

### **Representations following an application to review the premises licence for Stop and Shop.**

Mr and Mrs Patel wish to express their considerable regret that it has been necessary to call for a review of their premises licence, following failed test purchases. They apologise to the Licensing Committee and Responsible authorities involved in the enforcement process and would like to stress that they share the common aim of all involved, in preventing young people purchasing and/or consuming alcohol.

Mr and Mrs Patel have owned this shop for a number of years which is a small convenience store serving the local community. They are not aware of any issues of under age drinking in the locality since they have owned the shop. They know the considerable majority of their customers as most of their business is from a loyal local customer base, they have little custom from "passing trade." As a consequence they have a very good knowledge of the young people in the area.

They rarely have persons under the age of 18 attempting to purchase alcohol and nor do they believe that their shop is subject to proxy purchases of alcohol by adults who then pass it on to under 18's.

Mr and Mrs Patel own two shops, this one and Select and Save which is a similar type of shop and not far from Stop and Shop. They currently employ four members of staff who work 16 hours each week. Mr and Mrs Patel work a minimum of 45 hours in each shop. They are also assisted by other family members from time to time. All members of staff who work in the shop have been trained by the Patel's in their legal responsibilities in selling alcohol.

Mr and Mrs Patel sell National Lottery tickets and have passed previous test purchases.

In consultation with the Trading Standards Officers it was accepted that although measures were in place to prevent sales of alcohol to persons under the age of 18, to address the cause of the review those measures should be endorsed on the premises licence as conditions as well as additional steps. Those steps will be outlined to the Committee at the hearing and commended by both Trading Standards and Mr and Mrs Patel as the appropriate and proportionate steps to take.

Mr and Mrs Patel accept that, although their shop is not one which causes local problems in terms of underage drinking, in light of the number of failed test purchases the Committee will want to ensure the strict adherence of the conditions being proposed. Therefore in discussions with Trading Standards Mr and Mrs Patel proposed that a suspension of the premises licence for 28 days would serve as a sufficient deterrent effect.