

# Lancashire Constabulary

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**Lancashire  
Constabulary**

police and communities together

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23<sup>rd</sup> May 2013

Dear Sir

**RE: APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE – SECTION 34 LICENSING ACT 2003.**

**Premises :- The Alpine Bar, Moorgate, Ormskirk**

The police have received an application for a variation of a premises licence at premises known as the Alpine Bar, Moorgate, Ormskirk.

The variation relates to two aspects of the current licence, the first being the extension of hours for the sale by retail of alcohol, the provision of regulated entertainment and closing hours of the premises on a Monday and Tuesday. The second is in relation to the removal of a condition attached to the licence which prevents entry to the premises by new customers after 01:00 hrs.

Within this document I will put forward the police response to the proposed variations and in order to do so will deal with the second aspect first.

The condition attached to the licence which restricts no entry to customers after 01:00 hrs was imposed on the licence whilst the Licensing Act was in its infancy. The rationale for this condition was to address concerns with premises being able to remain open for longer there could be a migration of customers which could lead to crime and disorder. It is apparent that these concerns do not seem to have materialised and as such the police would make no representations against the removal of this condition.

With regard the variation to extend the hours of licensable activity the police would make the following comments;

Alpine is located on Moorgate, Ormskirk, the area is considered to be the main "Hotspot" for crime and anti-social behaviour in Ormskirk town centre. As a result Moorgate and in particular the area around the Alpine requires disproportionate policing and CCTV monitoring, especially at closing time, when compared with other licensed premises in the area.

The police feel that the Alpine contributes to this by its apparent failure to manage the dispersal of customers when leaving the premises at closing time. Upon leaving customers congregate outside the premises and in the road causing an obstruction and putting people in danger from vehicles which are using the road.

This undermines the Public Safety aspect of the Licensing objectives. This can be evidenced from CCTV footage from 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> March and 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April.

This issue has been raised with the operators along with concerns that the door supervision at the premises were not managing the customers and the operators advised they would place barriers outside the premises to deter customers from congregating in the road. This has been done however this has not alleviated the problem as customers just walk around them and continue to stand in the road. This can be evidenced from CCTV footage of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> May.

As is well publicised, Ormskirk Borough Council is currently in a consultation period relating to the proposal for an Early Morning Restriction Order (EMRO) with the recommendation that all licensed premises in the town should close at midnight. This has been proposed as a result of residents complaining of being disturbed in the early hours by what is perceived to be students returning from a night out in the town centre. The suggested contributory factor for this is as a result of bars being open till the early hours of the morning during weekdays.

It is clear that this application is an attempt to target the student population and although the police have not lead on the EMRO, the police feel that the granting of this variation could compound the issues which lie at the heart of the EMRO proposal which is currently a very emotive and contentious issue for Ormskirk.

Over the previous 12 months there have been a total of 36 crimes reported which mention Alpine as the place of offence, this is significantly more than other premises in the town centre. Of the 36 crimes 32 can be directly linked to these premises. Further scrutiny shows that of these 36 crimes, 22 are assaults and 8 are thefts. All but 3 of these crimes have been committed in the early hours of the morning mainly towards the end of the week. The police would not wish to see these issues translated to weekdays where it would be difficult to provide the same level of policing as currently required in the area at weekends.

The police would also raise concerns regarding the targeting of the student population by the premises and the associated advertising of drinks promotions. There have previously been concerns raised with the operators as to the nature of drinks promotions and the drinking activities of customers. The operators have given assurances that this has now stopped and that this activity is not taking place. However the police would say that the premises appears to continue to promote images of irresponsible drinking, this can be seen by a recent Facebook entry relating to the premises which says;

“Anyone fancy waking up tomorrow somewhere random, feelin’ like shit with a vague memory of dirty house music???? Maybe we can help you out...”

The police feel that this type of advertising, in conjunction with the perceived target audience, the problems encountered by residents and the failure to adequately manage customers leaving the premises would lead to an increase in crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour.

The police would therefore make representations against the granting of the variation to extend the hours as it would undermine the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Public Nuisance Licensing Objectives.

Yours faithfully



Police Sergeant 1506  
(Licensing)