

## Appendix C

### Stone, Derek

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**From:** Anita Stepnitz  
**Sent:** 16 May 2016 21:00  
**To:** Licensing Shared Email  
**Subject:** Objection to license application by The Canteen, Point Battery & Barracks.

Dear Licensing Dept.,

I wish to object to the premises alcohol licence application by SGL Southsea (Holdings) Ltd T/A The Canteen for their premises at Point Battery & Barracks, Broad Street, Portsmouth PO1 2JE for the following reasons.

1) Residents have been led to believe that this café (through letters distributed by the owners of this business) would be closing around 18:00 or 20:00 depending on the season. Therefore why is there a requirement for a 10:00am to 22:00pm alcohol licence? If it is for activities related to the Art Studios, the Art Studios should be making these applications individually on the odd occasions when later opening is required.

2) I'm really shocked that the licence application is for both on and off-site sales of alcohol. In 2012, I was invited to be an Observer at the inquest for Marco De Araujo, of Grafton Street, Portsmouth, who drowned after he entered the water at the Hot Walls beach. Marco De Araujo was attempting to rescue two young girls who had got into difficulties in the water due to passing wash from a continental ferry. Marco entered the water to save the little girls along with another man, Connor Faith.

Marco's body was found in the Solent by the crew of HMS Richmond on August 7th, 2012.

I was invited to be an Observer at Marco De Araujo's Inquest because as a member of FOOPA (Friends of Old Portsmouth Association) I had been researching seafront safety at the time of Marco's drowning and had accidentally found that a number of safety reports were out-of-date on the day Marco drowned and despite their date (August 2010) they had gone unactioned by Portsmouth City Council as there were no Action Plans found through FOI enquiries. It was therefore a FOOPA committee decision to give these reports to David Horsley, HM Coroner in case they provided evidence for his investigations into Marco De Araujo's drowning.

On the day of the incident, Marco had consumed three cans of Stella larger and had had a small amount of cannabis.

I cannot remember witnessing a more emotional morning than listened to the circumstances leading up to Marco's drowning. But sitting in on Marco's Inquest has influenced my view that the granting of an alcohol license which allows off-site sales at the Hot Walls has the potential to impact on public safety at the beach.

The Hot Walls beach is deceptively dangerous and this was highlighted at Marco's Inquest when the Coroner questioned David Evans, Seafront Manager about why there is public use of a beach that is so close to shipping lanes and the mouth of a busy harbour. Also every summer, lifeguards respond to thousands of incidents on UK beaches - but the Hot Walls beach is too dangerous to even allow lifeguards to patrol it.

Alcohol slows down your reactions and can impair your ability to judge distance in water. It would therefore be foolhardy of the Licensing Dept to knowingly allow a premise to sell alcohol off-site at the Hot Walls.

I therefore oppose this license request and would hope that all purchases of beer, wine or cider are only allowed if they are consumed with a meal purchased in the café.

Yours sincerely,

Anita Stepnitz  
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