

2019 – Allegation (local resident):

Local resident intel 5 July 2019 that premises making underage sales of alcohol and tobacco. Also:

- “Drug dealing on the shop side, near the charity blue box.”
- “Large sums of cash being exchanged behind the counter to a man in a white Mercedes.”

Monitor / observe. Liaising with Trading Standards and Police.

Visit 19 July 2019 (Licensing):

Arrived 20:10. Unmanned white Ford Focus, registration LV67 UDG, parked on premises’ hardstanding directly outside. I entered premises and purchased a soft drink (Lucozade). Single Asian male was serving behind counter; one elderly female customer present. Licence Summary displayed, although partially obscured by bottles; “It’s A Crime!” proxy sales poster clearly displayed; 16-screen CCTV in operation. I did not make myself known to the Asian male, given possible need for future covertness. Left shop 20:13.

Continued to observe premises from my vehicle parked opposite in Swingate Lane. Nothing untoward witnessed. Area quiet and largely inactive. Departed 20:20. Further visits required

Visit 14 August 2019 (Police):

When we drove by, it was shut at 23:30.

Visit 16 August 2019 (Licensing):

Arrived 22:15. Parked diagonally opposite in Swingate Lane. Hardstanding directly outside premises was empty of vehicles. I entered premises and purchased a soft drink and crisps. Single Asian male was serving behind counter. All was as per my previous visit on 19.07.19: Licence Summary displayed, although partially obscured by bottles; “It’s A Crime!” proxy sales poster clearly displayed; 16-screen CCTV in operation. I did not make myself known to the Asian male, given possible need for future covertness. Left shop and returned to my car, where I observed premises from 22:20.

Between then and 23:00, twelve adult customers visited. At 23:07, the electronic “Open” sign was turned off; shutters were lowered; and pavement signs advertising lottery tickets and a cash machine were taken in.

Nothing untoward witnessed. Area quiet and largely inactive throughout period of observation. Departed 23:10. Further visits required.

Visit 13 September 2019 (Licensing):

Arrived 21:33. Parked diagonally opposite in Swingate Lane. Hardstanding directly outside premises was empty of vehicles. I entered premises and purchased a soft drink and crisps. Single Asian male was serving behind counter. All was as per my previous visits on 19.07.19 and 16.08.19: Licence Summary displayed, although partially obscured by bottles; "It's A Crime!" proxy sales poster clearly displayed; 16-screen CCTV in operation. I did not make myself known to the Asian male, given possible need for future covertness. Left shop and returned to my car, where I observed premises from 21:40.

Between then and 22:00, there was a steady flow of mainly adult customers. Nothing untoward witnessed; saw no suspicious activity of any kind. Departed 22:01.

Further visits not required.

NB: Recent Trading Standards, Police and HO Immigration visits – all satisfactory. TS tested for both underage sales and fake alcohol / tobacco.

2023 – Allegation (local resident):

26 September 2023 – *"I would like to report the above shop. They are now selling alcohol to people to drink on their premises. They have makeshift chairs outside the shop and antisocial people drinking there. They shout, smoke something and are a general nuisance. I'm sure their licence is for off-sales only. They also seem to sell beer and cigarettes to children, but I cannot prove this."*

Visit 27 September 2023 (Licensing):

15:23 – Drive-by. All clear outside. No chairs on forecourt, nor any other furniture.

Returned 15:34 – Covered area to the right displaying fruit & veg. No customers outside premises, one inside. Cramped interior, but tidy. One member of staff, a young male. I did not ID myself to him on this occasion. Few pedestrians in Swingate Lane, none in Malton Street; light passing traffic. No evidence on this occasion to support the allegation, but further visits required during evening / night-time. Observed until 15:45 without issue, then departed.

Visit 29 September 2023 (Licensing):

21:30 to 21:50hrs.

On arrival, area was clear. During my observation, seven customers entered, most buying alcohol, but no loiterers.

No noise or ASB.

Visit 4 October 2023 (Licensing):

17:45 to 18:15hrs.

On arrival, two males stood outside the premises drinking alcohol from bottles, using the litter bin-lid as a 'bar'. They drank two bottles each, then left the area on a bus. A continuous stream of customers followed, but none stayed.

Visit 6 October 2023 (Licensing):

21:50 to 22:25hrs.

Observation kept from outside the shop entrance. Area clear; about 10 customers entered the store, three from vehicles, none loitered. Further visits.

Visit 14 October 2023 (Licensing):

Arrived 20:33, parked opposite in Swingate Lane. Deserted outside, no customers inside, one male member of staff. Area silent except for passing traffic. Returned to vehicle to keep observation – by 21:00, there had been 16 customers, all adults except for two children in the company of an adult female. None remained inside for long and no-one loitered outside. Fruit & veg extension / unit to right of the frontage was open throughout, but nobody entered this. No issues whatsoever. Departed 21:03.

Visit 18 October 2023 (Licensing):

Observed the premises from 13:55 to 14:30hrs. Light rain turning heavier throughout. Area clear of loiterers and litter. A steady stream of pedestrian and vehicular custom. No untoward behaviour or incident. A fifteen-minute delivery of goods from 13:55 to 14:10.

Visit 25 October 2023 (Licensing):

I kept observation on the premises from 12:50 to 13:25hrs. A steady stream of customers attended, mostly individually. No loiterers, no litter. Weather fine. No issues.

Visit 27 October 2023 (Licensing):

21:40 to 22:15hrs.

Weather dry, a steady stream of customers during my observation. No loiterers, no litter, no noise, no issues.

Visit 10 November 2023 (Licensing):

Arrived 20:41, parked opposite in Swingate Lane. All quiet, area clear. No customers inside, two male members of staff were stocking the fruit & veg extension to right of shop's frontage. Silent, save for passing traffic. Returned to vehicle to keep observation – by 21:12, there had been just seven adult male customers, none of whom remained for long or loitered outside. No issues whatsoever; nothing seen on any visit to substantiate this latest complaint. No need for further visits. Departed 21:15.

- *Appendix G of the Licensing Sub-Committee Report also makes reference to satisfactory proactive visits conducted by members of the Community Protection (Noise) Team on 14, 15 & 16 June 2024.*