festival event at the Village Hall was disrupted by teenagers who left drink cans on the playing field. **I trust that you will not approve the application now before you.**

There already exists in Woolpit an off licence facility at the East of England Co-operative Store which seems to be much better controlled.

Yours sincerely

A. R. Round

Keith Harknett

18 June 2014

Dear Sirs,

I write regarding the application by Costcutters in Woolpit to extend their alcohol licence. I am very opposed to any extension to their times. All the arguments that were put forward at the original hearing last year are still applicable, even more so after a year's experience. As you know if the request is granted Costcutters will be the only shop selling alcohol late at night for about 20 square miles. This will act as a magnet for young people with cars and not only will we suffer but they will all have to drive away having consumed alcohol and be a danger to others. We already have problems in the village with youths and drinking. There has been a lot of vandalism in the playing ground which is right alongside Costcutters, children's equipment has been destroyed and fences kicked down. To give the youths more alcohol will only lead to even more problems.

I litter pick twice a week in the playing field and every week I pick up Costcutters carrier bags, the contents of which have been consumed and dumped on the field. On Monday this week I picked up 23 beer bottles and lots of cans, imagine the state of the area if the extension is granted. The field is used by many children for games and play, broken glass is a real problem for us. The little children's play area is used by youths in the evening and I have lost count of the damage that is done there and equipment vandalised.

Unfortunately we get little help from the police as they seem to be too stretched in other areas, please do not make our situation worse by granting this extension.

Yours faithfully

June 18th 2014

To. Mid Suffolk District Council  
Licencing Department.

It has been brought to our attention that COSTCUTTER has applied for a change in the licencing agreement in order to extend the hours they are able to sell alcohol.

We strongly object for the following reasons.

Young people need to learn how to handle alcohol intake, it is preferable that the parents are involved, in our experience groups of young people congregate usually in the playing field or village centre to consume beer or wine, without any parental control. The consumption of alcohol in these groups leads to vandalism, anti social behaviour, and ~~excess~~ litter, which is undesirable in this beautiful village. Extending the hours from 8p.m. will encourage this type of behaviour.

We sincerely hope you will recognise these objections in your deliberation  
Yours sincerely Mr & Mrs George & June KEM



19<sup>th</sup> June, 2014

The Licensing Team,  
Mid Suffolk District Council Licensing Authority  
131 High Street,  
Needham Market,  
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 8DL

Dear Sirs,

**Application by S & G Services Retail Limited for Premises Licence at Costcutter, Stowmarket Road, Woolpit, Suffolk, IP30 9QT**

I am writing regarding the above application to register my very strong objection to the granting of the requested Licence which, if granted, would allow the supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises between the hours of 08.00 and 23.00 hours (save as mentioned therein).

I attach a copy of my letter of 19<sup>th</sup> April 2013 objecting to the previous application. I understand that, as a result of that application, alcohol can be sold until 8 pm (with limited exceptions).

I cannot think of any circumstances that have changed which merit a variation in the current Premises Licence. Indeed, all my fears about an extended licence time period have in fact been realised under the present licence even though alcohol sales must cease at 8 pm. In other words, we have experienced disturbances, vandalism, litter, broken glass and intemperate behaviour. Equally worrying is that the antisocial youths who perpetrate this bad behaviour are then seen to climb into cars parked in the adjacent MSDC car park and drive off. Are they fit to drive?

My knowledge of these events is not merely as a local resident but as treasurer to Woolpit Village Hall and Woolpit Recreation Ground. The latter owns and administers the recreation ground around the village hall and the children's play area. The paling fence around the children's play area is constantly being vandalised and recently one piece of play equipment was broken. The land is regularly strewn with empty bottles, cans and other litter. Events in the hall are disturbed and I have little doubt that alcohol plays its part.

Is this application by S & G Services Retail Limited to become an annual event? How many times can an application be made? Who pays the costs of dealing with each application? It seems to make a mockery of the licensing system if repeated applications can be made. Is the applicant simply trying to wear down the local community and the Licensing Team?

For all the reasons given above I urge you to refuse this application.

Yours faithfully,

**Graham Watson**

19<sup>th</sup> April, 2013

Licensing Team,  
Mid Suffolk District Council,  
131 High Street,  
Needham Market,  
Ipswich, Suffolk, IP6 8DL

Dear Sirs,

**Application by S & G Services Retail Limited for Premises Licence at  
Costcutter, Stowmarket Road, Woolpit, Suffolk, IP30 9QT**

I am writing regarding the above application to register my very strong objection to the granting of the requested Licence which, if granted, would allow the supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises between the hours of 08.00 and 24.00 hours (save as mentioned therein).

My wife and I live within a few hundred yards of the application site and are gravely concerned that the sale of alcohol after, say, 18.00 hours will encourage young people to buy liquor and consume it late at night in the vicinity of the application site. This will inevitably lead to disturbances, vandalism, litter, broken glass and intemperate behaviour.

I can think of no good reason why a retail outlet needs to supply alcohol outside normal trading hours – say, 08.00 to 18.00 hours, and I urge the Licensing Team to refuse this application in its present form.

Yours faithfully,

**Graham Watson**

## David Price

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**From:** Trevor Howard  
**Sent:** 16 June 2014 09:41  
**To:** Licensing  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** S&G Services Ltd trading as Costcutter

Dear Sirs,

As a responsible, rate paying resident of Woolpit since 1987 I am writing to object to any increase in the licensing hours of S&G Services Ltd trading as Costcutter in Stowmarket Road, Woolpit, Suffolk.

With reference to your own Enforcement Protocol with relation to the licensing act 2003 I would like to make the following relevant points.

Since this store opened it has been clear that an increase in **public nuisance** has been evident.

I live adjacent to the car park opposite the church in Woolpit, almost every evening youths with cars and motorcycles gather and create excessive nuisance. On many occasions the car park becomes a no go area for legitimate users of the car park as they feel threatened by the presence of up to 30 youths, revving their engines, doing 'donuts' in the road and in the car park and speeding in and out of the car park to and from the Costcutter store, this in my opinion is a clear case of the objective **ensuring public safety**.

I have contacted the police on numerous occasions and they have had to attend the car park many times, they have better and more important things to do with their limited resources, particularly late at night when most of the trouble occurs.

I am also aware that the increase in litter such as beer cans, bottles, food wrappers etc has increased tremendously, this I feel is relevant in both the **protection of children from harm** objective and the **ensuring public safety** objective. My reasoning is that often bottles are thrown from the car park onto the playing field, this is also close to a children's play area, when the grass is cut by Mid Suffolk your workmen have to walk the field to ensure no cans or bottles are engulfed by the grass mowers.

I am not suggesting that crime has increased but certainly disorder has, what I am putting forward is that an increase in anti social behaviour, vehicle speeding, excessive noise and aggravation has been evident since the store opened and I do not want this to get any worse.

In closing, I see all 4 of the objectives outlined in the licensing act 2003 and your enforcement protocol are clearly already being compromised and I therefore expect you to refuse the application for extended hours opening for the sale of alcohol. In essence all the worries and concerns I had when this store originally applied for planning and licensing have been realised and the village should not be asked to endure any further disruption.

Thank you for your attention, I have copied this to Woolpit Parish Council and the local police officer who is aware of my concerns and continued complaints.

Trevor Howard