

Dear whomever this may concern,

I am the owner of 52 Church Street Burnley, holding an Off Licence. When the gentleman of 54 Church Street basement unit began his work, I helped him in any way that I could. I asked him what sort of business he wanted to implement, and he stated that he wanted to do food, confectionary, and soft drinks. Despite having said this he applied for an Off Licence. His approach as a businessman was unsatisfactory as he was trying to intimidate me by saying he would get 'trailers full of alcohol and this will affect your business'. I do not object the opening of the business as I supported him in any way that I could, however due to his attitude and unprofessionalism, I was disheartened and decided that I was no longer going to help him. This type of behaviour damages community spirit. I have run a successful business as a respectful owner for the previous 29 years and it has come to my realisation that competition can cause conflicts in our local community. Burnley is a small town and is not comparable to bigger cities such as Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds etc where this gentleman has opened previous stores. The way in which he began to tackle the differences seems as though he was aiming to dominate the situation in a very negative manner. As a local community, we all work well alongside one another and this is not the type of behaviour we intend to welcome.

A segment of land allocated behind 52 Church Street belongs to me and as an ongoing refurbishment of the building, I intend to fence off my segment of land which will mean that there will be no parking space for his business. As a result of this, for delivery purposes the main road will have to be used which would cause traffic obstruction, dangerous vicinity due to schools being located close by and it would cause upset for surrounding businesses. As the unit follows off from an unlevelled, steep surface, forklift trucks will be needed for the transport of goods and this will therefore cause an excessive amount of disruption in the surrounding area.

As I mentioned above, I have lived in this area for almost 30 years, and I have never come across a situation like this before. I am apprehensive that the gentlemen has not taken public safety, prevention of public nuisance, crime and disorder into consideration. We have experienced high levels of community cohesion and I would not appreciate this to be threatened. The atmosphere in the local community has been high-spirited and his high morale could be damaging for the community members.

I am hoping this issue is resolved fairly and a decision is founded where everyone's needs are considered fairly. I will look forward to hearing from you soon.

Kind Regards Mubashar Lone