

Blackpool Council Licensing Service				
Representation made by a Responsible Authority to an application for the grant / variation of a Premises Licence / Club Premises Certificate				
Responsible Authority				
Name of Responsible Authority	LANCASHIRE CONSTABULARY			
Name of Officer <i>(please print)</i>	PC 4107 Emma Pritchard			
Signature of Officer				
Contact telephone number	01253 604073			
Date representation made	05	02	20	
Do you consider mediation to be appropriate				NO
Premises Details				
Premises Name	Sugar and Spice			
Address	2-4 Queen Street			
	Blackpool			
	Lancashire			
Post Code	FY1 1PD			
Reasons for making representations				
<p>I am in receipt of an application for a Major Variation to the Premises Licence for the above address.</p> <p>The variation includes increasing the hours for Late Night Refreshments until 04:00hrs on Friday and Saturdays and 03:00hrs Sunday – Thursday.</p> <p>On behalf of the Chief Officer of Police, having reviewed the application the Police make formal objections on the following grounds:</p> <p>The police base this objection on the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The premises falls within the current Town Centre Saturation area as part of the Council's Cumulative Impact Policy. 2) Issues of crime and disorder in the immediate vicinity of the premises. <p>When the current Saturation area was reviewed in 2013 a large part was removed leaving only those areas which currently require significant resourcing from police and other responsible authorities and the area where Sugar and Spice is located remains within this area. The issues in this area of the Town Centre are mainly caused due to the behaviour of customers of all the premises together and not just one individual venue due to the high concentration of late night licences already in operation; both</p>				

on-licences and take-aways. The Cumulative Impact Policy applies to applications to vary existing licences, as well as new licences, where modifications are directly relevant to this issue. Police believe that in this case, an extension to current trading hours will have a detrimental impact.

It is not only the number of on-licences that impact on the amount of crime and disorder and Public nuisance that is received but also the number of take-aways with late night licences in a vicinity. Take-aways increase the number of people that gather in the area into the early hours, once they have left the drinking establishments. It provides a haven for people to congregate once outside these venues where they are no longer supervised as closely and disorder then occurs.

This has recently been recognised by Blackpool Council in their current statement of Licensing policy (2015-2019). Point 4.7.3 states:

Due to concerns about crime & disorder and anti-social behaviour arising from the number of takeaways in the area, the town centre saturation area is to be extended to include applications for late night refreshment.

The area in the immediate vicinity of this premises is arguably the most problematic hot spot area for crime and disorder in relation to the night time economy. During the course of the evening revellers congregate in numbers around this junction; of note it is the area where the Police carrier tends to park and also where the street angels/ St John's ambulance take up static positions as they identify this area as being at the most risk of suffering alcohol related violence, harm and nuisance.

Between 31st January 2019 and 31st January 2020 Police have received 1,172 calls in relation to Queen Street alone, of which 188 of these were assaults, 68 were public order incidents, 25 criminal damages, 6 robberies, 101 calls relating to nuisance, 55 concerns for safety and 25 in relation to collapsed, injured or ill persons (vast majority of which are heavily intoxicated individuals). In addition to this there were also 52 incidents reported to the Police as occurring on The Strand.

Examples of incidents that occurred on Queen Street in January alone are as follows:

LC-20200126-0341 03:41hrs Flames
Female intoxicated has called police whilst inside Flames stating her friend has been assaulted by an unknown male whilst inside and has then been arguing with the staff about the CCTV and has been told only Police can view it. Victim states she was punched in the chest causing a red mark then male left, however she doesn't want to take this any further.

LC-20200126-0838 02:00-03:00hrs 25/01/2020 Alley between Nunzios and Flames
According to female victim a girl has punched her then 4 other girls have joined in, causing a swollen nose, cuts and bruising to her back.

LC-20200124-0139 03:57hrs 24/01/2020 Outside Walkabout
Member of the public reporting a 54-year-old male has been attacked; punched in the head then kicked to the head whilst on the floor. Whilst waiting ambulance crew have stated lots of intoxicated people have been getting involved and also a female has slipped whilst having a wee in the back alleyway.

LC-20200123-1503 23:08hrs 23/01/2020 Outside Eatabout, Queen Street
Male reporting he has just been attacked by his girlfriend so he has hit her back and she now has a bust nose.

LC-20200118-0207 03:27hrs 18/01/2020 Outside Walkabout
One male arrested after he punched a male knocking him unconscious right in front of a Police Officer. Victim did not wish to provide a statement.

LC-20200114-0149 04:21hrs 14/01/2020 Queen Street
Massive fight – 12 people picking up traffic cones near to the junction with Dickson Road, female

Appendix 4(b)

screaming as she has been hit on the head. Upon Police arrival the group were walking down Queen Street towards Walkabout. A female victim was on the floor outside the library and was unconscious having been punched. There was also a male with lip. No one made a formal complaint so crime report submitted with no further action.

LC-20200112-0196 03:05hrs 12/01/2020

Outside Bar 19

30 year old male assaulted, has a head injury that was bleeding heavily so went to hospital. It transpires offender was walking past after victim was ejected from Bar 19 and has punched him in an unprovoked attack which has caused him to fall to the floor and hit his head.

Lancashire Constabulary has significant concerns that crime and disorder will increase if this premises licence variation is accepted. The area already suffers as a result of the amount of licences in operation; many drunken revellers remain in the area whilst getting food and this can and does lead to disagreements which result in violence or disorder. This variation will add to the cumulative impact already being experienced within the Town Centre Saturation Area and would lead to further crime, disorder and individual harm and contribute to the stress and further burden on the emergency services.

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

N/A