

Planning & Environmental Services

Planning Administration

The Council House

Burcot Lane

Bromsgrove

Worcestershire

B60 1AA



Dear Sir

Re:- Application for a street trading consent license by David Alcock at Broad Lane, Bransons Cross

I understand that complaints concerning the above should be addressed directly to yourself.

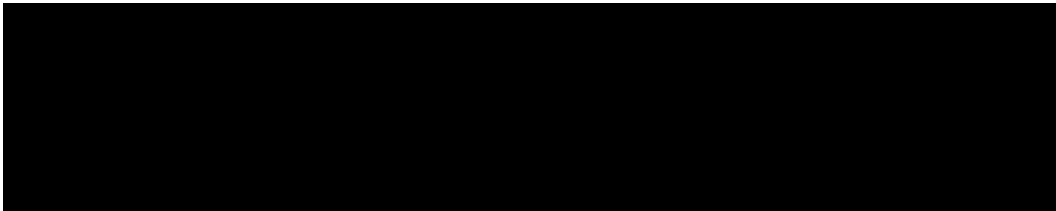
I would like to lodge my own complaint to no doubt, that of many other local residents, in urging local authorities to have the trader referred to above removed and his licence revoked.

The manner in which he advertises his trade is distracting in the extreme when driving along the main A435 from the M42 and also very unsightly with 6 or 7 large hand painted signs tied to trees and bushes in the hedge row. We as local residents have to put up with many heavy goods vehicles parked up in the slip road day and night, which leads to much more traffic noise and rubbish left on the verges. Walking up the slip road is no longer an option.

The trader has also installed a portaloo which is left on the grass verge permanently. This is not only unsightly but must present a health risk.

It is only a matter of time before an accident occurs with traffic leaving the A435 via the slip road and then encountering vehicles either parked or turning having used the burger van.

I would urge you as a governing body to look very closely at this issue and take into account the concerns and wishes of us local residents who take pride in our local area and do not wish it spoilt by street traders.





Mr. John Davies,  
Bromsgrove District Council,  
Planning & Environment Services,  
The Council House,  
Burcot Lane,  
Bromsgrove,  
Worcestershire, B60 1AA

12<sup>th</sup> June, 2010



Dear Mr. Davies,

Ref: Application for a Street Trading Consent by David Alcock called Ants Snacks

I wish to lodge the strongest possible objection to the above application. I am a local resident greatly inconvenienced by what has happened in the last year as a result of Bromsgrove Council licensing the existing snack bar. I will limit my comments to your Street Trading Consents Section 4.1 and 4.2.

#### 4.1 Public Safety

(a)

The slip road is for 2-way traffic except for the last 20 yards. The street trading has blocked access on one side making the road a one way street. When vehicles that are parked take up one side of the road and pavement, the rest of the road is taken up fully by passing vehicles, leaving nowhere for pedestrians except to jump onto a rough grass verge. Traffic has also been held up while trucks are manoeuvring. Hygiene is very bad with a Portaloo open to vermin and food and rubbish left by people using the snack bar.

#### Public Nuisance

(c) This is considerable – starting with a petrol generator running constantly and a never ending string of vans and HGV's starting and stopping, litter deposited every day from drivers using the snack bar and the overnight parking of trucks who follow the appalling string of signs encouraging them to leave the A435 to enjoy the parking! The heavy traffic also destroyed the road surface which has recently been replaced and is already showing signs of wear and several street signs wrecked by trucks and lorries too large for the road.

#### Needs of the area

(d) The site has nothing at all to do with the local area. No local resident needs or uses the snack bar. The garage at Bransons Cross sells food and all other supplies



including take-away food and hot and cold drinks. The trader is advertising for passing traffic on the A435 to pull off into a rural residential area for his commercial gain. It has nothing to do with local residents only inconvenience.

#### Consultation

- (e) I have approached the Applicant to question the look of the six or more street signs along the A435, I was verbally abused in a most offensive way and have not approached him since.

4.2 The snack bar has no benefit at all to the local community only a degrading of the area and an intrusion to local residents. It does not enhance or bring any vitality to the area.

How can litter and an old Portaloo compliment the character of the area not to mention the ugly signs in the trees. I do not know of any other road-side trader who has a permanent Portaloo and I also know if I wanted to erect one on Broad Lane, the Council would reject my proposal immediately. It is an eyesore and an insult to local residents.

The local community has no need at all for the snack bar, perfectly adequate facilities already exist, it is a business venture which obtains its turnover by drawing passing vans, cars and especially HGV's off a busy dual carriageway into a rural residential area.

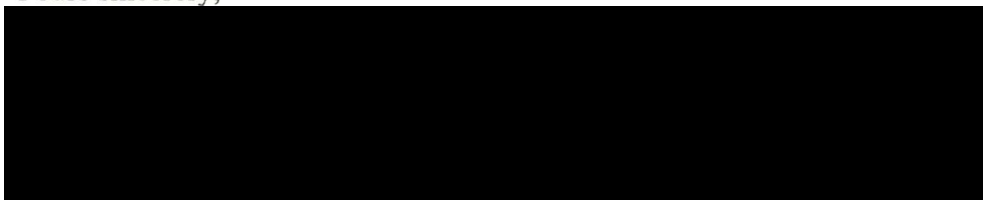
The road used by the trader is now a hazard for pedestrians, dog walkers and residents who used to enjoy the quiet rural setting. I used to take my grandchildren cycling and blackberry picking in safety. That is no longer possible. Instead we have noise, half the road blocked off for two way traffic, litter, damage to road signs, a stretch of the A435 with third world signs hanging from trees, HGV's constantly coming and going, all for the commercial profit of a trader who has nothing to do with the local community and provides no benefit or service to any local residents.

Might I suggest that if the Council feels the area needs a snack bar on the A435 South, then the purpose designed layby which was closed, should be repaired and re-opened. The problems which previously existed here should have been resolved rather than dump a different problem on to local residents in Broad Lane and Blind Lane. I would also like to point out that the old closed off layby has become a dumping ground for rubbish and fly tipping, something which will grow and eventually have to be addressed by the Council.

If you would like me to visit you and present my serious objections in person, I would be more than willing to do so. It is also very difficult to understand why a licence was ever given to the trader in the first place and why the Council have acquiesced to the awful signs, the litter, the overnight lorry parking, the danger to pedestrians, the loss of local rural amenity, the expense of a new road surface and damage to road signs, without proper consultation with the local community. For what reason I ask? The sole benefit of a single non-resident opportunist trader. It is not right.

I have annotated your Sections 4.1 and 4.2 to match my letter and concerns. Will you please acknowledge receipt of this letter before the due date – 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2010.

Yours sincerely,



**4. Criteria for Street Trading Consents**

4.1 In determining an application for a Street Trading Consent, the Council will consider the following factors:

- (a) **Public Safety** – does the location of the proposed trading site represent or is it likely to represent, a substantial risk to the public and users of the highway? The Council will consider things like important sight lines for CCTV cameras, requirements of emergency vehicles, fire hazards, hygiene and the safety of access to or from the trading site. Fail
- (b) **Public Order** – does the street trading activity represent, or is it likely to represent, a substantial risk to public order?
- (c) **The avoidance of public nuisance** – does the street trading activity represent, or is it likely to represent, a substantial risk of nuisance to the public from noise, smell, litter or late night disturbance? Fail
- (d) **Needs of the area** – are there enough other trading outlets to serve the needs of the area? A Street Trading Consent will not be granted where it is considered that there are already enough traders trading in the vicinity (from shops or other stalls) in goods in which the applicant wishes to trade, or if there is an existing concentration of street traders in the street in which the applicant wishes to trade. Fail
- (e) **Consultation** - relevant responses from consultees. Fail

4.2 In addition the Council will consider the following general criteria:

- The trader will be expected to provide a service which is a benefit to the public and which enhances the area by bringing in new products or adding to the vitality of the area; Fail
- The Trading Unit, including any associated equipment must be of good quality and complimentary to the character of the area; Fail
- Each application will be judged on the general needs of the locality; a Street Trading Consent will not normally be granted where there is already adequate similar provision in the immediate area; Fail
- The effect on road safety caused by the siting of the Street Trading Unit or by customers visiting or leaving the Street Trading Unit; Fail
- The effect of any loss of amenity caused by noise, traffic or smell; Fail
- Any existing Traffic Regulation Orders e.g. waiting restrictions; and ?
- Any potential obstruction of pedestrian or vehicular access. Fail



[REDACTED]  
Tanworth-in-Arden

Solihull [REDACTED]

13<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Dear Sir

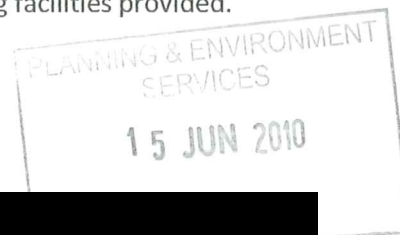
**Application for a Street Trading Consent Bromsgrove District Council**

**David Alcock – Ants Snacks Broad Lane/Branson's Cross**

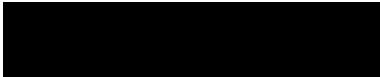
Thank you for forwarding information in respect of the above. I would like the following comments to be noted when considering this application.

- The van is parked in the slip road from the A435 to Tanworth in Arden. Customers are from outside the area and the majority are commercial vehicle drivers. The signage on the A435 says 'HGV's OK' which results in vehicles up to this size leaving the A435 and parking on the verge/footpath. The kerbs have recently had replaced and the driving and parking of these vehicles presents obstruction and new wear and tear.
- The facility provides no enhancement to the area – it encourages commercial vans and articulated vehicles to park in the area. The area is well serviced by other outlets within minutes of driving time from the location. The facility takes business from other licensed and established outlets.
- Signage is of very poor quality – several hand written signs tied to roadside trees. These are a distraction and an eyesore to the area.
- There has been an increase in litter since the snack van started to trade.
- The portable toilet has been pushed over on a number of occasions with the associated spillage and health risks. There are no washing facilities provided.

Yours sincerely







Tanworth-in-Arden

Solihull



12<sup>th</sup> June 2010

Dear Sir

**Application for a Street Trading Consent Bromsgrove District Council**  
**David Alcock – Ants Snacks Broad Lane/Branson's Cross**

Thank you for forwarding information in respect of the above. I would like the following comments to be noted when considering this application.

### Hygiene and Safety

Whilst travelling on the slip road in October 2009 the snack van parked on the road **threw a bowl of dirty water from the back of the van** hitting the front screen of my vehicle. Given that there were a number of people around the snack van at the time I didn't feel it safe as a lone women driver to stop and speak to the owner of the snack van. The contents of the bowl (fat and bits of food) had to be cleaned from my car and the smell lingered for so long that I eventually had the car valeted which included a cleaning of the engine at a cost of £40.

My understanding is that the disposal of **dirty water directly on to the road, or into public road drains** would break health and safety rules. In addition the throwing of water on to passing vehicles could pose a danger to the driver and the travelling vehicle.

The **portable toilet** has been pushed over with resulting pollution to the local environment. Given my experience of inappropriate waste disposal I would question how and where the waste from the portable toilet is disposed of. The same unit has clearly been left unlocked with the door open over night on more than one occasion. Without this I would question which toilet facilities the parked truck drivers are using when they stay overnight.

There has been a considerable amount of **litter** on the slip road in question, which we have all noted has been tidied up in recent weeks. The poor maintenance in the past should not be overlooked, but I trust will be considered as a clear indication of the lack of care the owner of the snack van has had for the local environment.

### Public Safety

Many of the vehicles that utilise the snack facility **park on the footpath – obstructing pedestrian access**. I have noted that some vehicles now remain parked overnight which presents a greater danger to pedestrians wishing to use the footpath in order to reach the Cross and Bowling Green or the local shop.

When the vehicles move, there remains considerable **damage to the public footpath** which could pose a danger to pedestrians.

There have been occasions where the **traffic coming off the A435 onto Broad Lane has had to slow whilst vehicles are parking/pulling away**. This poses a danger to traffic both on the A435 or turning the corner on to the slip road.

#### **Needs of the Area – Travelling public**

Within less than 3 miles of the Branson Cross/Broad Lane slip road on the A435 there are:-

**3 garages** with snack facilities and some with washroom facilities – one on the opposite side of the road from the slip road in question

**3 pubs** offering snacks and meals as well as washroom facilities (The Dog, The Cross and Bowling Green and The Rose and Crown) – one on the opposite side of the A435 from the slip road in question

**1 farm shop** – with meals, snacks and washroom facilities

**1 restaurant** – The Portway

All of the above have appropriate and adequate parking.

In addition there are **2 snack vans** which regularly park on the A435 within parking bays which offer purpose built parking sites for vehicles using the facilities.

We are only one junction down on the M42 from a full motorway service provision which a number of the trucks must pass before turning onto the A435.

The slip road is not an appropriate parking area and the business and people/trucks visiting the van are causing an **obstruction**. There are now chairs on the footpath providing seating for customers – again obstructing the footpath.

#### **Needs of the Area – Local Community**

**In addition** to the facilities listed above which are already available to the residents of Tanworth-in-Arden and Beoley we also have **3 pubs/restaurants, 2 shops, a Saturday produce market and a post office** which more than adequately serve the local residents – with many more facilities closely situated on our boundaries in Henley-in-Arden, Earlswood and Redditch.

The van has **taken the passing trade from local services** – services provided by our local residents, and part of our community.

I am not aware of anyone in the local community that use this facility, nor anyone that would support this application.

#### **Public Nuisance/Consultation**

In addition to the above I would like to express my considerable disappointment that it has taken so long for the Council to address the **question of an unlicensed business trading on the side of a road**. As a company director both my company and I am bound by law to comply with current legislation. Yet in the case of Ants Snacks this business appears to have been allowed to site itself on a stretch of road without proper consent and without the agreement of local residents. It has now fallen to

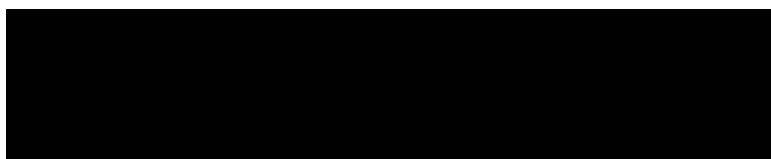
individuals to protest and hope that the Council will support their rights over and above an individual who has clearly been in breach of the law on a number of counts.

Finally, on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> June the Chuck Wagon was parked on the same slip road at 3.00 pm in the afternoon. If the Council refuses to act to prevent businesses simply setting themselves up without due consideration for the law, then **what's to stop a number of other businesses setting themselves on the same slip road as appears to have happened recently.**

**The signage on the A435 is distracting and unsightly** and I would challenge anyone to suggest that it is appropriate or in keeping with *any* residential area. Again I assume this has been placed without any permissions granted.

I hope that my comments and those of other residents will be given appropriate consideration and the democratic rights of the local community will be respected in this matter.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.