



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
POLICE

Licensing Act 2003

REPORT OF CHIEF OFFICER OF POLICE

TO

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
LICENSING COMMITTEE



City of

NOTTINGHAM

NOVEMBER 2006

CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I submit for your information, the Licensing Report for the year ending 30 September 2006.

The introduction of the new Licensing Act 2003 on the 25 November 2005 has brought about greater communication between the Police and the Local Authorities as we work together to improve strategies and a new partnership of enforcement. These relationships, by their very nature, require hard work and commitment from each agency. Improvement in working relationships will develop naturally over a period of time.

The Police can assure committee members that officers will continue to make regular visits to premises and areas where drink contributes to problems within local communities. In addition, our aim is to reassure the public by continuing with the policy of high visibility patrols in key areas and visits to problem premises. It is through these tactics that this force will address alcohol related violence and reassure the public.

The Police continue to maintain strong links with the licensing trade and we work together with them to review incidents and provide advice and guidance on awareness and preventative measures for the future. Poster and beer mat campaigns are constant initiatives with changing themes, which allow us to provide informative details of threats to the safety of drinkers.

The problems of the past few years do not appear to have been compounded by the introduction of the new legislation or change of responsibility. The fear that the new legislation could lead to a major increase in incidents of crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour has not materialised during this initial period. We have not seen a reduction in incidents and as such we feel that the authorities saturation policy is a helpful means of preventing further increases in violence and disorder.

The Police have maintained a robust approach towards licensing matters. In the last year we have instigated 7 reviews of premises licence. We can assure the committee that we will not hesitate to instigate further reviews when our efforts to work with the premises licence holders to ensure the objectives of the Act have failed or a critical incident takes place at the premises.

The partnership between the Police and the Licensing Authority strengthens along with improved relationships with other agencies.

City Police Initiatives

Pub/Club Watch

There are 9 Pubwatch Schemes across the City all of which operate with similar protocols and are well attended by the Licensing Trade.

Challenge 21 Scheme

Posters and advice are given to operators of bars and shops selling alcohol reminding them of the need to challenge the purchaser's age. There have been numerous seizures of falsified passports and driving licences some of which have led to prosecution (under the Identity Cards Act 2006) of the young persons who present such documents.

Paid Policing

From time to time operators pay for Policing at their venues. Whilst the Police appreciate that some 'one off' events such as those at the Ice Arena warrant paid for Policing we do not regard routine paid for Policing as being a good idea. It is our view that if Police officers are needed routinely then the event should be cancelled as it is indicative of a high risk of injury to both the Public and Police officers.

In the last year The Ice Arena, Isis, Market Bar and Faces have paid for Policing.

Revocations

Review proceedings have been commenced at the following premises: Bar Humbug, Broadway, Bunkers Hill, Conrads, Cuba Libre, Edge, and Sir John Borlase Warren.

Prosecutions

Commenced in relation to Bar Humbug, Conrads and Edge for breach of conditions.

Anti-Violence Initiatives

Domestic violence – Posters & Beer Mats distributed; World Cup 'Substitution' Campaign; Drink driving; Drugs campaign at Lace Market premises.

Street Drinking

Nottinghamshire Police and its partners have recently formed a group to discuss problem Street Drinkers along similar lines to the Begging Meetings and it will target individuals who are long term drinkers. Its aim will be to divert them from their present way of life.

Dispersal Orders

Instigated for the vicinity of The Ice Arena, Stanford Place, Broadway and the Q Lounge.

ASBO's

Two persons made subject of Orders.

Burglary Initiative

Clifton area.

AMEC

A Home Office initiative with funding to tackle alcohol-related and other night -time economy violent crime. Over the last 18 months Nottingham was in receipt of additional funding to target Town Centre violence. This funding has now ceased and it will reduce the levels of uniformed officers on duty late at night in the City Centre.

Test Purchasing

Additional to the two government sponsored Alcohol Misuse Enforcement Campaigns. Since the second appointed day the Police have carried out a number of operations targeting pubs and shops selling alcohol in the City. It has to be said that some of the results have been disappointing.

234 test purchases were conducted in operations. From this there were 115 premises that failed, a failure rate of approx 49%. It is recognized that more education is needed regarding this.

Nottingham City Council Trading Standards have also been very proactive across the City working jointly with the Police and conducting a number of operations at off licenses and supermarkets.

STATISTICS

Area	Applications	TEN's	Police Visits
Aspley / Bilborough	13	30	34
Canning Circus	61	70	147
Bulwell	19	15	164
Clifton / Meadows	26	32	174
City Centre	199	210	714
Bestwood / Sherwood	31	16	55
Sneinton / St Anns	37	21	115
Wollaton / Highfields	25	56	35
Basford / Hyson Green	36	16	56
TOTALS	447	466	1494

Area	25 Nov 04 to 30 Sep 05		25 Nov 05 to 30 Sep 06	
	Assault by Customer	Disorder	Assault by Customer	Disorder
Aspley / Bilborough	21	82	21 ▷	77 ▽
Canning Circus	57	108	47 ▽	131 △
Bulwell	41	81	18 ▽	95 △
Clifton / Meadows	29	101	25 ▽	94 ▽
City Centre	513	718	301 ▽	633 ▽
Bestwood / Sherwood	36	74	15 ▽	68 ▽
Sneinton / St Anns	66	102	22 ▽	106 △
Wollaton / Highfields	20	53	17 ▽	39 ▽
Basford / Hyson Green	57	116	36 ▽	98 ▽
TOTALS	840	1435	568 ▽	1407 ▽

Conclusion:

The results indicate that the problems of the past few years within the City do not appear to have been compounded by the introduction of the new legislation or change of responsibility. It is the case that more incidents take place later at night and as such they present a greater challenge for the Police in dealing with them.

There are a number of other factors that have had an effect over the last year in addition to the Licensing Act 2003. These may impact on levels of disorder in the next few months as below:

- More premises operate until later at night making the drinking spaces greater and hence increased competition. We are now starting to see evidence of cut-price drinks promotions as licensees seek to entice customers into their premises.
- Reduced Police Presence – AMEC funding has now ended and so there will be fewer officers on the street.
- Appeals are now starting to challenge the saturation policy.
- Performance has been partly driven by Police Pro-activity and this needs to be maintained.

We will not know the true situation for another twelve months by which time statistics will be available for a proper comparison.