

[REDACTED]

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

14 APR 2025 DMS

DISTRICT COUNCIL

The Licensing Section
East Cambs District Council
The Grange
Nutholt Lane
Ely CB7 4EE

April 9th 2025

Dear Sir,

I am writing to object to the alcohol license application for a proposed Budgens at 56 High Street, Bottisham CB25 9DA.

I live opposite to the site of the proposed Budgens, and am horrified at the thought of the increased noise, litter and traffic problems that such a store, particularly if licensed, would generate. With proposed opening hours of 6 am to 10 pm, seven days a week, this would be relentless. Of particular relevance to the application for a licence, please note the following points:

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

As you are no doubt aware, a Co-op exists only yards from the proposed Budgens. This is apparently prey to shoplifting to the horrifying extent of up to £1200 worth of goods every week, particularly of alcohol. A Budgens would undoubtedly attract similar crime. Moreover, the selling of alcohol would extend the likelihood of disorder to a hitherto quiet part of the High Street. The church is just along the road and the churchyard would be an ideal place for gatherings of drinkers, especially young and under-age drinkers.

Public Safety

Although there is parking available on the site, customers would no doubt be likely to park on the road outside to save themselves time. This part of the street already has cars parked in a way that often makes two way traffic impossible, and further parking would increase the likelihood of accidents, especially for neighbours who already habitually find it difficult to see past parked cars when they are turning out of their driveways. Moreover, customers turning out of the site would also be affected by the

lack of a clear view past parked cars, and so would present another possible cause of collisions, with both traffic and pedestrians being at risk.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

The noise generated by customers' vehicles, not to mention the potential for overly-vocal individuals partaking of the alcohol bought, would be highly disturbing to residents, especially early in the morning and late at night, with the likelihood of affecting their and their children's sleep. Moreover, the street and residents' driveways are already prey to the dropping of litter, and customers purchasing alcohol would be likely to add to this considerably by discarding bottles, cans and other detritus. The prospect of people congregating to drink alcohol outside residents' homes in this quiet part of the street is of great concern.

Protection of Children from Harm

The Co-op already has to put drastic measures in place to prevent pupils from Bottisham Village College from taking alcohol (and other items) from the shop when they leave school in the afternoon. A teacher has to be present to support shop staff and numbers of children entering at a time has to be severely limited, with their bags being left outside. Would Budgens be prepared to put similar measures in place, or would it be the obvious place for these pupils now to congregate and acquire alcohol through shoplifting or proxy purchases? The Primary School is not far from the proposed site. Young pupils passing on their way home may also be affected by the potential to acquire alcohol or at least to witness older pupils doing so and being adversely affected by it.

Alcohol can already be purchased at the Co-op, the Bell Public House and the Sports & Social Club, all within the same small area of the village. We do not need the litter, noise and potential anti-social behaviour that selling it at yet another outlet would be likely to generate in this part of the High Street.

I hope that the District Council will consider the negative and potentially dangerous impact that such a store would be likely to have on this residential part of the village and reject the application.

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Dr Sarah Maxwell.

Dr Sarah Maxwell