LICENSING ACT 2003

Stafford Gate Service Station, Creswell Grove, Stafford, ST18 9QP
Representation by Creswell Parish Council

Creswell Parish Council wishes to make a formal representation objecting to the above application and requests that the Licensing Authority refuse the application.

The Parish Council recognises that the premises forms part of a new petrol filling station and convenience store development and that the premises itself may operate on a 24-hour basis. The Council's objection is specifically concerned with the licensable activities sought, particularly the proposed supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Parish Council considers that the unrestricted availability of alcohol throughout the night at this location has the potential to undermine the licensing objectives for the following reasons.

1. Prevention of crime and disorder

Creswell is presently a low-crime residential community. As a baseline prior to the Stafford Gate Service Station becoming operational, Police.uk crime statistics for May, June and July 2026 record no reported crimes within Creswell village.

The Parish Council considers this relevant background when assessing the potential impact of introducing a new premises offering alcohol for sale 24 hours a day.

The Council is concerned that making alcohol available throughout the night, including during hours when the majority of other retail premises selling alcohol are closed, creates the potential to attract additional late-night activity to the location and consequently increases the risk of alcohol-related antisocial behaviour and disorder.

The Council is particularly concerned about the potential impact upon the existing character and amenity of the nearby residential community.

2. Public safety

The Parish Council is concerned that the availability of alcohol for purchase throughout the night has the potential to increase the risk of alcohol-related disorder, confrontation and threatening behaviour in and around the premises.

The fact that the premises is proposed to operate continuously means that these risks are not confined to normal daytime and evening retail hours but potentially extend throughout the night.

The Council considers that unrestricted 24-hour availability of alcohol therefore presents additional public-safety considerations which would not arise to the same extent if alcohol sales ceased at a reasonable hour.

3. Prevention of public nuisance

The Parish Council is particularly concerned about the potential for late-night and early-morning disturbance.

The availability of alcohol throughout the night has the potential to generate additional visits to the premises during hours when residents would reasonably expect disturbance to be at its lowest.

Potential sources of disturbance include customers arriving and departing by vehicle, vehicle engines and doors, conversations and raised voices, customers congregating at or near the premises, and additional activity associated with the collection or delivery of goods.

The Parish Council is also concerned about the potential for the premises and its parking/forecourt areas to become a gathering point for vehicles or groups during late-night and early-morning hours, with the associated potential for noise and disturbance.

The Council considers that the availability of alcohol on a 24-hour basis would introduce a materially different late-night use from the ordinary operation of a petrol filling station.

4. Protection of children from harm

The Parish Council acknowledges that appropriate age-verification procedures can be imposed upon the premises itself. However, the Council is also concerned about the increasing use of independent third-party courier and app-based delivery services by convenience retailers.

The Council understands that existing courier services already collect from Londis-branded stores and is concerned that, should alcohol purchased from these premises become available for collection and delivery by independent third parties, the premises licence holder may have limited practical control over the final handover of the alcohol to the recipient.

The Parish Council refers in this respect to Muhammad Shoaib v London Borough of Camden (13 August 2020), in which concerns regarding the use of independent couriers and the ability to ensure that alcohol was not ultimately supplied to minors or intoxicated persons were considered relevant to the licensing objectives.

The Council therefore considers that the possibility of third-party alcohol deliveries adds to its concerns regarding unrestricted 24-hour alcohol sales.

Conclusion

The Parish Council recognises that licensing decisions must be made on the individual merits of each application and that this is a new premises without an existing operating history.

Nevertheless, the Council considers that it is not necessary for alcohol to be available for purchase throughout the night simply because the petrol filling station and convenience store operate for 24 hours.

The Council considers that the cumulative risks identified above to the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and protection of children from harm are sufficient to justify refusal of the application as sought.

Creswell Parish Council therefore respectfully requests that the Licensing Authority refuse the application.

This representation was authorised by Creswell Parish Council’s Scheme of Delegation.

Nikola Evans
Clerk to Creswell Parish Council
On behalf of Creswell Parish Council