

Statement in support of the Council's Cumulative Impact Assessment

Melanie Fretwell

July 2021

This statement is in reference to Berridge, Arboretum and Radford Saturation Zone brought into force in January 2014 and the current renewal of Nottingham City Council's Licensing Policy.

My name is Melanie Fretwell and I am the Principal Enforcement Officer for Nottingham City Council's ASB Service. My role involves managing a team of Enforcement Officers dealing with anti-social behaviour and environmental crime across the north of Nottingham City Council's administrative area. The Berridge, Arboretum and Radford Wards are located within my management area.

Hyson Green is the second most popular shopping area after the city centre and is home to a variety of cultures with a thriving local economy. Hyson Green has the largest ethnic minority population in the city with many multicultural shops and supermarkets offering products from West Africa, South Africa, Arabia, Eastern Europe, Iran, India, Pakistan and Russia.

In 2013, it came to my attention from Insp Kaur who was the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector at the time that there were significant issues with alcohol related anti-social behaviour and environmental crime within the Berridge, Arboretum and Radford wards. In order to combat these issues, we met to discuss a variety of methods including introducing a Saturation Zone within the area and also introducing a Designated Public Place Order (DPPO) to extend the DPPO which covered the City Centre to meet with a DPPO which covered the Hyson Green area. This had been introduced in 2005 in accordance with Section 13 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 following the Council being satisfied that nuisance and annoyance to members of the public and disorder had been caused by alcohol consumption within that area.

Evidence gathered at that time in support of introducing a change to the Council's Licensing Policy included carrying out a survey of the area in question to see how many shops and businesses already sold alcohol and how these sales were advertised. I obtained numerous photographs at the time of shops across the whole area portraying alcohol. On carrying out a visit in July 2021 to the same location, I have witnessed a similar number of shops continuing to sell alcohol in the same manner by inviting sales through advertising alcohol prominently in their shop windows, on boards and showing a variety of different alcohol types available to purchase, some at discounted or reduced pricing to attract and increase the sales.

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In order to combat the issues in 2012, Nottinghamshire Police commissioned a Crime Pattern Analysis to understand the areas of crime and the volume of the anti-social behaviour being caused in relation to alcohol consumption. I reviewed all the Health Statistics including the number of alcohol admissions to hospital, statistics on alcohol related deaths and diseases and compared these to other wards within the Nottingham City Council's administrative area. It was clear that alcohol was a prevalent factor in all crime, anti-social behaviour, environmental issues and in particular, the health and wellbeing of those residents within the Berridge, Arboretum and Radford wards.

Nottinghamshire Police introduced Operation Downstroke in order to combat an increase in the number of street drinkers and resultant anti-social behaviour and environmental crime. This Operation aimed to:-

- reduce the number of street drinking incidents,
- reduce the associated fear of anti-social behaviour and crime
- Provide high profile vehicle, foot and static patrols in the area to reassure the community and deter the occurrences of street drinking activity, anti-social behaviour and criminal activity
- Identify the perpetrators of street drinking and anti-social behaviour to take the appropriate enforcement and interventions against them
- Prosecute perpetrators of criminal offences and also take the appropriate civil enforcement and interventions against them
- Offer support to victims and witnesses of anti-social behaviour
- Offer appropriate welfare support to persistent street drinking perpetrators

I attended a number of Alcohol Harm Reduction Conferences to look at what other Cities across England were doing and as a result of all the evidence gathered, I consulted on and introduced the change to the Council's Licensing Policy by introducing a Saturation Zone within the Berridge, Arboretum and Radford wards.

Alongside this change to the Alcohol Licencing Policy, I also introduced the extension to the DPPO to provide authorised Officers with greater powers to tackle alcohol related anti-social behaviour and environmental crime. Under Section 13(2) of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, local authorities can, by order, designate areas that they are satisfied have experienced alcohol-related disorder or nuisance caused to members of the public or a section of the public, so that there can be restrictions on public drinking. There are a number of exclusions to the Order, particularly where regulations apply under other legislation for example the Licensing Act 2003. The powers conferred

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under the DPPOs provides the Police and accredited officers (Nottingham City Council's Community Protection Officers

CPOs) with the power to deal with alcohol related anti-social behaviour, nuisance and disorder in areas that have been designated by the local authority as a DPPO. Section 12 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 provides that an Officer who has reasonable belief a person is or has been consuming, or intends to consume alcohol in a designated public place, can request that they refrain from doing so and may ask the person(s) to surrender any alcohol or alcohol containers (including sealed containers) in their possession. In order to ensure a proportionate use of the powers, individuals who an Officer reasonably believes has been consuming, or intends to consume alcohol within a DPPO are not approached and asked to refrain from drinking unless:-

- a) They are engaged in anti-social behaviour or disorder
- b) The Officer is of a view that there is likely to be anti-social behaviour or disorder, or,
- c) Complaints have been received from members of the public businesses and/or Council staff working in the area that they have been engaged in such behaviour

In 2013, it became apparent that the DPPOs that had been introduced across Nottingham in a piecemeal fashion had displaced the anti-social behaviour and presented some difficulties with dealing with alcohol related anti-social behaviour on the borders of those DPPOs. As a result, I undertook a consultation process across the whole of Nottingham and the results of that consultation concluded that it was proportionate and necessary to introduce a DPPO across the whole of the Council's administrative area. This extension was introduced in 2014.

Also in 2014 the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 introduced the Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) to replace the Designated Public Place Orders. All DPPOs were automatically transferred over to PSPOs under this legislation three years from when the legislation was introduced, being 20 October 2014. As a result of this new legislation, the DPPOs extended in 2014 were automatically changed over to PSPOs meaning that in 2017, all the DPPOs in Nottingham automatically became PSPOs which were in force for 3 years from that date, being 19 October 2017.

In 2020, following another period of consultation across Nottingham City Council's administrative area, I extended the city wide PSPOs for a further three years (the maximum allowed under the AntiSocial Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014).

As a result of all the work I have completed around alcohol across the whole of Nottingham over the past 10 years it has become clear to me that it is necessary and proportionate for the public health

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and wellbeing to ensure that there are control measures in place to support communities and deal with alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

In order to assess the effectiveness of the current Licensing Policy and the need to continue to have a saturation zone within the Berridge, Arboretum and Radford areas, I have obtained statistical data from the Council's Uniformed services (Community Protection Officers) who deal with alcohol related anti-social behaviour and environmental crime on the ground. I can confirm that the Radford Road Uniformed Officers who deal with alcohol confiscations within the Berridge, Arboretum and Radford areas have carried out the following confiscations over the past five years

Year	Radford, Lenton and Wollaton East	Berridge & Arboretum
2016 – 2017	257	643
2017 – 2108	662	633
2018 – 2019	1090	432
2019 – 2020	818	556
2020 – 2021	35	1440
Total	2,862	3704

It is important to note that these figures cover the Lenton and Wollaton East wards too as the Council is unable to separate the figures per ward. It is highly likely however that the most significant number of alcohol confiscations are within the saturation zone described. As can be seen by the figures, rather than there being a decline in alcohol related anti-social behaviour, there has been a steady increase which appeared to peak in 2018 to 2019. The dramatic reduction in 2020 to 2021 for the Radford ward is clearly a result of the on-going pandemic with citizens and in particular being under strict lockdown measures. The Arboretum and Berridge in contrast showed a significant increase evidencing the increased need for strategic measures to be implemented around alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

To correspond with the number of alcohol confiscations made by the Uniformed Officers, I have also checked with the officers who deal with recording the fixed penalty notices issued. Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) can be issued to individuals where they have breached a Public Spaces Protection Order and the FPN can be a way of dealing with the liability on a local level rather than seeking a prosecution. Across the city, 431 FPNs have been issued in the last five years for breaches of a Public Spaces Protection Order which has been implemented to address alcohol issues.

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In addition to the alcohol confiscations and PSPO FPNs issued, the Berridge and Arboretum team have produced figures for warnings issued to citizens in breach of a PSPO but where an alcohol confiscation may not necessarily be appropriate. These figures are:-

2019/20 – 335

2020/21 – 2324

2021/22 – 688 so far

Where Uniformed Council Officers have dealt with alcohol related anti-social behaviour in all cases above, these have come about where an individual has visited (usually a local) shop in the area, purchased alcohol and then gone on to drink it locally and subsequently cause anti-social behaviour or environmental littering by throwing the cans or bottles away in the streets, parks and public areas. The statistics therefore evidence a continuing need to control the number of alcohol licences being issued within these areas in order to control the resultant anti-social behaviour, environmental crime and most importantly, the health and wellbeing of citizens attracted to purchasing increasingly more and more alcohol to consume in the locality.

Having recently visited the Berridge, Arboretum, and Radford areas I have witnessed alcohol as being the predominant sales tactic continuing to be used by shops and businesses to attract custom. As a manager of a team of Enforcement Officers carrying out enforcement activities within this locality, I continue to see alcohol as a prevailing factor for causing anti-social behaviour. The health and wellbeing of citizens must continue to be the Council's highest priority and it is for this reason that I support a continuation of the restrictions in issuing alcohol licences to new premises within the Berridge, Arboretum and Radford localities.

Signed



Melanie Fretwell

Date:

12 July 2021