



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

**TOTAL POLICING**

Tower Hamlets Borough

Licensing Team

Ms Kathy Driver,  
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London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
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Cc: Kismet Trading Limited, (by hand)  
88-90, Columbia Road,  
LONDON  
E2 7QB

Your ref:  
Our ref: LIC/316/14

2nd October 2014

Dear Ms. Driver.

**Re: Additional evidence - re: application to vary premises licence - Londis, 88-90, Columbia Road, London E2 7QB**

I write with reference to the above application, which is subject to a forthcoming licensing sub-committee hearing on Tuesday, 7th October 2014 @ 18:30 hrs. I have been asked to make the police representations on behalf of PC Cruickshank and I herein submit further evidence on behalf of the police:

At approximately 11:30 hrs on Friday, 26th September 2014, I undertook a site visit to the above premises (known as 'Flower Supermarket') and the surrounding area. In particular I visited the Ravenscroft Park immediately opposite and I spoke to an elderly resident who had lived in the area for 50 years, she told me she "*did not go out at night, because of the young un's drinking in the park*". I then spoke to a male, who said he had lived in the area for 10 years, his view when asked about any problems he'd experienced in the park, was "*everyone has a problem, I've come here to smoke something, not everyone is 100% perfect, I drink and smoke here because I cannot do it inside my home where my wife would see me*". When asked where he bought his beer, he pointed to the Flower Supermarket across the road.

Whilst in the park I also had a good look around and saw much evidence of 'street drinking' and drug taking (as per the photo's below), in which there was an amount of discarded cans (mainly 'Stella') and drug paraphernalia.

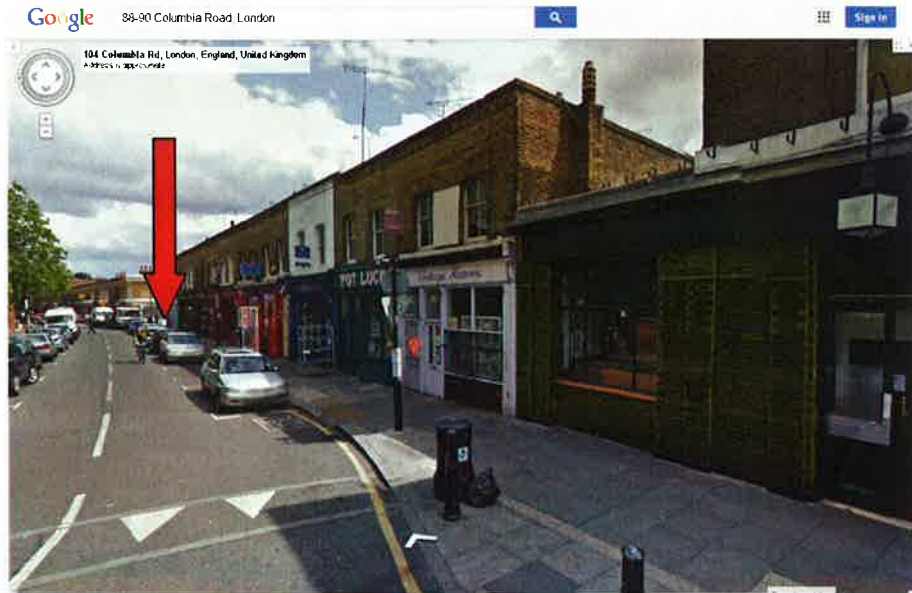




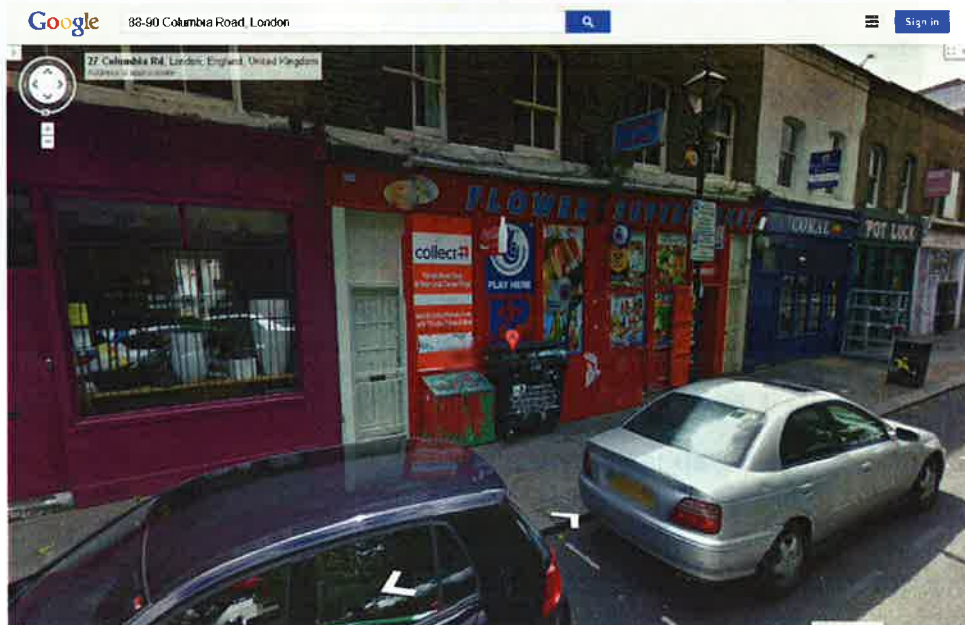
I should add, whilst I have no evidence of where these items came from (I am not suggesting the drugs paraphernalia is linked to Londis at all), but that street drinking and drug taking, often go hand in hand, but I will suggest that the nearest outlet for alcohol in relation to the park is Londis.

I then visited the premises itself, which is quite a jam-packed shop, with narrow aisles, largely selling convenience items, possibly 70% food etc and 30% for alcohol. On the floor in a corner was 10-11 cases of Stella piled to the ceiling. It would appear to be their best seller!

Below are photos from Google's, 'Street View':



© Google



© Google

I also visited the area again on Wednesday, 1st October 2014 between 22:15 hours and 23:45 hours. Whilst I found no-one drinking in the park whilst I was there, outside on the wall opposite Londis were empty bottles of Hoegaarden and a Draft Stout with a dragon label (as below):



Bottles of Hoegaarden @ £1.69

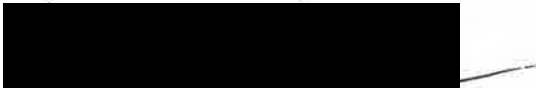
I also met on patrol two Thamesreach outreach workers, who said they visit the park every Monday, due to levels of street drinking. I showed them the drug paraphernalia and due to the children's playground 10 meters or so away - they were going to report the waste to Tower Hamlets 'Safer & Greener Streets'.

I will bring extra colour copies of this letter, to the sub-committee hearing - should it assist the committee further?

I have also researched Met indices in relation to incidents on Columbia Road and will report these in person to the sub-committee.

Finally, I attach a statement from PC 459HT Pringle, who is the dedicated ward officer for Weavers.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Brendan O'Rourke

PC 291 HT

**WITNESS STATEMENT**

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of **Graham Pringle PC459HT** ..... URN: 

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Age if under 18 **Over 18**..... (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police Officer P229493**.....

This statement (consisting of: ... **2**..... pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:  **459HT** ..... Date: **26/09/2014**.....

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on rear)

I am the above named person and I have been a dedicated ward officer covering the Weavers ward on the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for the last 2 years. I have been a police officer in Tower Hamlets for the past five and a half years serving on response team, CID and safer neighbourhoods.

I am completing this statement in relation to the application for an extended license for the premises Flower Supermarket. 88-90 COLUMBIA ROAD, LONDON E2 7QB.

As part of my regular duties I attend calls to police and from local residents to deal with issues of street drinking and anti social behaviour around those that drink and take drugs.

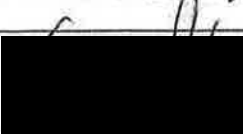
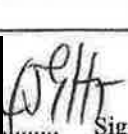
88-90 COLUMBIA ROAD is situated directly opposite a public park and play area and approximately 50 yards to the left on the opposite side of the road is RAVENSCROFT Youth club. Approximately another 50 yards on from that on the north side of the road is SIVILL HOUSE a 19 storey block which is constantly being used on the top floors by street drinkers, homeless persons and also those going in there to take their class A drugs.

We are constantly patrolling this area and spend a dis-proportionate amount of our police time addressing the issues around drinkers and drug takers.

Directly opposite the Supermarket is a small sloping wall which acts as a seat for drinkers and late most nights this area is strewn with litter, empty alcohol cans of lager and strong cider and drug paraphernalia such as small clear empty self sealed bags, the type used to store cannabis in and small inch square red and blue wrappers the type that is consistent with carrying class a drugs in.

Residents parking is directly outside the supermarket and there is COLUMBIA ROAD Primary School approximately 70 yards to the east of the supermarket. The birdcage public House is also only 4 doors down to the west of the supermarket.

I am opposed to the extended hours being requested for the supermarket because the play area opposite is not secured at night and this lends itself to being used by street drinkers. It is also not well lit. Parking is bad in the area and increased vehicles on the busy road is a further danger also.

Signature:  ..... Signature witnessed by:  .....

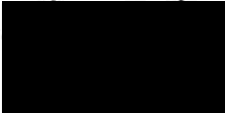
Continuation of Statement of **Graham Pringle PC459HT**.....


RAVENSCROFT Primary School pupils will be subjected to the litter and cans left as a result of the later night drinking in the area and the local residents will be disturbed by the additional late night opening times of car engine noise and additional people being present and milling around the store.

The Birdcage public house is a busy establishment and licensed to sell alcohol on the premises. If people are present opposite the pub and store drinking from cans this will possibly cause conflict after closing time and lead to people trying to buy and consume alcohol once the pub is closed.

Anti social behaviour in my opinion will increase if the stores hours are extended and the area is not far from Brick Lane which is already saturated with off licences and pubs and bars.

My team deals constantly with anti social behaviour around drugs and alcohol and are constantly giving referrals to the Thames Outreach team regarding rough sleepers, drug users and alcoholics. We also have to deal with partnerships around these problems which is all valuable time that could be avoided if the licenses are revoked or used sensibly.

 459/HT

Signature:  459/HT

Signature witnessed by: .....