



Lancashire
Constabulary

Lancashire Constabulary South Division Premises Licence Review File

Name: Greenwoods General Store

Address: 88 Seymour Street

Licensing Authority: Chorley Borough Council

Licence Number: PA1026



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1. Summary

Greenwoods General Store is a single storey 'Off Licensed' premises which is situated on Seymour Street at the junction with Brighton Street, within the Chorley East Ward of Chorley Borough Council. The geographical makeup of the area is highly residential which are terrace style housing. Chorley East Ward is also home to three schools within 0.3 miles of Greenwoods.

Greenwoods General Store holds a Premise Licence which allows the sale of alcohol 'off-sales' between 0600-2300hrs daily, along with alcohol the premises sells cigarettes & other tobacco products, food & drink, and general household goods. It has a single entrance/exit to the premises which is situated on Seymour Street. Inside the premises on the right as you enter is the service counter, bottled spirits are on display at the rear of the counter with wine, beers, and other alcohol on the shelves nearby which is completely visible from the service counter.

Alcohol is stored in two separate areas within the premises, a small room at the rear along with a second room in the basement which is accessible from the rear of the counter.

The nearest comparable Licensed Premises to Greenwoods is approximately 0.1miles away.

2. History

Paviter SINGH is the Premises Licence Holder and the Designated Premises Supervisor for Greenwoods General Store, positions which he has held since 14th February 2019. SINGH became a Personal Licence Holder on 2nd March 2018 which was issued by Chorley Borough Council and police systems show SINGH as being responsible for no other Licensed Premises.

A member of Lancashire Constabulary Licensing attended the premises on 21st February 2019 to speak with SINGH following the transfer and vary DPS applications, SINGH was not present, it was noted that there was no summary licence on display and the only entry in the refusal register dated back to March 2018. The premises was visited the following day and SINGH was spoken with who had put requirements of the premises licence into place, SINGH was advised regarding the refusals register and authority to sell.

Whilst under the control of SINGH the premises has not previously undergone any test purchasing operations until 2023.



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3. Reason for Review

On 17th May 2023 a joint police and Trading Standards knife test purchase under Operation Sceptre, a national operation dedicated to tackle knife crime was conducted at the premises. The Premises failed the test purchase with SINGH selling a trimming knife to 13- and 15-year-old children. Police and Trading Standards then conducted a follow up visit where educational advice around age related sales was given.

On Tuesday 30th May 2023 the premises was subjected to a multi-agency visit at the request of Lancashire Trading Standards due to concerns over potential illicit vodka at the premises. We attended at approximately 14:30hrs and a full inspection was conducted. Lancashire Trading Standards seized several bottles of vodka from the display to do further analyst. During the inspection we discussed training with the member of staff that was working, he advised us that he had done an online course for age related sales but had no documentation or paperwork relating to it.

Friday 2nd May 2023 saw a multi-agency alcohol test purchase operation conducted at the premises. At approximately 1210hrs the premises failed by selling a four pack of Stella Artois lager to a 16- and 17-year-old test purchaser. Following the sale, the premises was visited and the staff member who made the sale was issued with a £90 fixed penalty.

Given the two failed test purchases in a two-week period, Lancashire Constabulary have concerns over the premises and it's ability to lawfully sell age related products.

4. Outcome Sought

The sale of a trimming knife followed by sale of alcohol to children show that there are clear failings at the premises. To ensure that the premises has no further negative impact upon the Licensing Objectives, Lancashire Constabulary respectfully request that the Premises Licence is suspended for a minimum of 6 weeks along with additional conditions being imposed upon the Premises Licence as outlined in LC04.

The rationale for this outcome is to prevent any further negative impact on the Licensing Objectives whilst the premises implements the new conditions.

5. Supporting Documents

LC01 – Statement from Police Licensing Officer

LC02 – Street view image of premises

LC03 – Camera footage of the test purchase on 2/06/23

LC04 – Bodyworn camera footage from 02/06/23

LC05 – Requested Premises Licence conditions.

I am PC 6884 Stephen Connolly of Lancashire Constabulary, currently attached to the South Licensing Team based out of Preston Police Station.

With delegated authority from the Chief of Police, Chief Constable Rowley of Lancashire Constabulary I make representations on his behalf with matters relating to the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005.

I make this statement in relation to a Licensed Premises called Greenwoods General Store which is situated on Seymour Street, Chorley. In this statement I will mention Paviter SINGH, the Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor of Greenwoods, positions which he has held since February 2019. Singh also holds a Personal Licence issued by Chorley Borough Council in March 2018. I will also mention [REDACTED], staff member at the premises. I will finally mention Lauren MANNING & Jason MIDDLETON who are officers from Lancashire Trading Standards and Nathan HOWSON, Chorley Borough Council Licensing.

On 24th May 2023 I was made aware by MANNING that Greenwood's had been visited on 17th of May as part of a test purchase operation and failed by selling a trimming knife to a 13-year-old child & 15-year-old child. Following this, I suggested that it be revisited as part of an upcoming alcohol test purchase operation. At a later date I was made aware by MANNING that it was SINGH, who had failed this test purchase.

On Tuesday 30th May 2023 I attended the premises for a joint inspection with MANNING and HOWSON following concerns over some of the vodka being sold at the premises. During the inspection MANNING seized several bottles of vodka to undertake further analysis. SINGH was not present during the visit; HOWSON & I discussed staff training with [REDACTED] who referenced having online age-related sales training but didn't have anything documented regarding it.

On Friday 2nd June 2023 at approximately 12:10hrs Greenwoods was subjected to a multi-agency test purchase for alcohol. Under our instruction two children aged 16 and 17 entered the premises in an attempt to buy alcohol, this transaction went ahead with [REDACTED] making no attempt to challenge either of the test purchasers for their ID. On this occasion a four pack of Stella Artois was sold.

We then carried out a revisit at the premises, upon entering the premises without being told directly that they had failed a test purchase [REDACTED] stated that they did not ask for any ID and that they felt they were "OVER THE AGE, OVER 18" before confirming they knew what challenge 25 meant and that they operate it. [REDACTED] then shouted "PAV, I'VE MADE A MISTAKE; I'VE DONE WHAT YOU DID", SINGH then came from the rear of the premises where [REDACTED] advised him that they hadn't asked for ID and sold alcohol.

When asked SINGH advised that he has verbally trained his staff in challenge 25. [REDACTED] was asked if they had any training whilst an employee at Greenwoods, where they advised they couldn't remember that had worked there on and off for some time. [REDACTED] then demonstrated some knowledge of acceptable identification for age restricted products. [REDACTED] was unable to provide any

information about how they could potentially identify underage customers before they got to the checkout, SINGH then provided some information on this. Neither [REDACTED] or SINGH were able to provide any information on proxy sales and it had to be explained to them by HOWSON.

[REDACTED] was then issued with a £90 penalty notice.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S 6884', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

PC 6884 Stephen Connolly

Wines & Champagne
Beer
Mobile Phone
Top up
Gift & Electricity
Top up

Greenwoods

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£1

£1

£3

£1

£16.99

£3.95

FREE

FREE

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1. The premises shall operate and maintain a CCTV system which shall be in use during all times licensable activities are taking place at the premises and comply as follows: -
 - The system shall cover all entrances and exits from the premises, in addition to covering all internal areas of the premises used to display/supply alcohol.
 - The focus of the camera(s) shall be to enable clear identification of persons on the premises.
 - The system will be capable of time and date stamping recordings and retaining said recordings for at least 28 days.
 - The Data Controller shall make footage available to a Police Officer or authorised officer, where such a request is made in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act or any subsequent or alternative legislation.
 - Signage advising that CCTV is in operation will be displayed.

2. A documented Challenge 25 Scheme will be the adopted Age Verification Policy. The Challenge 25 Scheme will be actively promoted and advertised at the premises. Any person purchasing alcohol, who appears to be under 25 years of age, shall be asked to provide acceptable identification to prove that they are 18 years of age or over. Failure to supply such identification will result in no sale or supply of alcohol to that person.

Acceptable forms of identification shall be: -

 - A PASS accredited holographic proof of age card
 - Photo Driving Licence
 - Passport
 - National, including EU Identity Cards

3. An electronic point of sale (ePOS) system shall be installed at the premises which shall be used to record all transactions. Each cashier shall have a login which is unique to them. This system shall:
 - Record the accurate time and date of any transaction,
 - Record the cashier dealing with the transaction,
 - Display a prompt when any age-restricted product is scanned which requires the cashier to confirm whether the purchaser clearly appears over 25 years of age or not,
 - Where the staff member selects that the purchaser does not appear over 25, it shall record what identification document has been used to verify the person's age, in accordance with the Check 25 policy,
 - Where the sale of an age restricted product is refused, this and the reasons for such a refusal shall be recorded.

4. At commencement of employment all members of staff must undergo training in relation to the check 25 policy and the sale of alcohol to drunk persons. All staff must undergo refresher training at least once every 6 months. All training must be held in writing at the premises for at least 12 months and made available for inspection to Responsible Authorities upon request.
5. An incident log shall be kept on the premises which shall be used to record any notable incidents, such as a report of crime or disorder. All entries in the log shall record the date and time, the nature of the incident and the person recording it, the outcome or action taken and a police log number if appropriate. Entries shall be completed as soon as possible and, in any case, no later than the close of business on the day of the incident. The DPS shall inspect the log at least once every two weeks and record with signature the date which the inspection took place.
6. Any person who is authorised by a personal licence holder to sell alcohol under the premises licence shall be authorised in writing. Such authorisation shall include, as a minimum, the name and signature of the person being authorised, the name and signature of the personal licence holder and the date of the authorisation. The log of persons authorised shall be kept up to date and on the premises and shall be produced to a responsible authority on reasonable request.
7. The premises shall not stock nor offer for sale any article which has a blade or is sharply pointed, except where such article is a folding pocketknife where the cutting edge is less than 3 inches in length.