

January 08, 2008

Mayor and Council
City of Victoria

I have to say that I am very concerned that only two people showed up at the community meeting. I not sure whether this signifies the neighbours' approval of the request or that they are unaware of what is actually being requested (despite the fact that the proponents have clearly stated the intended use) This is certainly a case where council, based upon years of experience, needs to do what is best for the community as a whole. I believe we would all like to avoid what has, and continues to, happen in other neighbourhoods.

Based upon my consultation with other community councils, and knowledge on the subject, strictly controlling hours of operation is the best way to minimize any possible negative impact on neighbourhood. This project/proposal is currently linked with the licence not the zone. It is important to distinguish the difference between a wine store operating till 9:00pm and a full-scale liquor store with the same hours.

The BC Government liquor store in the Fairfield Plaza currently operates from 9:30 to 6:00 pm Monday to Thursday, and Saturdays. It has extended hours on Fridays from 9:30 to 9:00 pm, and is closed on Sundays. If someone has to drive five minutes to another location in order to find a liquor outlet that is open that should not be considered the end of the world.

Under 95% of the circumstances, would not a store of this nature still serve the community with hours of operation from 10:00am till 7:00pm, anything else further promotes drive through operation and many other concerns. The community is constantly dealing with a number of on-going issues involving alcohol, property damage, homelessness in the parks and on our streets, and regular beach parties that go onto one and two in the morning.

Other problems include the narrow sidewalk and the fact that once the main door is opened it consumes some of the sidewalk obstructing the flow of pedestrian traffic. Could not the entrance be located on the other side? Equally important, is the proposed 5-10 minute designated liquor store parking out front further promoting a drive-through operation.

I would like to request that any additional storage space be concealed from the public, thereby limiting the apparent size of the store. This will serve to give the appearance of a smaller operation which is in keeping with the character and make-up of the Cook Street Village (and on the same scale as the previous business).

To that end, I would like to see a restriction on sales of single bottles of beer, which are normally sold in a pack or case.

Who is the store supposed to serve and when would this normally take place?

Wayne Hollohan