COBHAM CONSERVATION AND HERITAGE TRUST

Charity No: 1158625

c/o The Old Almshouse
1 Tilt Road
Cobham
Surrey KT11 3EZ

tel: 01932 863324

The Environmental Health Services
Elmbridge Borough Council
Civic Centre
High Street
Esher
Surrey KT10 9SD.

11 April 2016

For the attention of Alia Knights

Dear Ms Knights,

Beech-Esso Filling Station, Stoke Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3AS

I am writing on behalf of the Cobham Conservation & Heritage Trust to voice our objection to the application for a 24 hour licence for the sale of alcohol and, we understand, hot food at the above premises.

When the Filling Station first opened, the Council's Planning Department imposed restrictions on the opening hours which I understand were 7 days a week - 6.30am to 10.30pm for the sale of fuel and light refreshments (including sandwiches), coffee and newspapers. In the case of the car wash facility the planning permission is:

Monday to Friday : 7.00am to 8.00pm
Saturday and Sunday : 8.am to 8pm

Since these conditions were imposed, nothing has changed to remove the importance that this is a residential area on all sides, with 17 houses to the rear, one of which I believe has a party wall with the Applicant. Next to the filling station is a long established Nursing Home which is adjacent to the access to the Filling Station. In the case of Stoke Road, and Woodend Park, opposite the site, these are also very residential. To extend the usage to a 24 hour period would be a retrograde step from the original planning agreement as set out above, which was put in place to protect the residential amenity of the area.

Could I now turn to another very important point. The western side of the site falls within the Tilt Conservation Area, and within a very short distance is the open green space with the avenue of Flowering Cherry Trees planted after the Second World War as a memorial to local men who lost their lives. In recent years a granite war memorial has also been installed. As a Trust we are, therefore, totally opposed to the outlet in question having alcohol on sale for 24 hours a day together with the possible introduction of hot take-away food. The area is a very special place, as is the whole of the Tilt Conservation Area, and must be protected from misuse.

I assume that if the Licensing Committee were minded to grant this application, it would be necessary for a Planning Application to be submitted in respect of the extended hours of use.

Again, the Cobham Conservation and Heritage Trust would ask that this application be refused and that the present agreement for the hours of opening and the usage are adhered to.

Yours faithfully,

David Tipping
Vice-Chairman CCHT

cc: tplan