


<b>Blackpool Council Licensing Service</b>				
<b>Representation made by a Responsible Authority</b>				
<b>Responsible Authority</b>				
Name of Responsible Authority	<b>Licensing Authority</b>			
Name of Officer <i>(please print)</i>	Mark Marshall			
Signature of Officer				
Contact telephone number	<b>01253-478493</b>			
Date representation made	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2016</b>	
Do you consider mediation to be appropriate			<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Premises Details</b>				
Premises Name	<b>Newsagents</b>			
Address	60 Coronation Street			
	Blackpool			
Post Code	FY1 5EE			
<b>Details of your representation (Please refer and attach any supporting documentation)</b>				
<p>The premises are located within Talbot Ward which is subject to a cumulative impact policy in relation to Off Licenced sales of alcohol. Paragraph 4.5 of the Statement of Licensing Policy sets out Blackpool Councils position on Off Licence Applications within the saturated wards.</p> <p>Coronation Street has suffered with an increase in anti-social behaviour in recent years some of which is alcohol related. The Co-Op late shop who have operated in this locality for some years have a reasonable trading history and no concerns with regards to irresponsible retailing have been identified but still the problems in the area prevail, the prospect of a further alcohol retailer in the area does cause anxiety in the community.</p> <p><b>Proximity to the Problem Locations</b></p> <p>Through engagement with the community and attendance at the Area Business Forum Meetings I am aware of 3 problem addresses all of which are located within 100-150 metres away from the applicant's premises.</p> <p><b>86 Coronation Street</b>, this is an address that has been a hive of activity for criminality and anti-social behaviour since at least 2014 with regular visits at the address by the police who are in search of</p>				

offenders wanted in relation to allegations of crime, anti-social behaviour from the tenants which includes drunkenness and rowdy behaviour at the front of the premises as they leer at passers by causing general fear and intimidation.

In the summer of 2014 I obtained some witness statements from residents in the locality in order to deal with some of the problems at 86 Coronation Street, I have copied and pasted some extracts from one of the witnesses below which support the general comments above but also provide vivid detail of alcohol fuelled anti- social behaviour.

I make this statement to describe the hell we are having to endure with a property

..... us which is 86 Coronation Street. The property houses a high turn over of short stay residents who appear to be very anti-social. Most are young in their 20's, most appear to be regularly in trouble with the police as the frequency of the police visits at the address really stands out to all the community, it feels like there is a police car at the property every day of the week.

3. The personal impact it is having on my..... and I is significant,

.....  
.....

4 On a daily basis the level of noise from the shouting and jeering from the residents of 86 Coronation Street is a visible deterrent for me and my guests using the local facilities, in particular the convenience Store across the road, the Co-op and also I find myself unable to walk my dog down the street.

5. On a daily basis groups of residents or their friends from other addresses nearby congregate outside 86, they will push and shove each other, argue and swear at very loud levels, they drink alcohol, throw bottles and cans which usually smash and they smoke cannabis and the smell as you pass near makes me gag. The behaviour and demeanor is so intimidating I was convinced that the property was and is a Bail Hostel. I have been told that this is not the case and applying some common sense, perhaps a Bail Hostel would come with a level of management and supervision which is currently absent from this property.

6. The daily precautions I have had to bring in to my daily routine are remarkable. When we

walk our dog during the early evening I find myself creating an illusion that we are still in the home but we need to go to much greater measures than leaving a light on. We sneak out of the back door and depart through the rear exit as we feel that the groups that congregate outside 86 are constantly watching our movements, when returning again we are careful again not to be seen returning as the groups always seem to take notes of our routines.

7. Going to the Co-op is a major operation, I always notify ..... when I leave so he can watch our for me then I walk a considerable distance down Coronation Street(Southbound) then cross the road, then I double back and manage to get in the Co-op with out having to pass by the jeering groups outside 86. This adds considerable distance to my journey. It should be a simple stroll across the road but is usually 3 times the distance by having to 'double back'
8. The monitor for our CCTV is in our living accommodation and we cant rest until the last guest is in as we are paranoid that a door may be accidently left open. I find also that I have to keep my outer door to the hotel shut for much longer periods that I used to. I have been a hotelier for many years and the unofficial 'open sign' is leaving the main front door open allowing access into our vestibule.
9. The problems seem to be at their worst during the warmer months, last summer in particular there were a number of alarming incidents. One which stands out is in my mind was last July or August, a male tenant who was very conspicuous as he was the loudest most troublesome individual housed in the property. He was always in the centre of any quarrels and disorder which included anti social pranks that they would play on passers by.
10. It was a fine sunny day with the usual congregation outside 86, the problematic male stood absolutely naked at the first floor bay window, not content with exposing his upper torso, he proceeded to climb on the internal window cill and shout down to the group below, the

noise, the level of swearing and the full frontal exposure of this man which included his genitals went on for 10-15 minutes. It was the middle of the afternoon and anyone's attention would have been drawn to this anti-social demonstration which had no sign of stopping. .... and I went over to the rental shop where an apparent security officer is posted. The male is in his 40's looks in poor health, wears glasses, unshaven, slicked black hair and is of a fat build. .... was enraged by what was going on so demanded some action you "Can you not see whats going on out here! Do you not know what this is doing to the area". The security man who sits behind a glass shield screen just said in a very unenthusiastic tone that he would let the owner know. We were appalled by his dismissive approach.

11 Another terrible story was also last year when the International Dance Festival was being held at the Winter Gardens, we had 2 beautiful young girls staying with us, they had booked for 9 nights. They were impeccably behaved and well presented and both in their late teens. They went over to the Co-op and were subject to a barrage of lecherous jeers from the congregated group outside 86. They shouted GET YOUR KNICKERS OFF!; they repeated this with jeering and laughing, then another shouted GET YOUR TITS OUT!. The girls came back to the hotel visibly upset, and sadly will never come back to our hotel. I felt ashamed and angry about what is happening on my doorstep.

12. There was a number of occasions where eggs and flour were thrown at passers by, again a very distinctive incident was during the illuminations last year a lady was walking by with a very smart pram with a child on board. She was pelted with eggs which smashed by her feet and hit the side of the pram. I came to her rescue and ushered her into the Co-op where we reported the matter to the Co-op's security guard, the poor lady was again visibly shaken with remnants of smashed egg all over her beautiful pram.



- 13 There are usually at least 10 incidents per week, many of which ..... and I pass comment on but no longer bother to report. I fear for my personal safety when going to the Co-op and do not carry a bag or my purse, I simply just clutch a monitory note which usually a small denomination such as £5 or £10 as I genuinely fear that I may be attacked.
14. My fear for my business reputation is significant. I have had occasions where guests are clearly put off or down right appalled who will never come back, the situation has reached breaking point and cannot be allowed to continue. Respite is desperately required.

The statement above was one of 3 taken in 2014 after which the owner of the property was formally spoken too and put on notice that consideration of a Closure Notice was being made, he responded well as issues for a time subsided, but in the last 3 or 4 months this property has come back on the Agenda and similar issues are beginning to become a problem again.

**25 Vance Road.**

In October 2015, 25 Vance Road was subject to a closure order issued using powers under the Anti Social Behaviour Act , the connection with alcohol misuse was a factor during the evidence collation process but this was one of the more minor aggravations with this property as there was clearly evidence of drug misuse, multiple offenders housed together causing a huge variety of problems all of which a huge detrimental effect on the community. In order to safe guard individuals personal information I have selected some extracts from a statement that was used as part of the closure order to demonstrate some of the issues and impact of this property;

The warnings required the tenants to immediately 'Cease all behaviours which cause harassment, alarm or distress to those in the locality including, but not limited to, misuse of drugs, drinking in the street, congregating outside the property, and causing noise nuisance.'

4. On Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015, the Blackpool Gazette ran a front page news story in headlined, 'Hoteliers plea to shut down trouble magnet house'. Within this article, it was highlighted that the Police had attended 39 incidents at 25 Vance Road over the previous six months. The article also stated that business owners had been fighting for seven years to get the authorities to close the premises. A copy of the article is exhibited to this, my statement, marked **DB4**.

5. A day of action took place on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 in which a number of Council officers, including myself, went into the community to visit those who live in the vicinity of 25 Vance Road. This was for the purpose of undertaking further investigations and to take community impact statements from these members of the community. A number of businesses also provided statements.

17. As part of the work carried out on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2015, Mr Matthew Dougall, Community Safety Officer for Blackpool Council, took a number of statements including some from staff employed at the Co-Op Supermarket on Coronation Street. Staff at this store had previously reported issues with residents of Vance Road at the monthly Talbot Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting. The Co-Op had taken the decision to issue exclusion notices to specific offenders, something which is covered in the statement of Lynne Brough, Manager at this store.

14. On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October I contacted Charlie Docherty who runs a monthly meeting of local hoteliers. This meeting was established in around 2013. Within this time, 25

P10 10

Vance Road has featured in the majority of meetings. I asked him to send me copies of recent minutes from these meetings as 25 Vance Road is often discussed by the attendees. A copy of these minutes are exhibited to this, my statement, marked **DB 23-26** they have been redacted to remove information in respect of other properties.

38. Throughout the time the Blackpool Council and Lancashire Constabulary have been involved in dealing with antisocial behaviour at 25 Vance Road, there have been a number of people who have come forward to complain about the issues they have experienced. Within their statements, individuals have voiced their concerns within about the torment that they have suffered over the years. The actions of the tenants and their guests at 25 Vance Road have begun to affect the local businesses, potentially preventing repeat custom. Blackpool is a vibrant town that attracts a diverse range of visitors with numerous attractions for all but these acts of antisocial behaviour have undoubtedly had a detrimental effect on the town and portray Blackpool in a negative light. Closing 25 Vance Road would have an immediately positive impact on the community and provide much needed respite.

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35. As evidenced in the community impact statements, the impact that this antisocial behaviour has had on the local community and businesses has been significant. I personally witnessed a hotelier break down in tears when questioning them about the effect of the issues at 25 Vance Road, and this individual informed me that they were taking anti-depressants as a result of the ongoing problems. They also said that they had not been on holiday in over eight years as they did not feel comfortable leaving their business unoccupied in light of the persistent ASB in the area.



The Final Property is the new Probation Offices on Coronation Street. The issues here include groups of people congregating nearby the property; some of them are consuming alcohol whilst they either wait for people who are attending appointments at the offices or just generally hanging around with associates who may be already waiting around in this locality. This property is located within 100metres of the applicant shop and the comments above are supported from information received from Charlie Docherty on behalf of the community. Attached to this representation is an e mail chain between myself and Mr Docherty that confirms the details of a verbal discussion I have had with me in relation to the thought of additional alcohol retailers in the area.

### **Conclusion**

The information above demonstrates that community tensions are high and many businesses and residents have suffered, clearly alcohol plays a part but it cannot be blamed for all the issues in their entirety. However the prospect of an additional retailer in the area leaves the community feeling that things will only get worse if the availability of alcohol increases. Therefore the committee is asked to act in support of the community feeling and endorse their own policy and refuse this application.

**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.**

## Mark Marshall

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**From:** on behalf of charlie docherty <talbotwardassoc@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 November 2016 18:20  
**To:** Mark Marshall  
**Subject:** Re: New Off Licence Application

As before is best for me.  
Thanks  
Charlie

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Mark Marshall <mark.marshall@blackpool.gov.uk>  
**Date:** 04/11/2016 17:36 (GMT+00:00)  
**To:** charlie docherty <talbotwardassoc@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: New Off Licence Application

Many thanks . All e mails seen.

Do you wish to stand on your own as an objector or be a witness for the lensing authourity ( like you did last time ).

I can discuss the different options next week.

Can you also give me the full names and addresses of the authors of the emails you have sent. We still have over a week before we need go make submissions.

Sent from my Samsung device

----- Original message -----

**From:** charlie docherty <talbotwardassoc@hotmail.co.uk>  
**Date:** 04/11/2016 17:30 (GMT+00:00)  
**To:** Mark Marshall <mark.marshall@blackpool.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: New Off Licence Application

Dear Mr Marshall

Thank you for your e mail, your account of our conversation is accurate. I've sent you some of the e mails i have received from concerned residents, and business owners in the area  
If you require any further information, do not hesitate to contact me.If i am required at a licensing meeting, i'm happy to attend.

Kind Regards  
Charlie

**From:** Mark Marshall <mark.marshall@blackpool.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 04 November 2016 13:36:56  
**To:** 'Central Blackpool Business Forum'  
**Subject:** New Off Licence Application

Dear Charlie

Further to our discussion on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 where you were updating me of some fresh concerns in the area you raised 2 points, 1 was a Fire work shop near to Vance Road and the other was a newsagents which is on Coronation Street, you suspected concerns with both premises, I subsequently checked that there was valid licence for the firework shop and the news agent was in the process of applying for an alcohol licence. You were immediately more concerned about the prospect of another alcohol retailer in the area and have rightly lodged your objections in the past to premises applying for licences in the area, the details of your recent area objections on an unrelated premises are found below;

Dear Mr Docherty

Further to my attendance at the Central Blackpool Business Forum meeting held at the Hotel and Apartments Club on Coronation Street on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August, I noted one of the ongoing actions was the issues around the Central Car Park Coach Station operated by National Express and also problems around the toilets in this locality.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 we had a more detailed discussion on this issue where you also expressed concern about the number of Off Licences as the root of the problem, in the communities opinion a lot of the issues are caused by people who were under the influence of drink or drugs who were aggressively begging and engaging in anti-social behaviour.

During the meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> August Sgt Ian Andrew responded to the community concerns by reporting that the police are in attendance daily, are doing what they can and have or are in the process of issuing community protection warning to various problematic individuals.

On our meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 you explained that you had made further enquires in relation to the issues disclosed and went personally down to the car park on the afternoon of the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016, you spoke with Andrew one of the managers of the Danflo toilets who confirmed that the issues of Anti-Social behaviour were spiralling out of control with about 20 undesirables hanging around on a daily basis, begging, abusing staff and the public verbally, behaving in a disorderly manner using foul and abusive language and general causing a perception of fear in the area for residents and visitors. Andrew made reference to an incident that occurred on or around the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016 during the day where a female was completely naked running around screaming and shouting , again she was either heavily under the influence



of drink or drugs. Andrew explained that the need to call the police to respond to issues was a daily occurrence and he had reported the problems to his client who was the council, the matter was reported to John Paul Lovie who looks after this contract on behalf of the council.

Whilst visiting Andrew you also witnessed 2 undesirables go into one of the disabled toilets and spend about 15 minutes inside where your presumption seemed to be they were either taking or dealing drugs, you formed this view based upon their appearance, and the all the reported issues of similar behaviour.

You made further enquires the same day speaking to Eddy a cleaner employed by Danflo who again confirmed how bad things were and the verbal abuse and threats he is subjected too when trying to move problematic people on is significant, he also commented that one day after asking 2 individuals to move on he was shouted at and had the wing mirror of his van damaged by the individuals.

The communities observations of police activity have been negative on one occasion where they saw 2 PCSO stop and speak to some of the more problematic characters and rather than move them on they seemed to be just having a friendly chat and left them to go about their business which seemed to be just causing general annoyance to the public.

You also spoke with a representative of National Express who again described the area as “ Nightmare” and they too were in regular contact with the police.

Our discussion then moved on to alcohol retailers in the area where you confirmed you could not identify any one particular retailer but you believe that due to the high volume of alcohol retailers in the area that the prospect of additional or new licensed premises could only make things worse, add this to the wide spread problems already being felt by the community you represent a new off licence in the area would only make things worse.

We discussed the fact that this particular issue around the coach park was first brought to your attention about 6 months ago by Dave Daily the manager of the Castle pub and has been an ongoing item on the agenda ever since, whilst there has been some improvement's for short periods the problem seems to have come back with a vengeance in the last couple of months.

When you have looked into longer term interventions regarding the homeless problem in the area and you were shocked to discover that Social Services just attend and give the individuals hot refreshment's.

I would obviously like the community issues to be raised as I have heard them first hand but cannot necessarily evidence specifics in the same way that you can, to that end you agreed to come and speak at the proposed Licensing Hearing on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 6pm where the application to consider the grant of a new Off Licence at 87 Central Drive will be considered.

I explained that in order to be as fair as possible we ( Licensing Authority) must give the applicant proper notice of who we wish to attend and the topics they will cover, to that end my proposal will be that this e mail forms the framework of your evidence and you would only be permitted to amplify the matters contained herewith, for example it would be unfair to stray into areas that the applicant has not had proper notice of.

If you are in agreement with the contents of the e mail and you are willing to attend the hearing I feel your community knowledge would really help the Licensing Committee when considering this application.

The Newsagents in question it is 60 Coronation Street , you added that Coronation Street was also suffering problems with alcohol related ASB and quoted a number of problem premises nearby where drunkenness was a huge factor in the problems experienced by the community, the first is the new Probation Offices, which are located within 100 meters of the prospective news agent (60 Coronation Street) You described although the offices were originally set up for appointments only this has been something that has fallen by the way side and they see callers who just drop in, by the nature of the services on offer at these offices their clients are usually problematic and attend with a handful of friends or co visitors, it is not unusual to see them consuming alcohol on the street, hanging around in large intimidating groups , shouting and behaving in a rowdy anti-social manner.

The prospect of another alcohol retailer in such close proximity will only exasperate this issue as they may be encouraged to stay longer than is necessary and purchase more alcohol adding to an already intolerable situation.

Additional problem locations also include 25 Vance Road, this premises is approximately 150 meters away from the prospective retailer ( 60 Vance Road ), this premises has a long and problematic history and has even been subject to a closure order from the Council for anti-social behaviour, issues include high volume police attendance to the address responding to calls for service or executing search warrants at the address and attempting to locate offenders. Others issues include rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour, large groups congregating in and around the premises who are usually drunk or consuming alcohol. All these factors added together add to the perception of fear for residents some which do huge detours around the block just to go to the local co op making a journey of less than 100metres to one that is more like half a mile.

Finally the other problematic address is 86 Coronation Street, the issues here are much the same as 25 Vance Road with frequent police attendance responding to problematic tenants.

With the challenges and sensitivities in the area as described above the prospect of another alcohol retailer would simply add fuel to the fire and on behalf of the community I would want to lodge my formal objection to this application.

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