# Dracula’s House licence sparks fresh alcohol concerns on London Road, Brighton



Dracula’s House, a new establishment on London Road in Brighton, has sparked concern among local residents and officials following its application for a licence to sell alcohol. The proposed hours for alcohol sales are from 8am to 9pm Monday to Saturday, and from 9am to 6pm on Sundays. Despite the owners’ intention to focus on Romanian products, including food and alcohol, the licensing application has met significant opposition.

Thirteen local residents have voiced their objections, alongside Green councillor Sue Shanks, who represents the Westhill and North Laine ward. The concerns largely stem from the existing high concentration of off-licences in the area, which have contributed to a myriad of social issues. In a district already grappling with problems linked to anti-social behaviour and street drinking, Shanks commented, “Residents and I are concerned about the amount of alcohol available in London Road.” This apprehension is echoed by other community members, such as Ashok Lenkala, who described the impact of weekend drinking in the area, noting the prevalence of litter and public urination.

Historically, the council has shown hesitation in granting new off-licence applications, with recent refusals underscoring this policy. For instance, the Co-op's application in August 2020 for a new shop was rejected due to concerns about saturation in the local market. Similarly, a request by R&A Global Store for a licence catering to specialist African and Caribbean products was declined in April 2022. The council's trend suggests a commitment to maintaining stability and safety in a neighbourhood already burdened with issues related to alcohol sales.

Data from Sussex Police paints a worrying picture: over a recent 12-month period, the area surrounding London Road recorded 469 incidents, predominantly violent crimes. This backdrop of crime dramatically shapes the debate surrounding new alcohol licences, as seen in past applications by other establishments seeking extended operating hours, including a KFC and a local takeaway, both of which faced licensing objections under similar circumstances due to public safety concerns.

In response to community apprehensions, the Cimpoesus have proposed conditions to mitigate potential risks associated with their licence. They intend to limit their offerings to Romanian alcohol products, ensuring that no more than 5 per cent of their stock comprises alcoholic beverages. Additionally, all alcohol will be kept behind the counter, which aligns with practices seen in other successful applications, such as Tesco's recent licence acquisition in Western Road where stringent conditions and community agreements facilitated a smoother approval process.

Councillor Shanks remains skeptical, suggesting the predisposition of the local council to refuse off-licence applications is warranted by the area's existing challenges with late-night drinking and drug use. There exists a palpable tension between promoting diverse cultural offerings and safeguarding the community’s well-being, as evidenced by the widespread local opposition to further alcohol outlets.

While the Cimpoesus have expressed a willingness to collaborate with local residents to address these concerns, the road ahead may be fraught with challenges. The licensing panel is expected to deliver its decision within five working days, a result that could significantly influence both the immediate future of Dracula’s House and the broader dynamic of alcohol licensing in Brighton.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25165971.draculas-house-drink-licence-sparks-street-drinking-fears/?ref=rss)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25165971.draculas-house-drink-licence-sparks-street-drinking-fears/?ref=rss)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25165971.draculas-house-drink-licence-sparks-street-drinking-fears/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2025/02/04/police-object-as-london-road-takeaway-seeks-4am-licence/), [[3]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/council/kfc-franchise-in-brighton-seeks-3am-late-night-refreshment-licence-but-police-and-council-object-4833566)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25165971.draculas-house-drink-licence-sparks-street-drinking-fears/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2025/02/04/police-object-as-london-road-takeaway-seeks-4am-licence/), [[3]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/council/kfc-franchise-in-brighton-seeks-3am-late-night-refreshment-licence-but-police-and-council-object-4833566), [[5]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd7x9ed3w1eo)
5. Paragraph 5: [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25165971.draculas-house-drink-licence-sparks-street-drinking-fears/?ref=rss), [[4]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k83nel1pmo)
6. Paragraph 6: [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25165971.draculas-house-drink-licence-sparks-street-drinking-fears/?ref=rss), [[3]](https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/council/kfc-franchise-in-brighton-seeks-3am-late-night-refreshment-licence-but-police-and-council-object-4833566)
7. Paragraph 7: [[1]](https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25165971.draculas-house-drink-licence-sparks-street-drinking-fears/?ref=rss), [[6]](https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2024/03/01/councillors-turn-down-shops-drinks-licence-application/), [[7]](https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2024/02/20/brighton-convenience-store-applies-for-drinks-licence/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/25165971.draculas-house-drink-licence-sparks-street-drinking-fears/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2025/02/04/police-object-as-london-road-takeaway-seeks-4am-licence/> - In February 2025, Brighton Pizza and Chicken, located on London Road, applied to extend its operating hours until 4am. Sussex Police and council licensing officials objected, citing concerns over high levels of violent crime in the area. The police reported 469 incidents, mostly violent crimes, over a 12-month period. The application was under review by the Brighton and Hove City Council licensing panel, with a decision expected within five working days.
3. <https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/politics/council/kfc-franchise-in-brighton-seeks-3am-late-night-refreshment-licence-but-police-and-council-object-4833566> - In October 2024, Supercharger Central Limited, operating a KFC franchise on London Road in Brighton, applied for a late-night refreshment licence to extend operating hours until 3am. Sussex Police and council officials objected, citing concerns about crime and disorder in the area. The police recorded 469 violent crimes and anti-social incidents in the year leading up to the application. The council's licensing panel was set to make a decision within five working days.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0k83nel1pmo> - In November 2024, a new Tesco branch in Brighton was granted a drinks licence despite initial objections from the council. The store, located in Western Road, agreed to stringent conditions after discussions with Sussex Police, including keeping alcohol behind a screen, providing staff training every 12 weeks, and employing a door supervisor during licensing hours. The council's decision was influenced by the police's lack of objection and the agreed conditions.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd7x9ed3w1eo> - In October 2024, Brighton and Hove City Council objected to Tesco's application to sell alcohol at its new store in Western Road, Brighton. The council cited a 'saturation' of premises selling alcohol in the area. Tesco argued that it had a 'good neighbour ethos' and would sell alcohol responsibly. The council's licensing team stated that opening a new outlet selling alcohol would breach its licensing policies.
6. <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2024/03/01/councillors-turn-down-shops-drinks-licence-application/> - In March 2024, councillors in Brighton and Hove refused a drinks licence application from Mazar Market, a convenience store in Western Road. The decision was based on police concerns about the owner's lack of experience and the high concentration of alcohol-related businesses in the area. Sussex Police recorded 143 violent crimes and 97 cases of anti-social behaviour within a 160-metre radius of the store in the year prior to the application.
7. <https://www.brightonandhovenews.org/2024/02/20/brighton-convenience-store-applies-for-drinks-licence/> - In February 2024, Mazar Market, a convenience store in Western Road, Brighton, applied for a drinks licence to sell alcohol from 8am to 11pm. Sussex Police objected due to the high concentration of alcohol-related crime in the area. Over a 12-month period, there were 143 violent crimes and 97 cases of anti-social behaviour within a 160-metre radius of the store. The council's licensing panel was set to make a decision within five working days.