

From: [Mooney.James](#)
To: [Licensing](#)
Cc: [Spriggs.Fred](#); [Reynolds.Duncan](#); [Paskin.Carl](#)
Subject: St Owens News, St Owen Street, Hereford - premises licence variation
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NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

West Mercia Police are in receipt of an application to vary the premises licence for a premises called **St Owens News, St Owens Street, Hereford**.

The application is vary the operating hours for the sale/supply of alcohol. In addition whilst there is no clear indication on the application, it appears the applicant wants to remove existing conditions with regards to the sale of single cans, bottled cider of 3l size and 'strong beers' over 6.5abv.

West Mercia Police **object to the application in its entirety** as the applicant has failed to put forward any relevant steps to promote the licensing objectives in place of those he wishes to remove. In fact some of the steps he has put forward are mandatory conditions and are already attached to his premises licence as a matter of course.

The existing conditions placed were placed on the premises licence in 2014, this came about as a result of a number of issues of crime and disorder near to the premises that were attributed to the sale of strong beers/ciders and large bottles of cider/beer. At the time these matters occurred West Mercia Police sought the co operation of a number of licensed shops to restricted the sale of such items so to prevent or reduce the crime and disorder problems. At the time this applicant failed to recognise the seriousness of the issues and West Mercia Police launched a licensing review. This review was withdrawn when the premises licence holder submitted an application to vary the premises licence.

The fact that this shop since late 2014 has co operated with the police and has fully complied with the current licensing conditions has actually effectively promoted the licensing objectives and therefore the number of alcohol related incidents near to the premises has significantly reduced. The concern of West Mercia Police is that if this application is granted as requested it will undermine the licensing objectives.

Regards.

Jim Mooney (on behalf of Insp Carl Paskin)
Harm Reduction/Community Safety Dept.,
Licensing & Harm Reduction Coordinator,
Policing Unit - Herefordshire,
West Mercia Police.
DDI 01432 347102
Switchboard '101' x 4702
james.mooney@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

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