

**RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

**RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY – Gwent Police**

<b>Name of Applicant</b>	Nakendram PIRATHEEPAN
<b>Premises</b>	Rhymney Garage, Victoria Road, Rhymney, NP22 5NU

<b>Your Name</b>	Pc2066 Adrian Jones
<b>Job Title</b>	Police Constable
<b>email Address</b>	Adrian.g.jones@gwent.pnn.police.uk
<b>Contact Telephone Number</b>	07464651981
<b>Date</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> July 2021

<b>Which of the four Licensing Objectives does your representation relate to?</b>	
<b>The Prevention of Crime and Disorder</b>	X
<b>Public Safety</b>	
<b>The Prevention of Public Nuisance</b>	X
<b>The Protection of Children from Harm</b>	X

<b>Please outline the reasons for your Representations</b>
<p>Nakendram Pirtaheepan is the applicant applying for a new license in relation to an off -license sales which will be for a 24hour period at Rhymney Garage, Victoria Rd, Rhymney Gwent. The premise is a petrol station which has a small forecourt and a small building which was used previously as a convenience store and café, the previous owner also had an off license granted with its permitted hours being 0730-1900hrs Monday-Friday and 0800-1400 Saturday-Sunday, the license having been surrendered a few months ago. The applicant is seeking to be granted an off sales license and this be operated from this building which will be refurbished into a convenience store.</p> <p>The premises was visited by Gwent police officers and the applicant was also present, the garage/building is situated in the main street of Rhymney and is close to residential properties to its side and opposite, as it is on the main street of the village there is also a library and car park also situated opposite. (Appendix 1).</p> <p>Gwent police would not support the application for the granting of the proposed licensed trading times of 24hrs and would advocate for the hours to be 0730-2300 daily.</p>

The reasons for this are:

The area has been identified for help via the Safer Streets Application and through its funding a multi-agency approach is sought based on the below:

Rhymney is a town located in the North of Caerphilly that has suffered several social economic factors and financial constraints over the last decade. The 2011 Census data state that some of the wards are the most deprived in the UK and Europe.

Such deprivation links to the fact that unemployment in the area sits at 6.6% which is higher than the Welsh average of 5.5%. This has led to increased Anti-social behaviour within the locality and has formed a breeding ground for organised criminality.

Secondary crime including violence with injury / public order and Anti-social behaviour are significantly higher than the force rate contributing to residents not feeling safe and heightened community tension.

The garage is located in the main street of the village and as such its location is unique to the village and is surrounded by residential properties, a library and a public car park directly opposite. Not only specific to Victoria Road but a few hundred yards away are several other off licensed premises and two on licensed premises. (Appendix 2)

These off licenses sales times end are predominately 2230/2300hrs each day. Rhymney area as a whole is highly deprived both financially and socially and suffers with a high level of anti- social behaviour, through checks carried out using Gwent Police systems over a six month period specifically relating to Victoria Road, High Street and Church Street there have been 215 calls with 56 of them (28%) relating to Anti-social behaviour and its impact on the local community, over a 3 month period total calls 139 of which 39 (28%) are again of Anti-social behaviour in their type.

The calls range in their timings from early to late evening, to the early hours of the morning and are of large congregations of youths causing alarm and distress, youths and vehicles congregating in car parks, the calls have become so evident to the Victoria Road, High Street and surrounding area that a **PROBLEM ORIENTATED POLICING PLAN (POP PLAN for short)** has been created to combat the high volume of calls made in the immediate area of the garage and its surrounding area. (Also included is a statement from the local Gwent Police Inspector Appendix 3 and Pop Plan area Appendix 4)

As the above shows the area is already suffering high levels of Anti-social behaviour and crime and Gwent police believe that should a 24 hour license be granted the ease of access to alcohol over a 24 hour period will have a further detrimental effect on the area, an increase in calls relating to Anti-social behaviour, the calls being made in the late evening to early hours of the day this will have negative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Gwent police support the representations made by Caerphilly Trading Standards.

**N.B.** If you make a representation you will be expected to attend the Licensing Sub-Committee and any subsequent appeal proceeding.

Please remember if you intend to make representations to copy this file to all other RA's

**What conditions could be added to the licence to remedy your representation that the Licensing Sub-Committee could take into account**

The suggested conditions and variations to the license are as follows:

The applicant has proposed: **CCTV in Operation.**

Gwent Police would like it to read:

CCTV shall be in use at the premises and covers the outside area of the premises

Where a CCTV system is to be installed, extended or replaced, it shall be to an appropriate standard as agreed with the Licensing Authority in consultation with the Police. Where a CCTV system is to be installed, it shall be fully operational by such date that the business is operating and the premises license is in place. Where existing CCTV systems are to be replaced or extended the replacement or extension to the system shall be concluded by the business trading date and its premises license is in place and the system be fully operational on that date;

The CCTV equipment shall be maintained in good working order

The premises licence holder shall ensure images from the CCTV are retained for a period of 30 days. This image retention period may be reviewed as appropriate by the Licensing Authority;

The correct time and date will be generated onto both the recording and the real time image screen;

If the CCTV equipment (including any mobile units in use at the premises) breaks down the Premises Licence Holder shall ensure the designated premises supervisor, or in his/her absence other responsible person, verbally informs the Licensing Authority and the Police as soon as is reasonably practicable. This information shall be contemporaneously recorded in the incident report register and shall include the time, date and means this was done and to whom the information was reported. Equipment failures shall be repaired or replaced as soon as is reasonably practicable and without undue delay. The Licensing Authority and the Police shall be informed when faults are rectified;

The premise licence holder shall ensure that there are trained members of staff available during licensable hours to be able to reproduce and download CCTV images into a removable format at

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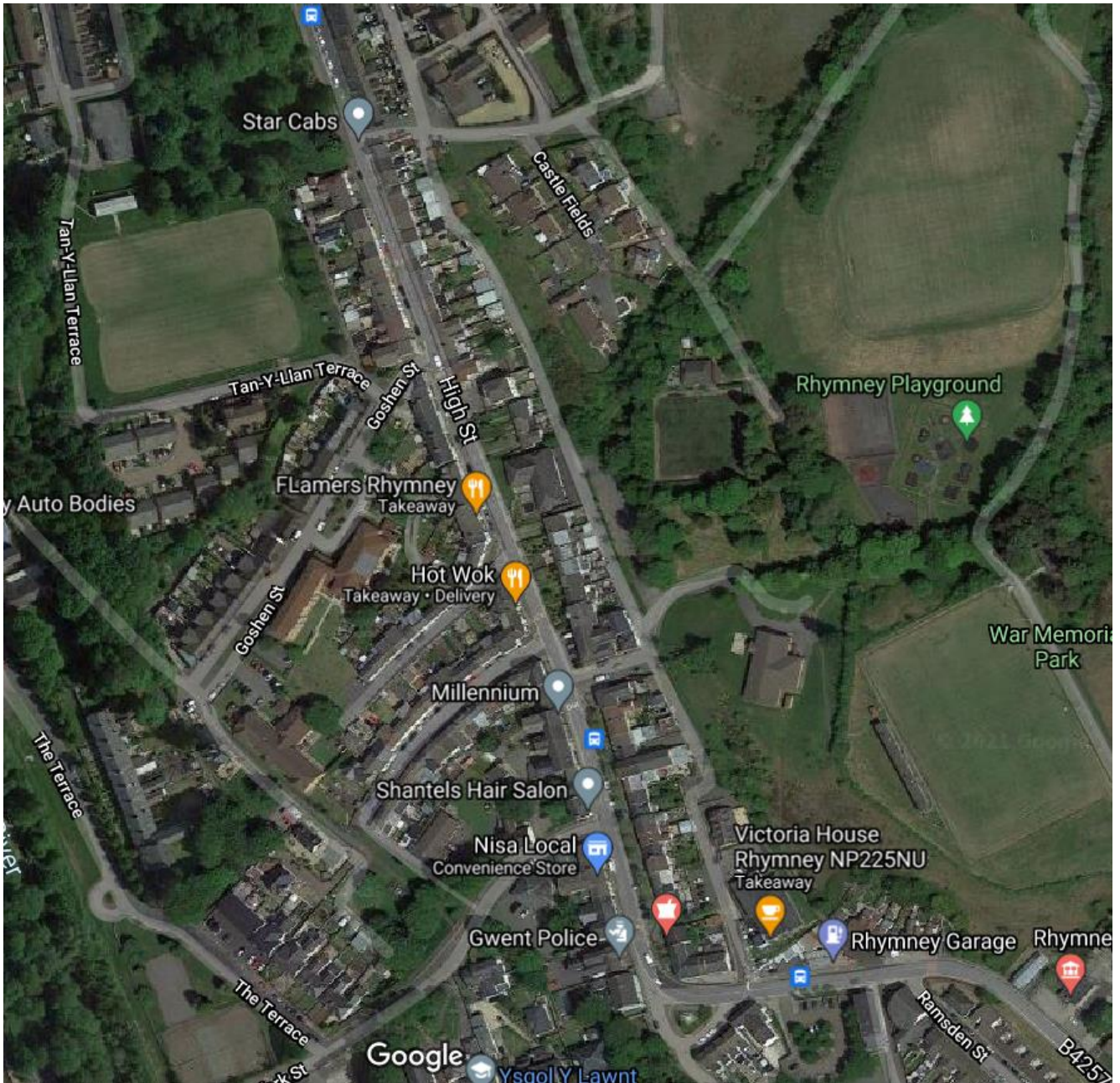
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	<p>the request of any authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or a constable;</p> <p>There shall be clear signage indicating that CCTV equipment is in use and recording at the premises</p> <p>The applicant has proposed: <b>A register of refusal of sales will be kept and maintained on the premises.</b></p> <p>Gwent Police would like it to read:</p> <p>The premises license holder shall require the designated premises supervisor, or in his/her absence other responsible person, to keep an Incident/refusals logbook in a bound book which full details of all incidents are recorded. This shall include details of any refused sales and shall give details of persons involved, incident description, time and date, actions taken and final outcome of the situation. This shall be completed as soon as possible and in any case no later than the close of business on the day of the incident. The time and date when the report was completed, by whom, is to form part of the entry. The logbook is to be kept on the premises at all times and shall be produced to an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or a constable when required. The records shall be kept for a 12 month period.</p> <p>The applicant has proposed: <b>Adequate bins will be available for customers to dispose of their litter.</b></p> <p>Gwent Police would like it to read:</p> <p>The premises licence holder shall ensure that a sufficient number of suitable bins are located in appropriate locations for the depositing of waste materials such as food wrappings, drinks containers, etc. by customers</p>
<p><b>Are you prepared to discuss these representations with the applicant by way of mediation?</b></p>	<p>Yes</p>

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## Gwent Police Appendix 1



**N.B.** If you make a representation you will be expected to attend the Licensing Sub-Committee and any subsequent appeal proceeding.


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## Gwent Police Appendix 2



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<b>WITNESS STATEMENT</b>	
<b>Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B</b>	
Occurrence No:	URN: <input type="text"/>
Statement of: Lysha Thompson	
Age if under 18    Over 18	Occupation: Police Officer
This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) 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 in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.	
E-Signature: 	Date: 12.07.21

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded  (supply witness details on MG09)

I am Inspector Lysha Thompson and I am currently the Geographic Inspector for the Caerphilly North Section of Gwent Police, covering the areas of Ystrad Mynach, Bargoed and Rhymney.

My fundamental role is to oversee Crime and Disorder across the Caerphilly North sections and ensure all plans and patrols are in place to keep these incidents to a minimum, facilitating long term plans with Partners to assist in this process and ensuring a minimal detrimental impact on the quality of life for residents who live within these sections.

In relation to the attached Licensing Application for Rhymney Garage I have considered the Policing challenges within the Rhymney area and the fundamental Objectives of The Licensing Act 2003.

Since my arrival in this post in May 2021 my team and resources have been significantly allocated to the Rhymney area to address an increase in both Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour across the Rhymney Wards.

I have been working closely with Partners to assist in the issues that contribute to the high number of calls in Rhymney and we have recently achieved significant funding through the Home Office Safer Streets initiative to further strengthen our efforts in driving down Crime and Disorder in Rhymney.

As a result of the challenges in this area and the efforts currently underway to stabilise crime and disorder I would therefore strongly object to any consideration for a 24-hour license for the purchase of alcohol in an establishment within the Rhymney section.

Signature 

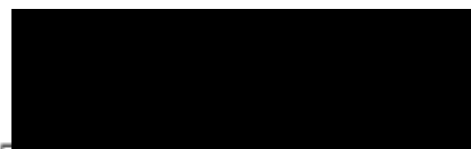
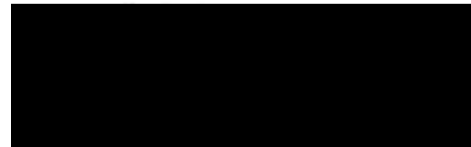
Continuation of Statement of: Lysha Thompson

Rhymney has a number of social and economic challenges and the Wards within the section are currently in the top 10 in Wales for economic deprivation. A number of agencies are working incredibly hard to break this cycle and provide both education and enforcement to the residents to break the cycle of reoccurring Anti-Social Behaviour and Crime.

In relation to this specific location of The Rhymney Garage at Victoria Road, the vicinity of High Street and Victoria Road has received 39 calls of Anti-Social Behaviour since 01.04.2021 alone.

With a link between alcohol and disorder I have very strong concerns that the successful application for an alcohol license at Rhymney Garage will be counter productive to the collaborative and tenacious work that the Police and supporting agencies currently have ongoing in the Rhymney area.

Therefore, in an attempt to uphold the fundamental Licensing principles I do not support this application.





Gwent Police Appendix 4

