

Blackpool Council Licensing Service				
Representation made by a Responsible Authority				
Responsible Authority				
Name of Responsible Authority	Licensing Authority			
Name of Officer <i>(please print)</i>	Mark Marshall			
Signature of Officer				
Contact telephone number	01253-478493			
Date representation made	29	03	2017	
Do you consider mediation to be appropriate				NO
Premises Details				
Premises Name	Tesco Express			
Address	96-98 Whitegate Drive			
	Blackpool			
Post Code	FY3 9BZ			
Details of your representation (Please refer and attach any supporting documentation)				
<p>TALBOT Ward currently suffers from some of the highest levels of social problems in Blackpool, alcohol related crime and domestic violence being one of the categories that indicates particularly harmful levels of abuse.</p> <p>Current Statistics from the JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) are 74.5 crimes per 1000 head of population compared with a Blackpool average of 16.9 per 1000 head of population, (over 4 times higher than the Blackpool average).</p> <p>The domestic violence statistic is 26.8 per 1000 head of population compared to a Blackpool average of 11.5 per 1000 head of population.</p> <p>Outlet density in Talbot Ward is the 2nd highest in Blackpool with 23 Off Licences, beaten only by Bloomfield ward which has 24.</p> <p>Talbot ward suffers from a significant problem of street begging and vagrancy with overlaps of street drinking.</p> <p>Since January 2017 my team has been responsible for co coordinating enforcement action against the begging problem and within 2 months have submitted 6 prosecution files, 15 Community Protection Warning Notices and 10 Community Protection Notices. With the level of problems and the subsequent action that will follow at the Magistrates Court, fines, sentences and appropriate orders will be inevitable. The orders sought will be Criminal Behaviour Orders which will seek to prohibit entry into the areas of vulnerability, namely the town centre.</p>				

A number of individuals are currently subject to CBO's from issues detected in 2015 and 2016, one being a male called Colin Clap, a high profile and problematic beggar, this male is chaotic, aggressive, drug and alcohol dependant and was deemed a high enough risk to be banned from the town centre area by virtue of a CBO which is in force until September 2017.

Recent enquires in the area of the Tesco premises on Whitegate Drive have revealed that Clap and another male are operating in the vicinity. On this evidence it is believed that he and another male have been displaced from the town centre and I believe that the numbers of problematic individuals will only increase in the outlying areas as the numbers of CBO's go up.

On the 27th March 2017 I was making enquires in the area when I spoke with a PCSO, collar number 7292 who stated she had received numerous complaints about Clap from Tesco, The Belle Vue and Sainsbury's, he was reported to be causing a Public Nuisance with begging, becoming abusive and being drunk in a public place.

At 11.55hrs the same day I spoke with the DPS at the Belle Vue, a Mitchells and Butlers Licensed premises which is predominantly food led and has a family friendly environment, the premises benefit from numerous outside areas containing tables and chairs and a large car park with a low level perimeter wall.

The DPS explained that a beggar that he referred to as "Duvet Man", now known to him as Colin Clap after he spoke with the PCSO, had been causing problems in the area since late January 2017. He has been the DPS at the premises for 5 years and in his own words this was a fairly recent problem, he described Clap as 6ft tall, scars on his face, brown hair late 30's early 40's. Clap has been seen on numerous occasions begging from customers in the smoking area, where if refused becomes aggressive and abusive, the DPS told me he frequently receives complaints from his customers.

There have been two other incidents that have caused him distress, they include Clap entering the pub during the day and sitting at a table where he finished off the meals of two customers who had briefly left the table, this occurred on the 19th February 2017. On complaint the manager refunded the cost of the food and made them fresh meals.

The second occasion was with an associate of Clap's, described as 6ft tall, blond curly hair and wore a brown/cream puffa jacket, he did something similar in the morning around about the same date and grabbed a half-eaten bacon sandwich off a diner's plate.

These two individuals are immediately removed from the premises if seen but sometimes manage to get in and cause the problems described above.

The DPS arrives at work by 07.30 hrs in the morning and he regularly sees Clap in the vicinity of TESCO or his own premises, it is my view that if he can access alcohol early in the morning this will add to the problems already being experienced.

Long term whilst Clap can be dealt with for potential breaches of his CBO the probability of further individuals replicating his behaviour is a strong likelihood.

For this reason, a commencement time of 7am for the sale of alcohol in this area is something I believe will harm the Licensing Objectives

For New / Variation Applications only.

It is recommended that the licence should only be granted if the application is amended, or if conditions are applied, as detailed below.