

Helensburgh & District HERALD

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Waiting Game For New DA

The vacant store at 37-39 Walker Street, Helensburgh has recently had an impressive rebuild and awaits notification from Wollongong City Council (WCC) whether or not a 'change of use' development application to accommodate a packaged liquor outlet will be approved. A notice of intention to apply for a liquor licence was also lodged with the NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing in December 2011 and this is also yet to be progressed to the next stage.

The proposed store would be operated by the privately owned 'Chamber's Cellars' comprising 33 small wine and liquor stores across NSW. Helensburgh resident and professional Cellarmaster Paul Woodward, with more than 30 years industry experience would run the proposed store and says, "unlike the earlier proposals made by large multi-nationals, the money generated from the store would stay in the area."

Also positive about the proposal was building owner, Willie Canavan who said, "we are confident the community will recognise that this is not about saturating the local market, but rather providing a better quality service to the area" he concluded by saying "competition is good for the town."

As with the previous two applications there has been strong opposition to an additional license for the area. Ward 1 Councillor, Greg Petty who had opposed the earlier proposals said there is a "significant" number of submissions made against this latest proposal.

The NSW liquor laws allow communities to have input into licensing decisions.

To find out more go to: www.olgr.nsw.gov.au