

Hi Adrian,

Following on from our correspondence last week, the Village Council at Humberston has asked that I clarify its representations regarding the licensing application by the Gingerbread House.

The Council acknowledges that the premises may wish to serve alcohol with meals and actually has no objections to this provided this is limited to lunchtimes and then tea-time/evening meal sales. It has no problem with alcohol being served for special one-off events either as detailed in the application.

However, the Village Council feels that licence to sell alcohol off the premises is completely inappropriate in this location and would not wish to see the premises acting as an 'off licence' selling alcohol to be consumed elsewhere and also would not wish to have any alcohol sold outside of the premises for any possible outside dining.

The Council objects to the sale of alcohol to be consumed off the premises and the premises acting as an off licence on two fronts – firstly that of child protection. The building is classed as a community hub, incorporating a coffee shop, small retail outlets and a community library. The sale of cans/bottles of alcohol to be taken off the premises whilst the library is open for community use would be a serious breach of child protection issues and must not therefore be allowed. There are plenty of other outlets in the village where alcohol can be purchased as a 'take out'. Also it leaves students from the local schools vulnerable due to the site location close to all local schools, a preschool adjacent to the site and a local children's play area. The Council members feel very strongly that the child protection issue is a vital and valid one to be taken into account in this residential area surrounded by schools.

The other area which the Council would argue against granting the licence in its entirety is for public safety and public nuisance. Noise levels from people accessing the building to purchase alcohol at the hours suggested would severely impact upon local residents and would also impact upon the Church immediately opposite the site. It would be inappropriate for alcohol consumption outside of this building also as it faces the Church in this historical conservation area when funerals, memorials, christenings and wedding services will be taking place. The potential for consumption of alcohol outside the premises is something which the Council feels should not be granted.

To sum up, the Council would not object to the granting of a license within the building for alcohol to be served with meals at lunchtimes and then tea-time onwards with meals inside the building and for special events on event evenings etc. But it strongly objects to the sale of alcohol to be consumed off the premises with the premises acting as an off-licence and for any alcohol to be consumed outside of the premises.

If you need any further information please let me know. The Village Council would like to be represented at a Hearing so if you could let me have details of when this will be please and how we go about attending I would be grateful.

Many thanks,

Kathy  
Clerk

Humberston Village Council