



**CITY OF DURHAM
PARISH COUNCIL**

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Dear Licensing team,

Minor variation application to add conditions to the existing premises licence to allow the delivery of alcohol - Fram Ferment Limited, 29 Front Street Framwellgate Moor Durham DH1 5EE.

With reference to the above licensing application, the City of Durham Parish Council wishes to object to this application under the objective of preventing crime and disorder.

This application seeks permission for a delivery service to allow customers to purchase alcohol via the applicant's website. Deliveries are proposed to be carried out by either members of staff or via a courier service up until 11pm.

It should be noted that this premises is based outside of the City of Durham parish area, however as deliveries will likely take place within our parish, the City of Durham Parish Council Licensing Committee felt it important to make a representation on this.

In reaching its decision, the Parish Council Licensing Committee had regard to the Licensing Act 2003, the Section 182 Guidance and the County Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 to 2024. The Parish Council Licensing Committee feels that, should this application be granted in its current form, it will fail to uphold the licensing objective of preventing crime and disorder.

Firstly, incidents of alcohol-fuelled, late-night crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour are increasing in Durham City (*Durham Constabulary report on alcohol related ASB incidents in Durham City centre, Durham City section data at December 2019*). The Parish Council feels that this application being granted in its current form would further exacerbate this issue.

Furthermore there is ample evidence of a nationwide increase in reports of alcohol related domestic abuse since the introduction of lockdown. This is expected to get worse as lockdown is eased. The phrase 'or any future events that mean they cannot visit the shop' implies that this minor variation in conditions will in effect permit an ongoing delivery business, not just a

solution to a temporary (lockdown) difficulty. If so, the Parish Council believes this should be made plain.

Secondly, whilst the Parish Council applauds the applicant's commitment to ensuring that nobody who appears drunk will be served alcohol, it is unclear from this application whether there will be a limit on the number of units of alcohol which will be permitted per order. The website should state not only any minimum purchase required for a delivery but also a maximum (agreed as reasonable between the applicant and the Licensing authority) number of units permitted per transaction.

The Parish Council is concerned that the application refers to 'deliveries to non- residential addresses e.g. places of work' and would like this condition to be made much tighter, preferably only to residential addresses. This would avoid the use of post code addresses like that of a (closed) local public building resulting in alcohol being consumed on the street.

Thirdly, whilst the applicant is not proposing a fast-turn around service such as those offered by companies such as Deliveroo, Uber Eats, etc. this must be reflected in a condition to the application to ensure that there must be a clearly stated lead in time between order and delivery, again to be agreed by negotiation

Furthermore, the measures proposed on age verification seem reasonable. That being the case, the applicant proposes to use the services of a (third party) courier service on occasion to facilitate the delivery of alcohol. There is no information in this application to advise what controls the applicant proposes to put in place to ensure that the courier service is complying with these procedures (e.g. maintaining a log book, Challenge 25, etc.) and therefore the use of a courier service must be prohibited by a condition to the license that only trained members of staff deliver the alcohol.

Finally, authorised staff, employed by Durham Police, must be given free access to all parts of the premises, at all reasonable times, for the purpose of inspection to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the license and to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives.

For all of the reasons above, the Parish Council feels that this application should be refused in its current form and suitable conditions must be applied.

Yours sincerely,

Adam Shanley
Clerk to the City of Durham Parish Council