ANNEX 19

In the article published in the Romsey Advertiser on 15th June, reporting the withdrawal of Esso's application to sell alcohol 24 hours a day once the revamped service station in Greatbridge Road is reopened, it was mentioned that objections to the sale of any alcohol could be made before 6th July.

I and my family live at 24 The Meadows, not far from the Esso garage. Our house fronts onto Robert Whitworth Drive and over the past couple of years we have had increasing amounts of trouble with youths coming into our front garden at night, sometimes just knocking on the front door to attract our attention (which when my wife is on her own at home she finds very threatening). Worse, we have had damage caused to a trampoline on a couple of occasions - once when it was moved from our garden and placed in the centre of the mini-roundabout on Robert Whitworth Drive in the middle of the night. Then subsequently, after we had chained the trampoline to the house, it was tipped up against the front of our house causing damage to roof tiles on our porch and breaking the frame of the trampoline. In addition we've had the front of the house 'egged' and flour thrown at it.

I've called the police on 3 or 4 different occasions to report this antisocial behaviour, but as far as I can tell no action has ever been taken.

I am sure that alcohol plays a part in this behaviour and having it on sale near to our neighbourhood can only serve to attract the perpetrators. There can certainly by no justifiable reason why alcohol needs to be sold 24 hours a day at a garage and it's hard to see why it needs to be sold from the garage at all.