

**From:** <licensing@cambridge.gov.uk>  
**To:** <licensing@cambridge.gov.uk>  
**Date:** 13/12/2012 14:57  
**Subject:** WK/201258160 :

Address: Norfolk Street Newsagents, 92 Norfolk Street, Cambridge,  
Cambridgeshire, CB1 2LF

Sarah Brown  
23 Ravensworth Gardens Cambridge  
CB1 2XL

Norfolk Street and the surrounding area has a chronic problem with alcohol-related antisocial behaviour. Tackling this problem requires cooperation from licensees in fulfilling their responsibility to not supply alcohol to those already drunk. Street drinking in this and nearby locations, such as Mill Road Cemetery, occurs throughout the day and a constant supply of alcohol to those engaged in street drinking and associated antisocial behaviour is fuelling the problem. I concur with the police that the premises have not been operated in accordance with the council's licensing objectives, and that sale of alcohol from this site has not been managed responsibly. I request that the licence be refused. I would like to speak at committee on this application and request confirmation of receipt of this representation.

77 NORFOLK STREET  
CAMBRIDGE CB1 2LD



9 December 2012

Dear Sir,

I am writing regarding the shop News and More, at 92 Norfolk Street. It is a store that I use daily, and find it not only useful but pleasant, friendly and responsible. I understand that, owing to the amount of drunkenness in this area, there is a question as to whether the store is to retain its license to sell alcohol. It seems to me – as a teetotaler – that it certainly should keep its license. It is no longer possible to buy the stronger forms of beer, etc. there, and the number of early morning drinkers who used to go to News and More for their liquor has now decreased to zero, so far as I can tell. But it is essential for the store that it retains its liquor license, and since it is so vital a part of the community I do urge you to renew it.

Yours faithfully,



Michael Tanner, M.A., Ph.D (Cantab.)



Licensing Section,  
Environmental Services,  
Cambridge City Council,  
P.O. Box 700,  
Cambridge CB1 0JL

**To whom it may concern**

12.12.12

**Mr. Shailesh Patel : Renewal of Premises Licence (Norfolk Street Newsagents).**

I am writing to request that Mr. Patel's licence should be renewed . His shop is extremely valuable to the community, and I have never witnessed or heard of any disturbances there. I am a resident of Cambridge and have lived and worked in this area for thirty-four years, as a playworker, student, musician and Open University Lecturer . I am now retired and attending the Cambridge School of Art (Anglia Ruskin University, East Road), and I generally go to Norfolk Street Newsagents for newspapers and snacks. The service is always friendly and pleasant.

There are a number of other places nearby where it is perfectly easy to buy alcohol: Tesco, Waitrose, The Man on the Moon, The Alexandra. I am sure that he would not sell it to people who had obviously been drinking.

I was most impressed when he showed me the photocopy of his petition, which unfortunately I missed.

It is important that small shops are not lost in the advance of the large organisations.

I hope you will renew his licence forthwith.

Yours sincerely,

Joy Rutherford

75a Stanley Road,  
Cambridge CB5 8LF

11 December 2012

Licensing Team  
Cambridge City Council  
PO Box 700  
Cambridge  
CB1 0JH

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to register my support for the alcohol license application at Norfolk Street Newsagents.

The Patels are responsible shopkeepers and run a wonderfully useful little shop. I have shopped there for twelve years or so, and have never encountered any trouble whatsoever during that timespan, either from the proprietors or from other patrons.

It would be a great shame – as well as quite an annoyance to those of us locals who may wish to pop round to buy a few items, quite possibly including a nice bottle – if we were to be forced to remove any part of our custom from a local business and give it instead to a great corporate behemoth like Tesco or Asda! Seems like quite a counterproductive idea really, wouldn't you say?

In sum: I support the application, and look forward to the continuation of the provision by Norfolk Street Newsagents of all our local corner shop needs.

Sincerely,



Anne-Lise Heinrichs  
5 York Terrace

16 York Terrace, Cambridge CB1 2PR



12<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

I wish to support Mr Patel and his family who run Norfolk News and More in Cambridge as I understand their licence for selling alcohol is under review. I have a great deal of respect for Mr and Mrs Patel and I know they are very careful who they sell it to. I understand that they have stopped selling cider, for instance, to local homeless people.

It would be a huge disappointment were Mr and Mrs Patel unable to continue trading if their licence was revoked. They provide a wonderful service to the local community.

Please consider this when reviewing their licence.

Yours sincerely,



Patricia Aske (Mrs)



173 Sturton Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2QH  
10/12/2012

Dear Sir or Madam,


I am writing regarding the alcohol licence for the ~~newsagent~~ newsagent in Norfolk Street. This is my local shop and one I have used frequently for the last 12 years.

Sam and his family, the proprietors of this business are extremely kind and professional people and their shop is a real asset to our community. To hold them responsible for public drunkenness in our area strikes me as extremely unfair. They do not sell strong lager. 10 minutes walk in one direction is Asda and 10 minutes walk in the other direction is Waitrose, which both sell significantly higher amounts of alcohol at significantly cheaper prices. Targeting Sam's alcohol licence but not those of these supermarkets suggests an inconsistency in how small businesses are treated compared to large ones.

Sam and his family are not to blame for public drunkenness in our area. Denying them a licence would, in my view, not ameliorate this situation. It would simply make it harder for this family to make a living. It would also be more inconvenient for me on the rare occasions when I want to buy wine or beer.

As a local resident, I strongly support their ~~to~~ holding an alcohol licence.

Yours sincerely,

  
ADAM WOODSFORD

02-12-2012


Tina Miller  
72 Akeman St  
Cambridge  
CB3-3HG

Dear Sir/Madam

I feel I must write and let you know how I felt when I read in the Cambridge News on November 24<sup>th</sup> that Mr Patel might have his alcohol license taken away from his shop,

I find it so sad that this might happen because of some irresponsible people. I have seen in his shop he has removed some alcohol to prevent alcoholics using his shop.

Mr Patel and his family are good hard working people. My mother has her papers delivered by him, which is a excellent service. It would be a shame to stop him from serving alcohol

Yours  


Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
PO Box 700  
Cambridge CB1 0JA

Ref. Norfolk Street Newsagents (News & More)  
Re Review/ Renewal of the Drinks Licence

I write to support the Newsagent retaining his licence. I understand that the review has been requested by parents of St Matthew's School, supported by Councillors/Governors of the school.

The grounds for concern are the presence of street drinkers close to the school.

1. Street drinkers are, and have been, a problem around the city for many years and they also move from place to place. The availability of drink from particular outlets does not appear to affect where they congregate.
2. In this area the attraction is the Mill Road Cemetery, which gives them a place to gather (even camp and light fires). I am aware that, on any day, a large number of cans and bottles may be found around the bins in the cemetery. I am sure that examination of these would reveal that the source of supply is widespread. I believe that the drinkers can also use 'supporters' to buy drinks for them.
3. The proprietor of NSN has tried to comply with all the rules and wisely decided not to stock strong canned ales and cider. the shop carries a good stock of all types of goods; its market is much more for the local citizen on his way home rather than for street drinkers or rowdy binge drinkers. The proprietor has been able to consult with local Community Support Officers and has taken advice. He would, I'm sure appreciate advice and support, rather than criticism and threats to his business.
4. The Adena Mini Market. I note that their application for a licence has been refused. I have no views on this business because I have no real experience of it. However, the business is in an area with already agreed restrictions on the sale of alcohol. I was, however, moved to write this letter largely because I was leafleted three times in as many days prior to their hearing. I enclose samples of the letters. Cars over a wide area were also leafleted, even outside of NSN. I began to suspect a conspiracy to remove the licence from NSN in favour of East Road, but their effort was perhaps an act of desperation. Their situation is very different from NSN. Their location opposite Anglia Ruskin University would suggest that they could survive as a food shop with snack goods without alcohol sales. It is doubtful if that applies to NSN, which is in a more secluded position for trade than other shops in Norfolk Street.
5. I have lived in the area for 40 years and my family have patronised the store throughout that time, albeit in a modest way, mainly purchasing newspapers and sundries and occasionally alcohol. The store has always been well run over the years by a number of proprietors. I know that the previous proprietor was particularly troubled by early morning visitors, when 'Jimmy's' opened its doors. It may have contributed to his decision to move on.
6. I appreciate that the number of outlets for alcohol needs to be reduced because of both binge drinking and street drinking. Other Authorities (locally

Peterborough and Suffolk) are, I know, following this process, but a blanket prohibition over a small area is not likely to do more than eliminate small traders and lead to a loss of competition.

7. I do not believe that NSN is guilty of supplying binge drinkers, and does not, as far as I can see, supply to students from ARU. It does have many parents of St Matthew's school children as customers. Rather than threaten a small shop because of a small minority of drinkers, why not supply all shops with a blacklist of individuals, on an on-going basis, who should not be served.

D Sanders  
145 Gwydir Street  
Cambridge CB1 2LJ

Licensing Section, 1092  
Environmental Services,  
Cambridge City Council,  
10 Box 700  
Cambridge CB1 0TH

6a Carlow,  
Off ~~St.~~ St. Matthews St,  
Cambridge,  
CB1 1QH

8/12/12

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you re the Newspaper/convenience shop on Norfolk Street, Cambridge, owners Mr & Mrs S Patel, in light of the possible revocation of their alcohol licence as per the article in the Cambridge Evening News of Saturday November 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 in which several readers had requested that the licence not be renewed because of the number of street drinkers and subsequent problems in this area.

I understand a visit was made to the premises and that Mr Patel was informed that the licence may not be granted when it is reviewed by yourselves. I would like to point out that I have lived at the above address since 1989 and have not seen any increase in the problems during this time. Yes, there are street drinkers (though more problems with drugs!) but Mr & Mrs Patel will not sell to anyone who goes into the shop who is drunk or disorderly. They cannot be responsible for what goes on out in the streets of Cambridge. The City Council has consistently refused to give the Police further powers to tackle the problem of street drinkers so perhaps it would be wise to sort that out before preventing a respectable and responsible

2 of 2

couple from continuing their business as they have been since taking over. Mr & Mrs Patel are also diligent when youngsters come in for cigarettes - no 10, no sale. I have witnessed this myself often as I use this shop a lot, as do many other people who cannot, for various reasons, get to larger shops. In fact, I think you should be looking more closely at the availability of cheap drink at Supermarkets and the underlying problems of why people become drug addicts and alcoholics in the first place. This would serve not just Norfolk Street, but the whole of Cambridge and subsequently the country as a whole. This would seem much more reasonable than taking the trade away from ~~an~~ an extremely diligent family because of a few complaints over a number of years.

I remain

Yours faithfully

MS. L J WATKINS

address as above

CC. To Mr Patel

29 Norfolk Terrace,  
Cambridge CB1 2NG.

8 December 2012

Licensing Section,  
Environmental Services,  
Cambridge City Council,  
PO Box 700,  
Cambridge CB1 0JH.

Re Review of alcohol license to Norfolk News & Moore in Norfolk Street

Dear Sir/Madam,

As I have been away from Cambridge, it has only just come to my notice that Shailesh Patel is threatened with losing his alcohol license for the above local shop.

I have, till now, opposed granting licenses to Tesco Express and the small independent shops in the area, since I have been aware of the problems with street-drinkers and I also considered such licenses unfair competition to Shailesh Patel's business. Norfolk News & Moore predated all the other small shops and I should be very sorry to see it close.

While I acknowledge there has been a real problem with street-drinkers, I believe Mr Patel has taken serious steps to deter them from coming, and since I returned to Cambridge about two weeks ago I have not seen a single one either in or outside the shop. Were he to lose his license to continue to sell alcohol, I am afraid the shop would close – a loss to the community and, most importantly of all, an end to his livelihood. I believe he has been really shocked to find himself the centre of residents' disapproval and is determined to do anything to reassure them and to continue trading.

I should add, perhaps, that I do not drink myself, though guests occasionally use the shop to buy alcohol. In these difficult economic times, I am simply concerned that a small business might be forced to close when there could be a less harsh decision than the repeal of a licence.

Yours faithfully,



Jane O'Neill

The Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
P.O. Box 700  
CAMBRIDGE  
CB1 0JH

Mr. R.B.G. Lister  
2 Bray  
CAMBRIDGE  
CB1 1QJ

10<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: News and More, Norfolk Street, Cambridge**

I was most surprised to learn that Mr. Patel, proprietor of the above business, might have his alcohol license revoked. I have lived nearby for nigh on twenty years and have never once encountered any drunken or anti-social behaviour near this shop.

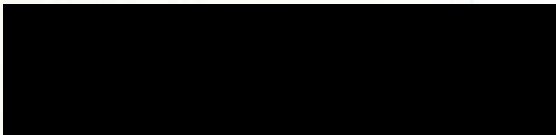
There is, however, often such behaviour outside and around the 'Man On The Moon' public house, with noise going on (especially on performance nights) until around 1.00am – will their license be revoked?

Also, there is another shop on Norfolk Street which also sells alcohol, and also stays open later than Mr. Patel's – why have they not been threatened with license revocation?

In my opinion, Mr. Patel runs a good shop which is a boon to the local community and he would not sell alcohol to aggressive drunkards.

If his license is revoked, which I sincerely hope will not happen, any supposed problems would merely move elsewhere. Making street drinking illegal is the way forward, depriving a man of his living is not.

Yours faithfully,



R.B.G. Lister

4<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: "News and More" Newsagents in Norfolk Street run by Mr and Mrs Patel**

I was dismayed to read in the Cambridge Evening News that the police are applying to revoke the alcohol licence that Mr Patel currently holds due to complaints from residents about the street people being in Norfolk Street. As a local resident and daily user of the shop I would like to make the following observations:

Firstly, Mr and Mrs Patel are a honest, hardworking and charming couple who provide a valuable resource to the local community, many of whom are elderly. They do not sell large amounts of alcohol and do nothing to encourage the street people to enter their shop unlike the previous owner; in fact they have removed strong alcohol – the preferred drink of street people - from their shelves. Any street people who do go into the shop are well behaved, not at all intimidating and do not hang around outside; in addition they will use the shop to buy other items e.g. bread.

Secondly, I feel it is wrong that Mr and Mrs Patel should be penalised for a problem that is not their making and over which they have no control. Many of the behaviour problems exhibited by the street people relate to drugs as well as/rather than alcohol. They are seen in Norfolk Street because it is part of their "throughfare" between Fitzroy/Burleigh Street and the cemetery. The cemetery and the grassed area at the bottom of Norfolk Street (near the traffic lights) are places they like to congregate and this will not be stopped if Mr Patel can no longer serve alcohol. In fact many of the people who do congregate here do not even use his shop. I am aware of this as part of my work involves the Magistrates' Court.

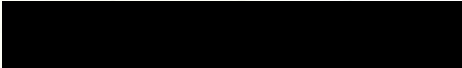
Thirdly, I also feel it is wrong that local people should be penalised by not being able to purchase a bottle of wine or some beers at this shop. They will be forced to go to a supermarket and this will stop them buying other items from Mr Patel which will adversely affect him.

I would strongly urge the council to allow Mr and Mrs Patel to keep their alcohol licence at the hearing on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

Please contact me if I can be of any further help

Yours faithfully

  
Sue McLean (Mrs)

10 Sleaford Street  


10<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
PO Box 700  
Cambridge CB1 0JH

Mr T & Mrs S Bass  
59 Gwydir Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2LG

Dear Sirs

**Re: Norfolk Street Newsagents, 92 Norfolk Street, Cambridge – Mr S Patel**

We write in support of Mr Patel's wish to retain his alcohol licence after recent complaints about the number of homeless people buying alcohol from the shop and causing a nuisance in the area.

Mr Patel has stopped purchasing alcohol of a high alcohol content and will no longer serve anyone who is or appears to be drunk.

We have noticed recently that there are not the people hanging around the shop as there was previously, and would ask that Mr Patel be allowed to keep his licence so long at this continues.

This shop has been open for many years and is used by many local residents.

Yours faithfully



Sue Bass  
For Tim and Sue Bass

[REDACTED]

Unit 4, Robert Davies Court, Nuffield Road, Cambridge  
Email: [REDACTED]

5<sup>th</sup> December 2012.

Licensing Section Environmental Services,  
Cambridge City Council,  
PO Box 700,  
Cambridge.  
CB1 0JH.

Dear Sir.

Re: Norfolk News & More.

Having worked in premises located in Edward Street, behind Mr Patel's shop since 1984 until this year, i have known Mr Patel for the 7-8 years he has been in business here.

I have always found him and his wife to be honest and reliable people, always friendly to shoppers, trying to help the community when they can.

The area has always had a problem with undesirable characters being around, even before Mr Patel received his drink licence. We have unfortunately a link between Mill Road and Norfolk Street via the Cemetery, which allows people access to this area very easily.

We also have a very close area connection with Jimmy's shelter where contact is made with friends or associates, very often meetings are had in the fine weather on the grass areas around.

If the licence is removed from Mr Patel's shop, the problem of aggressive drinking and unsociable behaviour from the people will not be reduced, strictly because of the location we are in.

Mr Patel's business will only suffer more in this present economic downturn if the licence is removed, as the local people will not use the shop so often for their little needs, causing more financial stress to Mr Patel and his family.

Stricter Street measures are needed not just in this area but around Cambridge, to reduce the number of groups that are around on the Streets causing upset, public nuisance and frightening behaviour to normal people.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

C. Kostecki.

[REDACTED]

To: Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridgeshire City Council

06/12/2012

PO Box 700  
Cambridge  
CB1 0JH

From: Ant Poussa  
6 Upper Gwydir Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2LR

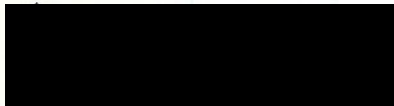
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing with regard to the article in the Cambridge News, on page 11, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2012, pertaining to the proposed cancellation of the alcohol license of Norfolk News & More on Norfolk Street, Petersfield.

As a resident of Upper Gwydir Street and, prior to that, of Milford Street, I have lived within two blocks of Norfolk News & More for 6 years now, and, as a member of the local community, I can honestly say that I have never witnessed any kind of misdemeanours or anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of nor in any way relating to Norfolk News & More. Nor have I, as a father of two small children, ever experienced any unsavoury incidents around the shop or, for that matter, anywhere else on Norfolk Street, to a greater degree that I have anywhere else in central Cambridge. Neither, frequenting the shop almost on daily basis, have I ever witnessed any dubious goings on in the shop with regard to selling alcohol. On the contrary, on numerous occasions, I have witnessed the proprietor refusing to sell alcohol to intoxicated customers.

Norfolk News & More have my unwavering support in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Ant Poussa

4 December 2012

24 Petworth St  
Cambridge CB1 2LY


Licensing Department  
Guildhall  
Cambridge

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I read with concern the complaints that have been made against Mr. Patel, who is our local newsagent. I have lived at the above address for ten years, and I regularly shop on Norfolk Street. I have never seen men drunk on the street, so any such cases must have been rare. Certainly, such anti-social behaviour should not be blamed on Mr. Patel since there is no evidence that he sold the alcoholic beverages those accused of drunkenness.

For those who live in this area without cars, the services provided by Mr. Patel are essential. His stock is wide enough that it is possible to find goods not easily found elsewhere in the area. He deserves our support.

Very truly yours,



Ann Eljenholm Nichols

38 Gwydir Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2LL

7 December 2012

Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
PO BOX 700  
Cambridge  
CB1 0JH

Dear Sir/Madam

**Review of Premises Licence: Norfolk Street Newsagents (News and More) 92 Norfolk Street,  
Cambridge CB1 2LF**

We are writing to object to the withdrawal of the Premises Licence to the News and More Newsagents at 92 Norfolk Street, Cambridge.

Although we realise that there is a nuisance problem caused by people drinking alcohol during the day in the Norfolk Street area, we do not think that the withdrawal of the News and More Premises Licence will improve the situation. There will still be people buying alcohol elsewhere in the Norfolk Street/East Road area who will continue to cause problems. It therefore seems unfair to punish one particular business if other nearby shops and business continue to sell alcohol. The withdrawal of the licence will inevitably damage the business and could mean the closure of an extremely useful local shop.

We hope that you will take our objections into consideration.

Yours faithfully



Antonio Ciruela and Christine Newman

Re-Support of the License of Norfolk Street  
Newsagents, "News & More", Petersfield  
License-holder - Mr. Shailesh Patel (Sam)

To/ The Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
P.O. Box 700  
Cambridge CB1 0JH

51, Norfolk Terrace  
Cambridge  
CB1 2NG

1-12-2012

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to support the license holder of "News & More" Norfolk St. Mr. Shailesh Patel (Sam) in relation to the recent 'Review' of the license reported (in the Cambridge Evening News) & in the Town Crier on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

I was concerned to read the report which surprisingly attributed problems experienced in the area, to this shop. I disagree that this is the case.

Mr. Shailesh Patel (Sam) is a hardworking, reasonable and valued shop-keeper in this community. As regards the alcohol license he is a very responsible and capable person to manage the license. For example I observed he had clear notices up, inside the shop, at the time of Strawberry Fair, limiting the sale of alcohol that weekend, (as requested by the Police on the day) which then they enforced in the shop.

His approach is firm but fair with customers regarding alcohol sales and he will refuse to serve a person he believes to be drunk.

Sam works willingly along with the Police (the licensing authorities and community leaders) and already complied and adapted by listening to, and understanding their concerns. For example He subsequently adjusted by removing strong drink from sale in the shop when asked to, by the Police, as of 16<sup>th</sup> November this year.

As a resident I go in the shop every day and appreciate the friendly service. I would like to continue to be able to buy the odd bottle of wine or can, and I hope Sam will be granted a license in the future.

I believe the withdrawal of his license will be detrimental to his business and "News e More" may suffer as a consequence. I would like to see Sam and Sangita carry on trading in the shop and continue to be an asset to this area, with a license.

Removal of his license would be an unduly harsh decision, and I respectfully hope you will take my comments into consideration and support Sam's license. Yours faithfully

K. Mary Croston

85 Norfolk Street  
Cambridge CB1 2LD

Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
PO Box 700  
Cambridge CB1 0JH.

5<sup>th</sup>. December 2012.

Dear Sirs

Norfolk News & More Store, Norfolk Street, Cambridge

I write in connection with the reports in the Cambridge Evening News of police proposals to seek "a review" of the licence of the Norfolk News & More Store in Norfolk Street.

I have been a resident of the neighbourhood for 28 years, initially for 4 years in Mill Street and for the remainder in Norfolk Street virtually opposite the store some 40 paces away.

The City has its problems with binge drinking and the consumption of alcohol – we have only to look at our local pub The Man on the Moon for examples of noise, vomiting and urinating in the street and other chronic and disorderly behaviour to the dismay of local residents.

Fortunately (or unfortunately), this seems to be a problem in all large towns and Cities and not unique to Cambridge so the City is not an exception in this regard.

However, the Mill Road/East Road axis (and all points in between) has an additional problem associated with drug taking, begging and street drinking – reported by Cnlr Tim Bick to have one of the highest level of such problems in the City. In particular the Mill Road Cemetery, the Mill Road toilets, the East Road underpass and the various other undercrofts (St. Matthews Street car parks, Cambridge Seminars College etc) form a haven for those inclined to such antisocial behaviour which has blighted the neighbourhood for many years.

It is difficult to believe that our neighbourhood has the monopoly in the City of places for the chronically disadvantaged to sleep rough so the juxtaposition of our preponderance of drug takers, beggars and the street drinkers and the location of the homeless shelter in East Road which opened in 1995 must raise questions – though no doubt it is politically incorrect to think this – let alone say it.

Drug taking, begging and street drinking are public health problems which should be tackled with care and concern. Had we the income equivalent to that of the Sultan of Brunei I am sure that they would be but in the absence of such funds they default to law enforcement problems.

To progress the discussion of the Norfolk News & More Store in Norfolk Street, we must side-line the problem of the drug addicts and the beggars. They will continue to remain with us regardless of the outcome of the renewal of the stores off-licence.

The City has "played" with the problem of our street drinkers over many years in the form of Dispersal Orders and Designated Public Places Orders. In the past, such Orders have been made to enable the police to confiscate alcohol from troublemakers and to break up groups of troublemakers but the perception is that our councillors seem to prefer discussing such measures rather than implementing them to the confusion of residents.

In the absence of adequate powers and resources to enable them to address the problem of the street drinkers, the police have resorted to objecting to applications for liquor licences in the neighbourhood. Tesco Express in East Road and Mill Road, International Supermarket in East Road and the former Mikes Bikes in Mill Road have had applications for licences refused and Adona in East Road is currently suffering objections to its application for a licence.

Of course, controlling the outlets where drink can be acquired will make it more difficult for the street drinkers to acquire alcohol but it does not stop them from doing so and does not address our side-lined drug addicts and beggars.

I find it unconscionable that the retailers in our neighbourhood should be used as a scape goat in this regard in the absence of councillors' unwillingness to utilise Dispersal Orders and Designated Public Places Orders – powers which would enable the police to address the problems at their source and deal with the offenders appropriately.

However, what perplexes me even more is the situation in relation to Norfolk News & More in Norfolk Street.

This outlet has been serving the local community (including supplying us with our wines and spirits) for as long as I can remember. All super strength beers, lagers and ciders are now off their shelves, cutting off the street drinker's supplies and, living virtually opposite, I am not aware of any recent unsavoury incidents or nuisance.

The proprietor – a sole trader - has addressed the authorities concerns arising from street drinkers and I find it reprehensible that he should be pilloried, his livelihood prejudiced and the community snubbed by the non-renewal of their liquor licence.

May I digress for a moment? Ipswich had a similar problem with street drinkers and, in September of this year, they were the first in the Country to introduce a "Reducing the Strength" Campaign whereby off licence premises selling liquor volunteered to remove all super strength beers, lagers and ciders from their shelves. Since its inception, over one half of the off licence retailers in Ipswich have signed up to the scheme.

Obviously it is early days but all initial signs are really encouraging – such that the authorities have waived their fee if a licence holder is prepared to accept a formal amendment to their licence prohibiting the sale of such intoxicants.

Given that there is a successful voluntary scheme (with the option of making it mandatory by a condition on their licence) and given that Norfolk News & More in Norfolk Street has already voluntarily subscribed to it, it beggars belief that objections to the renewal of the licence should continue to the prejudice of the community and the livelihood of the proprietor.

Have no doubt, whether the Norfolk News & More licence is refused or renewed (whether conditionally or otherwise), our friendly neighbourhood drug addicts and beggars will still be with us – as will the street drinkers supplied from elsewhere.

Will the store continue to be blamed?

Specifically, failure to renew the Norfolk News & More licence and generally, the failure to support our local retail outlets by granting new licences using street drinkers as their excuse displays moral turpitude on the part of our Councillors. They have the authority to make the requisite orders to rid our neighbourhood and the whole City of street drinkers which they continue to fail to utilise. They have the example of the Ipswich scheme which would not require such orders and an allocation of minimal, if any, resources but rather than doing something constructive to address the problem they continue to bemoan the state of affairs and use the Norfolk News & More store and our other off licence outlets as a whipping boy.

I sincerely hope we can see an end to this misdirection and witness instead some direct action to address the problem which does not prejudice our whole neighbourhood in general and our extremely hard working off licence retailers in particular.

In short, it would be pernicious if the Norfolk News & More store off licence was not renewed.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the sender.

D A Cowper.

6 St Matthews St.,  
Cambridge  
CB1 2LT  
5<sup>nd</sup> December 2012

Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
P.O.Box 700  
CB1 0JH

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Norfolk St. Newsagents: Licence for Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

I write to support the current situation, whereby the sale of high alcohol drinks is permitted.

I am informed that there have been complaints from one or more people that the street drinkers are seen as a nuisance.

I wish to refute this allegation; indeed the odd time there has been a street person in this shop I have been impressed by their quiet and courteous demeanour.

As a local resident who likes to purchase wine, cider or beer, I find this shop close by and ideal for my needs.

In 24 years of living here, frequently walking in Norfolk St. and past St. Matthews school; I have never observed street people "vomiting or frightening children", as been alleged by Ms Joanna Dean and reported in in the Cambridge News of 24<sup>th</sup> November.

They frequently have dogs, yes, but as an elderly resident, I have never experienced or seen the dogs being aggressive to anyone, let alone children.

Mr. Patel, I have known ever since he took over the shop some years ago. He is a responsible, respectable business man who has always conducted his business in a proper manner; indeed, due to the recent fuss, he has now withdrawn from sale all strong alcohol drinks.

Thus he sells nothing different from any other shop in the vicinity. He cannot be penalised for the behavior of customers away from his shop.

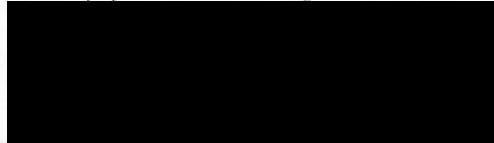
Or are we to stop the sale of alcoholic drinks in the entire area ?

Clearly, absurd, and a step too far towards an increasingly, Nanny State.

The street people are homeless clearly; they are unhappy, have problems so they drink to excess. So let us deal with the real problem, albeit seemingly, intractable; FIND THEM SOMEWHERE TO LIVE; rather than penalising an innocent man who is just trying to make a living.

Please ignore the curmudgeonly complaints of a few people .

Yours sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

John William Victor Elsdon

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the address area.

5 December 2012

Cambridge City Council

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing regarding the review of the licence for Norfolk News and More, at 92 Norfolk Street, owned by Mr Shailesh Patel.

This letter is to show my support for Mr Patel, and to express my wish that he retains his licence to sell alcohol.

My family lives at 96 Norfolk Street, only two doors down from Mr Patel's business. We have known Mr Patel since he took over the newsagent some years ago, and have always found him to be a respectful, decent and upright member of the community.

While any establishment with a licence to sell alcohol is likely to attract drinkers, we have never personally witnessed any anti-social behaviour incidents, neither in nor outside the shop, as a direct result of the shop's sales.

In fact, what I have witnessed is the considerable lengths to which Mr Patel will go to enforce the conditions of his licence (refusing very drunk customers, or those wishing to buy alcohol too early in the day), often at great personal cost. We are also aware that, following some complaints, Mr Patel has stopped selling cheap extra-strength drinks.

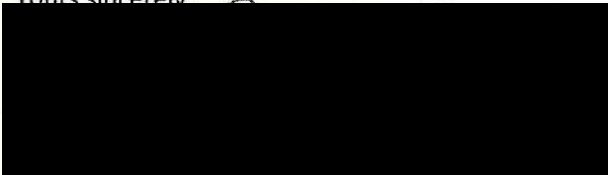
We understand that the loss of the licence would cause serious damage to Mr Patel's ability to remain in business, and we would be most unhappy to see his business suffer.

While we certainly understand the concerns of those who have expressed their worries about drunkenness and aggressive behaviour in the area, I can think of much more serious hubs of anti-social behaviour, public drunkenness and unsavoury attitudes only a few blocks away (one of those establishments, in fact, seems to be applying for a licence to sell alcohol on East Road at the moment).


I am confident that, as the father of two industrious teenagers who often help out in his shop, Mr Patel would be the last person to wish that sales of alcohol lead to public nuisances.

I hope the police will consider this representation and allow Mr Patel to retain his full licence. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ángel Gurría-Quintana

96 Norfolk Street, Cambridge, CB1 2LF, 

**18 Upper Gwydir Street  
Cambridge  
CB12LR**

6 December 2012

To whom it may concern

I am writing about the forthcoming review of the alcohol licence at the Norfolk News and More shop in Norfolk Street.

I am a local resident and I use the shop every day to buy newspapers, milk and other everyday necessities.

I am aware of the concerns about the way the shop attracts alcoholic rough sleepers, but we do need to acknowledge that these people present a complex social problem that cannot be easily solved by government, the council or the police.

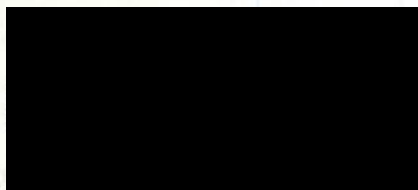
The problem is that these people have nowhere to go except the cemetery and Petersfield and that they are likely to move between these areas, wherever they have bought their alcohol.

Mr Patel has made efforts to control the access to alcohol- he has stopped selling the high alcohol beers and has increased the price of alcohol.

It is easy for neighbours to complain about these customers but they probably do not realise how easy it will be to lose this valuable community resource.

The economy is tough at the moment and this makes it hard for small businesses who have to pay rent, community charges and other taxes. I request that the police think carefully before they revoke the licence to supply alcohol from Norfolk News and More and understand that they will not solve a deep seated problem. If they decide to revoke the licence, it is likely that an important resource will be lost to the local community.

Yours,



C0131K

CS11111

19 11 2012 10:10 AM

Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
P.O. BOX 700  
Cambridge CB1 0JH

S J Smith  
10 York Terrace  
Cambridge CB1 2PR

5 December 2012

To Whom It May Concern

**Re. Review of Premises License for Norfolk Street Newsagents (News and More)  
[Norfolk Street CB1 2LF]**

My name is Stephen Smith. I was born in Cambridge and have lived in the Petersfield area for nearly 30 years. During this time I have always used local shops, including Norfolk Street Newsagents and its predecessor(s), on a regular basis.

Currently, I find the premises under discussion to be friendly and well run. In my experience and opinion it is an asset to the local community. Many different people, and their children, use it on a regular basis.

However, I gather that there are (still) local concerns regarding street drinkers in the Norfolk Street area and this can take up valuable police time. In my experience Norfolk Street Newsagents are careful and responsible when it comes to selling alcohol. Over the past few months alone I have seen several potential 'customers' refused service. Furthermore, the shop no longer stocks cheap cider and super strength lagers. This strikes me as a positive and forward looking response which addresses both the issue and local concerns. [I believe that similar initiatives are being trialled in Ipswich and the surrounding area. ]

Finally, I hope that this area can not only retain Norfolk Street Newsagents in its current form but also make a contribution to dealing with the (city wide) problem of street drinkers. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully



S J Smith

Licensing Section,  
Environmental Services,  
Cambridge City Council,  
P O Box 700,  
Cambridge,  
CB1 0JH

To whom it may concern,

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012

It is with serious concern after reading a notice in the window of Norfolk News & More and seeing the article in the Cambridge News on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012.


Having used this News Paper Shop for 8-9 Years and witnessed on Numerous occasions Mr Patel refusing to sell Alcohol before the authorised times and furthermore Banning those people that got aggressive when advised that they could not purchase any Alcohol..

It is worthy to note! That I leave my Flat at 6.15am Monday to Friday to go get my Paper and then go Swimming. On my way I pass young people vomiting and lying about, then I see people with bottles of Vodka and Cider on the Green in front of Peters field Mansions including sleeping under the Children's play things.

There are those that congregate in Burleigh Street and the Cemetery, with no shortage of Alcohol, The point I make is :- in my view alcohol seems to be easily available, from other sources...Not Norfolk Street!

It beggars belief that that the people who complain do so without ascertaining the facts, unbeknown to me I walked into the Shop on the Day that two men set their trap, on leaving the shop after the these men I noticed they joined others on the corner by the Dentist, very happy men!! It was not until much later I found out what their joy was!!

What effort to trap a Shop Keeper. Why do they allow the Alcoholics of Cambridge walk about drinking from Morn to Night, in lots of cases being a nuisance?



Andy Harding,  
4 Bradmore Court  
CB1 2NN


91 Norfolk Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2LD  
6<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Licensing Section,  
Environmental Services,  
Cambridge City Council,  
PO Box 700,  
Cambridge CB1 0JH

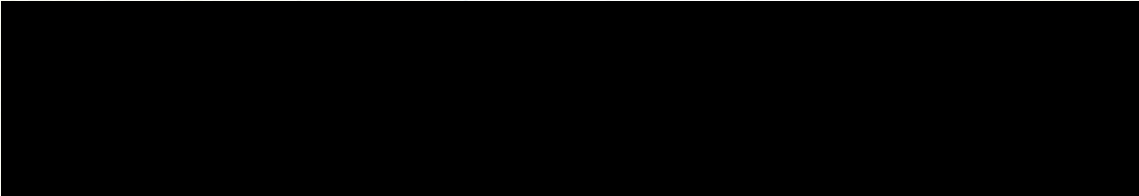
Dear Sir/ Madam,

I understand that the alcohol licence at Norfolk Street News Agents (News and More, 92 Norfolk Street) is being reviewed in a move which seeks the 'prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and the prevention of public nuisance.' I am resident at 91 Norfolk Street, directly opposite the shop, and have lived here since August 2010 with my girlfriend Lucy McIntyre. In the more than two years that we have been resident, we have never once encountered anti-social behaviour, nor felt unsafe, nor been the victim of crime. We would, therefore, like to express our strong opposition to the revoking of Mr Patel's alcohol licence.

People do, indeed, drink on the street in the Norfolk Street area. However, as stated above, this has never caused us any grievance. Moreover, insofar as within a 10 minute walk of Mr Patel's shop there are at least 5 other establishments which sell alcohol (Waitrose on Fitzroy Street, another newsagent on Norfolk Street, the Co-Operative and 2 further newsagents on Mill Road), I cannot possibly understand how the removal of Mr Patel's licence would have any discernable effect on the problem. If the Council is serious about tackling street drinking, then it needs to enforce a consistent policy across all businesses in the area, not target individual shop owners on an ad hoc basis. In reality, the only likely effect of removing News and More's alcohol licence would be to severely damage the interests of one of Norfolk Street's most valued businesses, and to deprive a local family of their livelihood.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us, either at the above address, or at 

Yours faithfully,

  
Alex Stuart and Lucy McIntyre

41 Norfolk Terrace  
Cambridge  
CB1 2NG

December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2012

Dear Sir /Madam

I was shocked to read a recent article in our local paper stating that the police were trying to deprive our local shop keeper of his licence to sell alcohol.

The shop in question is 'News and More' on Norfolk Street and is run by Mr Shailesh Patel.

This is our local convenience store where I often buy goods that I have run out of between trips to the supermarket. These can include anything from papers and cat food to bread or a bottle of wine.

It is good to have a friendly person to buy things from as the bigger shops become more and more mechanised. Small shopkeepers cannot really compete with Tesco et al and to take away the alcohol licence is tantamount to making the business non-viable.

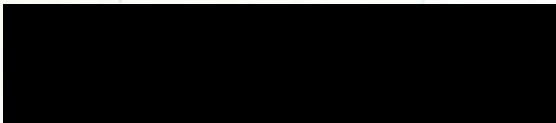
The paper says that locals have complained about anti-social behaviour. I myself have not encountered any but if it is there then moving it on to another area does not solve the problem. I do not see how that can be cured by ruining a small family business. Are you going to ruin all the small businesses selling alcohol in Cambridge?

The police, the council and social services should be funded to help people displaying anti-social behaviour to improve their life styles. Punishing a person trying to make an honest living is not the answer. Deal with the problem.

I am sorry if children have been frightened by the bad behaviour of some people on the streets. Unlike when we were young the children usually have an adult with them to help them to deal with problems on the way to and from school.

Please allow our local shopkeeper to keep his licence and therefore his business.

Yours sincerely



Ann Al-Ani (Mrs)

157 Sturton Street,  
Cambridge.  
CB1 2QH

30 November, 2012-12-04

Licensing Section,  
Environmental Services,  
Cambridge City Council,  
P.O. Box 700,  
Cambridge.  
CB1 0JH

To Whom it may concern:


Licence review, Norfolk Street Newsagents

I would like to support the renewal of the alcohol licence for the above shop.

I have lived in this area for 15 years and I am usually in this shop daily and have never experienced any problem with drunks or their dogs around this shop.

It would be extremely inconvenient for many of the respectable residents who use the shop to buy their alcohol for entertaining if we were not able to use this shop.

Yours sincerely,

  
Karen Stringer

6 Oswald Terrace  
Sturton Street  
Cambridge CB1 2QQ

Licensing Section  
Environment Services  
Cambridge City Council  
PO Box 700  
CAMBRIDGE  
CB1 0JH

2nd December 2012

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Alcohol licence for News & More, 92 Norfolk Street, Cambridge

I understand from an article in the local press that you are considering taking away the alcohol licence from Mr Patel, the local newsagent in my area of Cambridge. The reason given is that it has been claimed that such a move would cut anti-social behaviour by a small number of alcohol-dependent individuals. I wish to oppose this suggestion and urge you not to deprive Mr Patel of the licence.

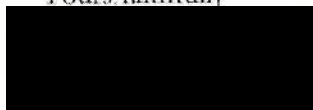
My reasons are twofold:

1. The profit margins for any small shop at present are narrow and becoming more so as a result of the economic downturn. Taking away the alcohol licence will shave a further margin from Mr Patel's balance sheet and will threaten his living. He is a hard-working and respected member of the locality, and does not deserve to be put under this added pressure. I have benefited from his shop for many years and if he is forced to close the business, we will all lose a significant service.
2. Removing Mr Patel's licence will not solve the local problem of alcohol abuse. I understand that he has already stopped selling the strong liqueur that is the favourite of those causing the problems. There are many other places from which those addicted will continue to purchase alcohol. Are you intending to take away liquor licences from all premises in the area, on East Road and Mill Road and supermarkets such as Asda (who sell the product much cheaper)? If not, picking on one small shop-keeper will make no difference. This is a far wider problem than one shop selling alcohol.

In short, I see no justification for taking away Mr Patel's licence because of the misguided claim that it will solve anti-social behaviour.

I hope that you will bear the above points in mind when coming to a decision.

Yours faithfully



Dr Petà Dunstan

Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
P.O.Box 700  
Cambridge CB1 0JH

2, Upper Gwydir Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2LR

To whom it may concern:

I have read with dismay the article on page 11 of the 24<sup>th</sup> November edition of the Cambridge News that there is a move to withdraw the licence to sell alcohol from 'News and More' on Norfolk Street.

Having recently returned to live in Upper Gwydir Street, I find the convenience of the full range of products offered by Mr. & Mrs. Patel most useful, including the wine and beer that they offer. They are friendly, responsible people who take great care to balance the needs of local residents with their responsibility to the wider community. Spirits are kept behind the counter, and I have witnessed the Patels ask for ID at the point of sale of alcohol and tobacco. Removal of their licence would seriously damage their business, possibly to the point of its becoming unviable, and Norfolk Street and the locality would lose a valuable resource. Small businesses should be supported, not hounded out of their communities because of narrow-minded actions by our 'elected' representatives.

The proposed action begs the question as to when closing one single source of alcohol has cured the problem of street drinking. There are at least three other sources of alcohol on Norfolk Street or its close vicinity. Why is there no word of retracting these licences as well?

Norfolk Street seems to be a 'highway' from Mill Road and the Cemetery, which appears to provide a congregating place for homeless people and the so-called 'drinking clubs', to East Road, Burleigh Street and The Grafton Centre where I understand that the only dispensary for addicts in Cambridge is located. Should a whole neighbourhood be deprived of a valuable service because the Cemetery exit is near to alcohol outlets? If the logic of the withdrawal of the licence at 'News & More' is followed, then the licences in Mill Road should also be withdrawn, as should those of the other outlets in Norfolk Street. What damage would this cause to the local economy?

Perhaps there is an alternative to this pathetic attempt to 'do something' by choosing an easy target: the consumption of alcohol in the street should not be tolerated and this should be properly policed. A high-profile, on-going campaign has made huge improvements to street behaviour in other areas, but I have yet to see a police presence in Norfolk Street. With regard to the complaints about shouting, vomit and dogs, if there were a police or Community Officer presence in regular evidence, these would be addressed quickly and favourably. (My personal experience of the dogs is that they are well-behaved and sit quietly outside the shops waiting patiently for their masters, not intimidating anyone at all - and I am scared of dogs in general. The vomit in the street is usually to be found after a weekend night at the Man on the Moon public house; and the shouting is no worse than the late-night return of the partying foreign students who live in our road.)

As the only resources for homeless people left in the city are not too far from this area, stopping one shop from selling alcohol to them is not going to cure any problem. The lazy option of closing things down and moving the homeless on has been taken too many times so that we have now reached the point where more constructive decisions need to be taken. Please do not deprive residents in this area of the few local resources available to us; many of us prefer to support our community's businesses rather than get in our cars to drive through an already over-congested Cambridge to buy from supermarkets.

Yours faithfully,

  
MRS. J. D. ALPER  
cc. Police Commissioner, Cambridge News.

82 Sturton Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2QA

Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
P. O. Box 700  
CB1 0JH

December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012

Dear Sir/madam,

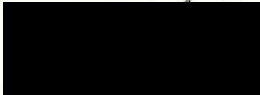
I read the article in the Cambridge News of 24<sup>th</sup> November concerning a review of premises licence for Mr Shailesh Patel at no 92 Norfolk Street CB1 2LF and have seen the notice displayed in the shop relating to complaints about the antisocial behaviour of certain "problem drinkers".

I have lived in Sturton Street for over 30 years, have been a customer of this newsagent and shop in all that time and know the current owners to be a hard working and pleasant family who provide an excellent service to the local community. Since being made aware of these complaints Mr Patel informs me that he has stopped selling the strong ciders and lagers favoured by street drinkers, and I'm sure this will be welcomed by most of us. Local shops are not able to afford the security employed by the supermarkets to keep out drunk or unwelcome customers and not many of us would welcome such a move, yet Tesco and Asda are able to sell alcohol of all strengths at vastly discounted prices with, at present, almost total impunity.

Unpleasant and antisocial actions, whether induced by alcohol or drugs, affect us all and though we like to think the problem is endemic only in Petersfield, it is citywide and national.

The withholding or curtailment of any trading licence at 92 Norfolk Street would be a great disservice to all the people who use and enjoy having a local, well run shop. I'm sure most of us are aware of the problems and unpleasantness surrounding street drunkenness in the area and it is up to all of us and the authorities to find a way forward; closing one outlet will not make them disappear and will be to the detriment of everybody living here.

Yours faithfully,

  
M. Straker

Licencing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
PO Box 700  
Cambridge CB1 0JH

To Whom It May Concern:

27 November 2012

An article on page 11 of the 24 November issue of the *Cambridge News* says that "police are trying to stop [Norfolk News & More in Norfolk Street, Petersfield] selling alcohol – the first move of its kind to stop anti-social behaviour".

I would like to object to this arbitrary and ill-thought-out proposal. It punishes the local many for the inability of the Police and Council to control the activities of the antisocial few.

The Norfolk News shop provides a much needed and valuable service to the local community. I occasionally buy beer there, to enjoy with a curry or with rugby on tv, and it is very convenient to be able to pop round the corner when the impulse takes me. I use the shop mainly for buying newspapers and food. If the loss of license to sell alcohol were to damage the financial viability of the shop (which it is bound to) and thus cause its closure, it would be a great inconvenience to me and to many other people in this area.


The main problem in this area is not Norfolk News selling alcohol (there are *many* other local shops which also sell alcohol), but the unusual concentration of services and shelters for street people. If the Police and Council feel they can no longer control the problem without imposing punitive restrictions on local businesses (and thus also punishing residents) then we should perhaps be campaigning for some of the shelters and services to be more equally distributed around other areas of Cambridge.

In my own experience, Mr Patel of the Norfolk News has been doing his part to try to help curb antisocial behaviour. I have often seen Mr Patel refuse to sell alcohol to street people who were clearly the worse for wear. More recently he has removed all the extra strong beer and cider from sale - since when I haven't once seen any street people in his shop.

In conclusion, I object strongly to this proposal. It appears to be vindictive towards Mr Patel. It is certainly vindictive towards his customers, and will make not the slightest bit of difference to the problems with antisocial behaviour in this area.

I note that Ipswich Police and Council have recommended exactly that same response as Mr Patel is now taking. Ipswich is asking smaller licensed independent retailers to voluntarily stop selling strong beer and cider across the whole city. This is a much more effective and proportional response than scapegoating Mr Patel and taking away his license alcohol licence.

Yours sincerely,

  
T. Rufus Neal  
6 Edward St  
Cambridge CB1 2LS

Licencing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
PO Box 700  
Cambridge CB1 0JH

To Whom It May Concern:

26 November 2012

I read with serious concern an article on page 11 of the 24 November issue of the *Cambridge News* that "police are trying to stop [Norfolk News & More in Norfolk Street, Petersfield] selling alcohol – the first move of its kind to stop anti-social behaviour".

Having lived on Edward Street, almost directly behind 'Norfolk News & More' for 32 years, I know the shop and the area extremely well. As a daily customer at this shop, I can confidently assert that it is better run today than at any other time during those 32 years. Mr and Mrs Patel are hard-working, family-minded and very responsible shop-keepers who are doing their utmost to provide a valuable and important service to our community. They should be being celebrated, not seeing their livelihood threatened by the authorities.

Supporting local businesses, local employment and the local economy is of vital importance – and we all need to be able to walk the talk. Whenever my family wants a bottle of wine or a couple of cans of beer, I can pop round to 'Norfolk News & More'. I *do not* buy these or *any* of our regular food and groceries at supermarkets.

At 'Norfolk News & More' I have witnessed Mr and Mrs Patel withstand harassment and abuse from street drinkers, demonstrating firm refusal to serve them by repeated reminders to specific individuals that they have been banned from the shop. Furthermore, Mr and Mrs Patel have now also removed from their shelves the strong lagers and ciders purchased by the street drinkers. This is a responsible, targeted and measured action – which is precisely the **opposite** of what is proposed by the police.

If Mr and Mrs Patel were to lose their alcohol licence, then other licensed premises will just sell more – including strong beers and ciders. Typical of so many short-sighted and ineffective Cambridge decisions, the problem will simply be moved on – with no net benefit to *anybody* but at the expense of a fine business and its community.

Instead of picking on this one small business, take a long hard look at why the problem has become so serious in Petersfield. There is a dangerous and seriously unbalanced concentration of homeless shelters and medical facilities for street people (including dispensaries for methadone) in and around the St Matthew's ward of Petersfield.

This is the source of the challenges in Norfolk Street – not the way Mr and Mrs Patel run their fine shop. This problem has been building up for years and years. To pretend to address it by removing the alcohol licence from 'Norfolk News & More' would be exactly like the lazy and ineffective strategy (*sic*) for discouraging 'drinking clubs' by removing the benches from our local streets. Now there is nowhere to rest for those who are tired, elderly, disabled or pregnant. But the drinking clubs continue to carouse, unimpeded by policing or policies, on the staircases in and out of the Staffordshire Street housing estate and all over the gravestones in the Mill Road Cemetery.


We urgently need our Licencing and Policing Authorities to do better than this.

Why not ban and *enforce a ban* on the sale anywhere in Cambridge of strong beers and ciders? Why not ban street drinking while providing wet-drinking facilities for street drinkers and combining this with detox and treatment services to eliminate the problem at source?

Allow Mr and Mrs Patel to run their much-needed and highly valued local business, including the sale to responsible local residents of what they wish to purchase there – including alcohol.

My perspective is informed by having previously served for more than 10 years both as a co-opted Governor at St Matthew's Primary School and as a former Chair of the well-respected community group PACT (Petersfield Area Community Trust), as well as having been a parent of children at both St Matthew's Primary School and Parkside Community College.

Yours sincerely

  
/ Dr J. V Neal  
6 Edward St  
Cambridge CB1 2LS

cc: Petersfield Ward Councillors (KB, GM-D & SB)

Fred Smith  
10 Staffordshire Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2VB

Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
PO Box 700  
Cambridge  
CB1 0JH

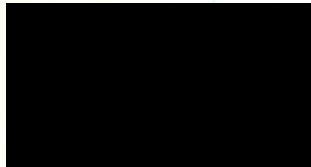
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter with regards to an article I have recently read in the Cambridge Evening news regarding the fact that police wish to stop the sale of alcohol at my local convenience store – Norfolk Street newsagents (News and More).

To my knowledge the owner of the store, Mr Patel, has recently stopped selling strong beer/cider which I believe shows a great deal of responsibility in order to prevent or reduce crime and disorder in our local community. I visit News and More every day and have not known of any problems being caused due to this shop selling alcohol. Taking away the premises licence will just cause inconvenience for the local community and not address the issue of street drinking in Cambridge as the problem will just move on to another area. I do not understand why my local convenience store (a small business) should suffer due to this.

Yours Sincerely,

Fred Smith



26th Nov '12..

17 Geldart St.  
Cambridge  
CB1 2LX

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write in support of Sam of News & More of Norfolk St Newsagents. It appears complaints have been made re selling of Alcohol to the homeless. Sam, the proprietor has taken steps to alleviate the problem by not stocking strong lager/cider thereby solving the behaviour/noise problem. I think he is also in a difficult position as these poor unfortunates gather in the area due to the proximity of Mill Rd Cemetery and the covered garages of St. Matthews/Norfolk St. As he has, as previously mentioned, taken steps to solve the problem it seems heavy handed to punish him and his customers who buy the odd bottle of wine or cans of beer.

Yours faithfully



Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
P.O. Box 700  
Cambridge  
CB1 0JH.

2, INVERAN  
CAMBRIDGE  
CB1 7QB

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in regards to Mr. Patel's renewal of his alcohol license. Mr. Patel runs Norfolk Street News and More and has served this community for many years providing a much needed service in this area, it would be a great loss to not only his business but alot of working class residents who pay their taxes and use the Newsagents for many things aswell as alcohol. If customers are made to go elsewhere to buy alcohol then they are obviously going to get their other shopping at the same time therefore having a huge knock on effect to him trying to run his business of which he does very well and responsibly as I always get great friendly service here as they are such a lovely family and always there. I personally rely on the fact that they are so local and friendly as I do not drive and do buy my alcohol here and do not wish to travel further after a days work and getting home in the dark, there are also alot of elderly residents who enjoy a tippie and rely on Mr. Patel and his Shop, I wonder how they would cope having to walk further especially in the harsh winters we have.

I am happy and welcome the fact that he has a license to sell alcohol and cannot see any good reason to take that away from him.

Yours sincerely  


Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
PO Box 700  
CB1 0JH

28 November 2012

**Ref: Alcohol Licensing – Red Square Newsagent – 92, Norfolk Street, CB1**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am aware that some residents in Norfolk Street are asking the Council to withdraw the licence for the sale of alcoholic liquor granted to the above mentioned newsagent on the grounds that it encourages street drinking and a bad environment in the neighbourhood.

Although those residents are entitled to their opinion, their argument is not without a flaw. I am writing to you to say that I feel a deep concern that the measure is disproportionate and ultimately unfair.

I myself live in the area. Norfolk Street is part of my daily routine and I have never felt threatened by any of some regular people drinking on the pavement (by the way, they move to other nearby streets as well, like Burleigh Street next to the Grafton Centre). I also happen to be a regular customer at the newsagent for years and I know that the managers are extremely careful and responsible.

The managers of the newsagent certainly cannot be held responsible for what happens in the streets, where there are much more serious crimes going on. Even more so when they are not the only establishment selling alcohol. We have to remember the number of supermarkets in the area stocking up huge quantities of bottles of all sorts and at much lower prices.

Please allow me to say that before taking any decision it is important to keep in mind that we need to protect small businesses like this. The newsagent in question needs to be protected. Failing to do so, we will end up with exactly the opposite of what the present government insists on: a fair society.

I thank you in advance for your attention of this matter.

[REDACTED]  
José Arantes

[REDACTED]  
100 Sturton Street  
CB1 2QA

2a Carlow  
St Matthew's Street  
Cambridge CB11QH  
December 13th 21012

Licensing Section  
Environmental Service  
Cambridge City Council  
Cambridge CB10JH

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to object to the proposal by Cambridgeshire Police to take away the alcohol license of the "Norfolk Street News & More" (92 Norfolk Street), run by Mr and Mrs Patel.

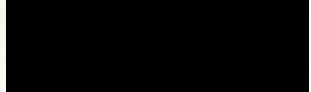
I have been living round the corner from this shop for 16 years and have known the Patels since they came. There is no reason to my mind why they should be singled out and deprived of their alcohol license as though they have been irresponsible or have broken the law in their selling practises. In fact I have been in the shop on two different occasions when Mr Patel refused to sell alcohol to someone he thought was under age and also refused someone who was clearly drunk.

We all know there is a problem in this town of people drinking on the streets of Cambridge and this needs to be addressed. We all know, as so do Cambridgeshire Police, that these people have serious social and mental issues stemming from family problems, unemployment, homelessness and mental health problems. These are the root causes of the drinking on the Cambridge streets including in this area. These problems will never be solved by tinkering with the surface effects. Instead what is needed is more money going into the support services for these people so that they can get their lives back I track, and for proper affordable housing in this town for ordinary people.

Depriving one small shop, struggling to make ends meet against the supermarket giants, of their alcohol license is not going to make any difference whatsoever to this problem. Meanwhile, just round the corner and up the road we have supermarkets selling to everyone a cut prices with no questions asked. This could almost amount to persecution.


Quite apart from the wider issues, I (and I know many of my neighbours), will be seriously inconvenienced and upset if this move goes ahead. We have all for years popped into "Norfolk News" to get beers for the party or a bottle of wine to go with dinner. Why should we have that taken away from us? This is our local shop and it serves us very well. I want to make it clear that there are many people including myself who have not been consulted on this issue and who are against this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Cath Coombs

90 Norfolk Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2LF

  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2012

Licensing Section  
Environmental Service  
Cambridge City Council  
PO BOX 700  
Cambridge  
CB1 0JH

Dear Sir or Madam,

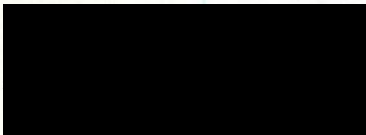
I am writing in support of Mr S. Patel, the owner of "Norfolk News & More" shop (92 Norfolk Street, Cambridge). The Cambridgeshire Police are trying to take away the alcohol license of the shop, but I think this is unjust.

I have lived directly next door to the newsagents for 4.5 years, and I have never experienced any inappropriate selling of alcohol by Mr Patel or other shop staff. I have only witnessed alcohol sold responsibly to customers who are of age, and who are not intoxicated by drink or drugs. I think it would be a great shame to remove Mr Patel's license, as the alcohol he sells in his shop is largely purchased by local residents wanting to pick up a bottle of wine/ a few beers, and not by passing drinkers.

In the Cambridge News article (dated 29/11/12) it says that the evidence the Police have "comes from the community itself" as well as an operation called "operation woodpecker". As a direct neighbour, I can say the police have not asked for my opinions/views on the matter, and therefore feel it's not a correct representation to say their view has come from the community- as clearly that's a one sided view.

I do not think that taking the alcohol license of one small shop is in anyway treating the problem of drunks/heavy drinkers. In fact since this article has been in the papers the drinkers have just moved to another location in the city, thus the local residents where they are now must be having the same problems. It seems nothing is being done to treat these people, and therefore the problems will persist, regardless of whether this newsagent sells alcohol. I think Norfolk News and More should be able to keep its license and continue to serve alcohol for the convenience of its customers, chiefly local residents.

Yours sincerely

Sofie Ashford 

Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
P.O.Box 700  
Cambridge CB1 0JH

20 York Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2PY

12.12.12

*(Hand delivered to Mandela House 12.12.12)*

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in reference to an article in the Cambridge Evening News about the reviewing of the Alcohol License for Mr. Patel at the 'News and More' shop on Norfolk Street Cambridge.

I am requesting that you allow him to keep his licence.

Mr Patel has already voluntarily stopped selling strong alcohol in response to concerns over a few individuals who over indulge in drinking. He is not directly responsible for this problem and the individuals concerned are obviously able to purchase alcohol at other places in Norfolk Street and the local area.

Mr. Patel's shop is a very valuable community resource and you must not jeopardise his income to the extent that he has to close down.

Yours Sincerely,



Ms Annie Simpson

41, NORFOLK STREET, CAMBRIDGE.  
CB1 2LD

1 . 12 . 2012

Reference: 92, Norfolk Street, Cambridge.

Dear Sirs,

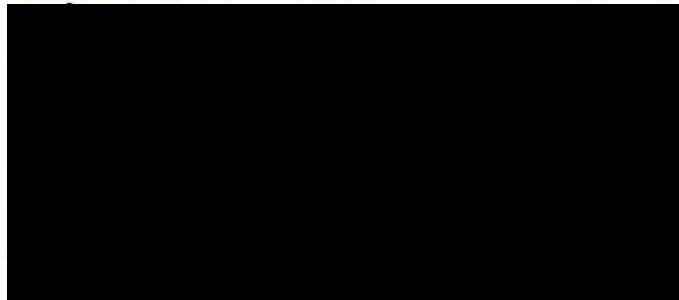
We, the undersigned, are happy to support Norfolk Street News in their bid to retain their alcohol licence.

In view of the fact that they have withdrawn strong alcohol from their shelves we feel very strongly that they should be allowed to retain their licence. Small family owned businesses should be given every support to succeed.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL WALDMANN

NINA WALDMANN



Licensing Section  
Environmental Services  
Cambridge City Council  
P.O.Box 700  
Cambridge CB1 0JH

2, Upper Gwydir Street  
Cambridge  
CB1 2LR

To whom it may concern:

I have read with dismay the article on page 11 of the 24<sup>th</sup> November edition of the Cambridge News that there is a move to withdraw the licence to sell alcohol from 'News and More' on Norfolk Street.

Having recently returned to live in Upper Gwydir Street, I find the convenience of the full range of products offered by Mr. & Mrs. Patel most useful, including the wine and beer that they offer. They are friendly, responsible people who take great care to balance the needs of local residents with their responsibility to the wider community. Spirits are kept behind the counter, and I have witnessed the Patels ask for ID at the point of sale of alcohol and tobacco. Removal of their licence would seriously damage their business, possibly to the point of its becoming unviable, and Norfolk Street and the locality would lose a valuable resource. Small businesses should be supported, not hounded out of their communities because of narrow-minded actions by our 'elected' representatives.

The proposed action begs the question as to when closing one single source of alcohol has cured the problem of street drinking. There are at least three other sources of alcohol on Norfolk Street or its close vicinity. Why is there no word of retracting these licences as well?

Norfolk Street seems to be a 'highway' from Mill Road and the Cemetery, which appears to provide a congregating place for homeless people and the so-called 'drinking clubs', to East Road, Burleigh Street and The Grafton Centre where I understand that the only dispensary for addicts in Cambridge is located. Should a whole neighbourhood be deprived of a valuable service because the Cemetery exit is near to alcohol outlets? If the logic of the withdrawal of the licence at 'News & More' is followed, then the licences in Mill Road should also be withdrawn, as should those of the other outlets in Norfolk Street. What damage would this cause to the local economy?

Perhaps there is an alternative to this pathetic attempt to 'do something' by choosing an easy target: the consumption of alcohol in the street should not be tolerated and this should be properly policed. A high-profile, on-going campaign has made huge improvements to street behaviour in other areas, but I have yet to see a police presence in Norfolk Street. With regard to the complaints about shouting, vomit and dogs, if there were a police or Community Officer presence in regular evidence, these would be addressed quickly and favourably. (My personal experience of the dogs is that they are well-behaved and sit quietly outside the shops waiting patiently for their masters, not intimidating anyone at all – and I am scared of dogs in general. The vomit in the street is usually to be found after a weekend night at the Man on the Moon public house; and the shouting is no worse than the late-night return of the partying foreign students who live in our road.)

As the only resources for homeless people left in the city are not too far from this area, stopping one shop from selling alcohol to them is not going to cure any problem. The lazy option of closing things down and moving the homeless on has been taken too many times so that we have now reached the point where more constructive decisions need to be taken. Please do not deprive residents in this area of the few local resources available to us; many of

us prefer to support our community's businesses rather than get in our cars to drive through an already over-congested Cambridge to buy from supermarkets.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]

MRS. J. D. ALPER

cc. Police Commissioner, Cambridge News.

We, the undersigned, fully support the retention of Mr Patel's Alcohol Licence and are in agreement with the views expressed above.

Name:

Address:

ADPATERSON

8 ST MATTHEWS ST

CB1 2LT

KAREN STRINGER

157 STURTON ST,

CAMBRIDGE

CB1 2QH

Ben Hawke

99 Norfolk Street

CB1 2LF

(I live next door and have never had this problem)

Lacy Walker

32 Church St

(Shop EVERY other DAY)

CB4 1DT

Steve Flinders  
(Daily Luscious)

82 York St

CB2 2JY

LESLIE WILEY

23 EDWARD ST.  
CB1 2LS

MATTHEW MINCHELLA

211 Mayflower House

James Rutall

112 Norfolk Street

NORAH AL-ANI

25 Cavendish Place

CB1 3BA  
3A Donington CB1 1QQ

MARTIN BLEKENEAR

34 Gwyndis St  
Cambridge

ANA M. BAEZ  
DAVID CUTTING  
Jane Mills  
THOMAS VETZ  
S Jackson  
BARNEN MOORE  
J. DARBREIRE  
M. BENNING  
DANNY CROCKWELL  
ANNA GILCHRIST  
SHARON O'CONNOR  
D COTEMAN

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
D SANDERS  
M. KROLEK  
GARY LAYTON  
E M G ALAN  
Rhodri Davies  
Eithel Lewis  
Robert Smith  
Dill PREUETT  
Dora T. Falley  
Sian COOPER  
Richard HENRY  
J. Scotcher-Littlechild  
A. TAYSON  
N. TAYSON  
Lee Randall  
[REDACTED]  
Sue McLees.  
T. Kohake  
M. DOVER

5 EDWARD ST. CBI-2LS  
1A FLOWER ST. CBI 2NH.  
13 VICALARTE TERRACE. CBI 2LU.  
8 UPPER GWYDIER ST CBI  
16 STAFFORDSHIRE Gdns CBI 2NE  
3 CARLOW. CBI 1/QH  
47 WINSTANLEY COURT, CAMBRIDGE  
1 YORK STREET CBI-2PZ  
2 EDWARD STREET CAMBRIDGE  
9 AINSWORTH ST, CAMBRIDGE CBI 2PF.  
741 HOWARD RD. CAMBRIDGE  
4 HOLLYMOUNT EAST CAMBRIDGE  
1 Vicarage Lee CBI 2LU  
56. WINGSTON.  
145, GWYDIR ST. CAMB. CBI 2LI.  
92, NORFOLK ST CBI-24D  
8 DUNSTAN STANLEY CBI 3AQ  
18 Milford Street CBI 2LP  
186 Scarbon St CBI 2QF.  
38 Gwydir St. CBI 2LL  
7 FARREN EAST RD CAMB S  
39 KERRIDGE CLOSE CBI 2QW  
139A Hill ROAD CBI 3AA  
12 NORFOLK TERRACE CBI 2NG  
19 MILFORD ST. CBI 2LP.  
85-87 Gwydir St. Cambridge  
31 THORLEY RD. Camb S. CBI 5 8NF  
31 THORLEY RD. Camb S. CBI 5 8N  
97 Gwydir Street CBI 2LGT  
48 Gwydir St CBI 2LC  
5 Vicarage Terrace Cambridge  
46 Young St. C.  
11 AINSWORTH CR DELT 3PE

ADAM WOODSFORD  
IAIN BELL  
Judith Stephens  
MARK BROWN  
STEPHEN MITCHELL

TOM COLPER  
R. McCARMAIC  
T. CUSIGNANO  
Ann-Lis H. INECLUS  
B BENSTAD  
A COPELAND  
C. Anas  
B. MANSFIELD  
G. SMITH-HOWEN  
C. BELL  
M. GAZDAR  
EILEEN SMITH

KEITH EDKINS  
ROBERT MITCHELL  
IAN FAY  
Sophy Willcox  
Ray "Lacey"  
Daphne Jannan  
Ann E. Nichols  
ALEX STUART

C. WOODCOCK  
Helen Orkney  
Sasha Pymman  
Lucy McInyre  
CHRISTOPHER ADAMS  
S. Thompson  
J. MALKETT  
D. FAY

173 STURTON ST. CBI 2QH  
15 Geldart Street CBI 2CX  
15 Gwydir Street CBI 2LG  
42 YOUNG STREET CBI 2LZ  
14 STAFFORDSHIRE GARDEN CBI 2NE

85 NORFOLK ST, CBI 2LD  
14 3B 23 SWYDIN ST CBI 2LG  
20 NORFOLK ST. CBI 2LF  
5 York Terrace CBI 2PR  
28 PATWORTH STREET CBI 2CY  
1 Hollingmont Cambridge CBI 1QD  
16 Janegal Shaftesbury CBI 1W  
60 YOUNG ST. CAMB CBI 2LZ

25 WHITEHILL ROAD CAMBS CBS 8W  
29 HOWARD CLOSE CAMBS CBS 8QV  
23-25 Gwydir Street CBI 2Lg  
8 FARHAM CAMBS CBI 1QF  
7 GWYDIR ST CBI 2LG  
14 STAFFORDSHIRE GARDENS CBI 2WE  
3 Milford street CBI 2LP

103 Norfolk St. CBI 2LD  
23 EDWARDS ST CBI 2LD  
61 Sturton Street, C. CBI 296  
14 Patwirth CBI 2LY  
91 NORFOLK ST. CBI 2LD  
UNIT 3A 23-25 GWYDIR ST CBI 2LG

5 EUNFIELDS CBI 1G5  
19A Sturton St. CBI 2LF  
59 NORFOLK TERRACE CBI 2NG  
91 Norfolk Street, CBI 2LD  
114 Norfolk Street CBI 2LF  
3. Oswald Terrace CBI 209 Sturton St.  
15 Edgcombe Flats CAMBS CBI 2LL  
15 Santon Close CAMBS (B22 3) V

Frank Burrell  
 Sergio Ferreira  
 Dan Chapman  
 G. Leffers-Gustafson  
 Jon Waisht  
 JOE DEAN  
 JACKY MINICHELLA  
 DANIEL OIKONOMEAS  
 JIM SHERLOCK  
 GABRIELLE CARBERY  
 Charles Southwood  
 DANNY MILLER  
 DAVID WILKIN  
 Ingrid Schroder  
 DAVID ROSS  
 GARY MADER  
 GRAHAM LILLEY  
 mick Holt  
 PADDY MATTHEWS  
 JOHN TINGEY  
 JANE BLAREMORE  
 MERT FENTON  
 Bernard Deharty  
 Derek Ruppert  
 William Farson  
 Elaine Wood  
 RICARDO HERRANE  
 Tavin Brokenshire  
 Felicity Macdonald-Smith  
 FELIX PRINE  
 N.S. Bellard  
 BEAN PEACHEY  
 SARAH NICOLA

Linnet House Sturton Street  
 102 Norfolk Street CB1 2LF  
 55 Norfolk St, CB1 2LP  
 55 NORFOLK TERRACE Campl  
 1 THE RLEGE ROAD CB8NF  
 73 Sleaford St, CB1 2RU  
 7 HILDESTONE HOUSE, STAFFORDSHIRE ST  
 99 NORFOLK ST. CB1 2LP (CB1 2ND)  
 47-49 STURTON ST CB1 2QG  
 15 WHEATON HOUSE, STAFFORDSHIRE ST, CB1 1BS  
 12 St Matthews St CB1 2LT  
 9 ENFIELD ST MATTHEWS ST. CB1 1QG.  
 S. GERARD ROAD, CAMB CB5 8NG  
 93 NORFOLK ST CAMB. CB1 2LD  
 4 RIVAR PLACE, CB1 2PP  
 5 Antelope Way, CB1 9BT  
 8 BRANTFORD ST, ICHTLEY CB10 1SP  
 19 STONE ST CB1 2PL  
 10 STAFFORDSHIRE GARDENS CB1 2NE  
 29 AINSWORTH STREET CB1 2PF  
 34 GWYDIR STREET CO1 2LL  
 129, GWYDIR ST CB1 2LG  
 15 Norfolk Street CB1 2LF  
 62 GWYDIR STREET CB1 2LL  
 29 GWYDIR ST CB1 2LQ  
 48 Gwydir St. CB1 2LL  
 35 GWYDIR STREET CB1 2LG  
 7 Shenstone House, Staffs A, CB1 1BP  
 136 Sleaford Street, CB1 2NS  
 56 GWYDIR ST CB1 2LL  
 19, Gwydir St, Cambridge CB2 3G  
 5 HOLLYMOUNT, CB1 1QD  
 56 RAVENSWORTH Gdns CB1 2AL