

Cumulative Impact Assessment – Nottingham City Area

APPLICATION FOR THE IMPOSITION OF A CUMULATIVE IMPACT
ASSESSMENT COVERING BERRIDGE, HYSON GREEN,
ARBORETUM AND RADFORD AREAS

WITNESS STATEMENT OF INSPECTOR AMY ENGLISH

1. I am a Police Inspector with Nottinghamshire Police, based at Radford Road Police Station, Nottingham. I have completed 8 years' service, which have all been within the City of Nottingham. I have had various roles at ranks up to Inspector within uniformed policing. I took up my current role in September 2020. I am the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector responsible for four Ward areas, which include the Berridge, Arboretum and Radford and Park, which are the subject of this application for a Cumulative Impact Assessment.
2. The four Wards are subdivided into fourteen Police Beat areas. I have line management for the Neighbourhood Policing teams in the area and Operation Reacher and also work closely with Response officer teams, CID and other specialist departments, partners, community groups and individuals. We continue to work to cut crime and antisocial behaviour and to improve public safety.
3. The proposed Cumulative Impact Assessment area covers geographic areas which have high indices of deprivation. The majority of persons living and working in the area seek to live their lives in positive ways, however, the high concentration of persons with complex needs and who lapse into criminal and antisocial behaviour often linked with alcohol and its existing widespread availability, make it essential to work very closely with existing licensed premises to ensure adherence to licence conditions and legislation. When new premises licences are applied for it is vital to give them detailed

scrutiny to ensure that often already difficult local environments are not made worse by further alcohol sales.

4. Despite much work by statutory authorities, partner agencies and organisations, by communities and individuals, there is still a great deal of alcohol related disorder, violence and other crimes across these areas and the limiting of both extensions to existing premises licence hours and new premises licences prevents deterioration in prevailing issues which Police and others are working to tackle. Some improvements have been made which local people and representatives correctly demand are sustained. Misuse of alcohol still blights the lives of many through on-street antisocial behaviour, violence on the street and in the home, and other forms of criminal behaviour linked with chaotic lifestyles of persons who are alcohol dependent.
5. Problems of anti-social behaviour, noise, litter and criminal behaviour also emanate from groups of often alcohol dependent street drinkers which have concentrations and gathering points in the Arboretum Ward and Radford area. Operation Navarrese is a police led operation to tackle the anti-social behaviour within Hyson Green linked to street drinking and begging. Operation Dapple is a partnership operation with the City Council that refers to student related alcohol consumption and ASB in public spaces within the Public Spaces Protection Order zones.
6. There are regular concerns regarding street drinking in the wards with police receiving regular reports of anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol misuse. Further licensed premises would increase the number of people who would purchase alcohol and begin drinking on the street, raising further the level of antisocial behaviour and the likelihood of alcohol related violence and disorder.
7. Analysis of crime and anti-social behavior (ASB) has been completed focusing on the proposed Berridge, Arboretum and Radford Cumulative Impact Area. The period analysed covers the last 3 financial years for crime and ASB data.

Observations from the Analysis:

8. At the current time, there are 47 off-licensed premises offering the sale of alcohol within the proposed area. The previous saturation zone has allowed Nottinghamshire Police to successfully object to higher risk venues.
9. Keeping the local communities safe and reducing crime and disorder remain key objectives. The analysis incorporates both offences of violence with and violence without injury, in both public and private locations and the number of offences is clearly a concern. From the experience I have in dealing with many incidents, I am able to state that alcohol is a contributory factor in a high proportion of these incidents.
10. The data shows that from 2018 violence against person offences have increased. In 2019 the offence rose by 3% and a further 2% increase in 2020 despite the pandemic period.
11. The data shows that from 2018 public order offences increased in 2019 by 13%. There was a slight reduction of 2% during the pandemic period but still an increase in offences from 2018.
12. The wards have some of the highest ASB reports across the force with street drinking featuring within Hyson Green as the number one ASB hot spot in the City for several years. This is linked to alcohol and substance misuse that then leads to ASB and aggressive begging. Through experience, I am aware that the shops in the locality supply alcohol to street drinkers and any additional licences would make an already difficult long standing problem unmanageable.
13. Multi-Agency problem solving meetings continue to take place in relation to the ASB and street drinking in the area. Most recently, a partnership approach with statutory agencies and a private supermarket was set up in order to tackle street drinking and ASB in Hyson Green resulting in significant funding and resourcing from all partners.
14. There is clearly a continued need to carefully consider applications for new off- licence premises and variations to existing off-licences, ensuring that the applicant can clearly demonstrate that the operation of the premises will not add to the cumulative impact that already exists and undermine the licensing objectives.

15. It is vital that licences are only granted in exceptional circumstances to ensure there is no further negative impact on the community. Alcohol and disorder come hand in hand and it is imperative that any licences are heavily scrutinised to ensure there is no additional adverse effect.

16. I fully support the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) to which the Licensing Authority will have regard when considering applications, covering the same area as the zone previously instated and which has been of great benefit and effect since it was implemented. The issues the CIA will continue to address are current and serious and it is vital that the opportunity to closely scrutinise and object to applications made in this area of concern remains.

Dated the 19th July 2021

Signed: Inspector Amy English