

# ELM PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

## Committee:

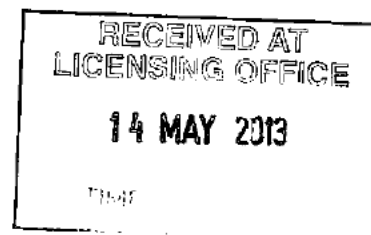
Chairman: K Asher-Halle  
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Dr F Hicks, Mrs M Gordon (Licensing)  
(Co-opted) J Dickinson, M Patel

Please reply to:  
Mrs M Gordon



3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013

The Licensing Department,  
Harrow Council,  
Civic Centre,  
Harrow, Middlesex.



Dear Sirs,

Re: Application to vary premises licence by Sainsbury's Supermarkets-Stanmore

In response to the above application we wish to oppose the granting of this application for the following reasons:-

1. When a previous application was made it was the court's ruling that an extension of hours was allowed on the proviso that Sainsbury's installed CCTV cameras in the area of their car park. To date and as far as we are aware, this has not been carried out. I have recently brought this to the attention of The Licensing Department who have said that they are looking into it but have not yet replied to my enquiry. It is also noted on the present application, (part 3 – variation), Sainsbury's have at point 4, stated that “to include the condition in boxes b to e of Section M of the opening schedule” and this seems to be concerning the CCTV system which should have been installed and has not been installed. I therefore do not understand how it can be included.
2. Public Safety: Section M states that “adequate levels of staff and security will be maintained at all times” At present Sainsbury's staff are always using the excuse that they are short of staff so it must be assumed that they will be employing many more staff members. This is particularly the case in the car park. There is no attendant in the evenings and the local licensed premises have been providing staff to ‘man’ the car park in order that the residents do not suffer from noise and traffic.
3. The CCTV system as described in M section b sounds very nice and would be a great help, if it actually existed. The Condition to install C.C.T.V. covering the car park was in the previous Variation application (granted on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2007) and has never been complied with, despite reminders on several occasions.
4. Muggings and shoplifting and robberies take place on a very regular basis both inside and outside of Sainsbury's. People are often mugged getting into and out of their vehicles and Sainsbury's have been unable to provide film footage to the police to enable them to apprehend the culprits. Surely, if the hours of selling alcohol are extended this will become more worrying. Many people who live in Elm Park are

- elderly and even the younger residents are frightened to walk in the road after certain hours. This extension, if allowed, will make life impossible for most of the residents.
5. A further problem experienced by the residents of Elm Park is the parking of vehicles outside our homes. At present many customers of Sainsbury's frequently park outside our houses. I and other residents have constantly requested Sainsbury's to do something about this but they refuse to acknowledge the problem. During the day we cannot get on or off our own drives because of the volume of cars parking in the road. At night the problem is exacerbated by the addition of vehicles driven by customers of the local pubs and restaurants but they do, at least, supply a security guard to attempt to help. Sainsbury's do not even have anyone manning the car park after a certain time. On Summer nights it is impossible to sleep because the cars park outside our open bedroom windows. The customers return to their vehicles, shout, laugh sing and slam their car doors. This wakes us up, frightens the elderly and makes life impossible for all residents. An extension of the licence times would therefore mean that all of this would be made increasingly more unbearable. There was a time when the Sainsbury's manager asked people not to park on the south side of the barrier and promised to erect a sign which would ask customers to park within the car park but as the managers have changed on a very regular basis, so have the promises.
  6. Stanmore has always been a village and when Sainsbury's built their store there were numerous meetings and the residents were assured that the store would always be in keeping with the village and the village atmosphere. This does not, surely, include selling alcohol until midnight.
  7. Elm Park is a residential road and we are suffering from students from the college and vagrants drinking on the outskirts of Sainsbury's premises. They sit on the walls and in the car park and are never removed by staff. The litter situation is so bad from Sainsbury's that the college has supplied and are paying students to collect litter. This problem will be made much worse with extended opening hours. At present orange plastic bags litter all of our gardens.
  8. It is all very well saying that signage will be displayed at the exit of the premises requesting that customers leave quietly etc. but this is absolutely useless when a great number of the Sainsbury's customers never enter the car park, they park in the road instead.

We have also been told that the barrier was originally put across the road to stop drivers coming into this part of Elm Park not only for safety reasons but because the land was a marsh land which means that the increased traffic from Sainsbury's clientele has increased the damage being cause to the road and the soil and waste pipes beneath the road. We understand from the water companies that this has increased the amount of blocked drains in the northern part of the road since the arrival of Sainsbury's and the traffic brought into the area by them.

We must therefore ask the court to take all of these points into consideration even though they do not immediately seem to be concerned with the extended licensing hours. Sainsbury's request is that they should be allowed to open on a 24 hour basis if they deem it necessary to do so but surely this cannot be acceptable when the store has been built in such a small residential area that was initially deemed to be a village and which still houses a large number of residents over the age of retirement.

Yours faithfully,

