

2023/03445/01SPRN Premises Licence Open for Consultation East Block - The Balbirs, 72 Portswood Road Southampton SO17 2FB

Highfield Residents Association objects to the application that has been submitted for an off-licence store to be known as Sam Store at 72 Portswood Road, Southampton, SO17 2FW. The application for a licence to trade alcohol (among other store goods) 16hrs a day from 07:00h to 23:00h Monday to Saturday and 11:00h to 23:00h on Sundays. The trading of alcohol for these number of hours is excessive. Neither is it appropriate due to the store's location near a Day Care Nursery and the Bashir Ahmed Mosque.

There are already many off-licence stores operating in the Portswood Road / Portswood Broadway area. Street drinking, increased litter, discarded empty beer cans already create adverse effects on residents and deters those out of area from visiting.

The police and Council have been unable to tackle on-street drinking and general anti-social behaviour in Portswood to date, despite having the powers to do so. Granting a licence to another store with extended opening hours would feed the habits of street drinkers and extend their loitering range. Granting a licence would be a nuisance to public and especially children.

Bevois Valley has been identified as a stress area causing problems in terms of high crime rate and anti-social behaviour. Police data (June 2023) shows a high concentration of crime immediately to the east of Portswood Broadway (** Police statistics for "Portswood" combine Portswood, Bassett and Swaythling wards*) – **23% of the total crimes in just 2% of the area** (Ref: UK Crime Stats – crime breakdown in Portswood Feb 2022 – Jan 2023).

Highfield Residents Association objects to the application and asks that it be refused.

Barbara Claridge

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