

The Licensing Team  
Peterborough City Council  
Bayard Place  
Peterborough

10<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

## **CUMULATIVE IMPACT CONSULTATION**

### **REPRESENTATION FROM MANERP AND COMMUNITY FIRST**

We represent the Millfield & New England Regeneration Partnership (MANERP). MANERP and Community First who also represent residents and businesses in the Millfield and New England areas of Peterborough.

The Millfield and New England area of Peterborough has had for years a history of anti-social behaviour fuelled by alcohol and drug abuse. This has been exacerbated by the rapid growth of outlets retailing alcohol by means of “off-sales.”

The area is also within the boundary of the “Can-Do” initiative which brought together the city council, police, NHS, Resident Associations and other partner agencies to jointly combat the serious issues being faced in this area. The whole area is extremely sensitive and volatile because of the ease of access to the purchase of alcohol often sold at a low price in order to attract customers or to be competitive. It is also an area where anti-social behaviour, such as littering and noise associated with consumption of alcohol, is commonplace.

The Millfield and New England area has a phenomenal number of outlets selling alcohol “off-sales” which has contributed significantly to anti-social behaviour in the area. This has had an impact on all the Licencing Objectives in one way or another. The current joint partnership between Peterborough City Council, Cambridgeshire Police and other partner agencies has highlighted the need to actually reduce the number of outlets and hours that alcohol can be freely purchased, if it is to make any headway towards the goals that it is striving to achieve. If the C.I. Policy is terminated, it is our view that this would have a seriously detrimental impact on everything that has been achieved over the past few years that the policy has been in force in the area.

The area has the highest density in terms of number of alcohol-selling outlets in proximity of residential areas in Peterborough and the negative implications of street drinking and consequentially the area was designated a Public Spaces Protection Order. New Premises Licence applications within the area are still being received by the council, and with new supermarkets, cafes and convenience stores being opened in Millfield and New England, this will only increase as they seek to compete with existing licensed premises.

The extent of frustration of long-time residents in the area is high as they have been deeply affected by alcohol-related behaviour including dumped alcohol cans and bottles, bottles broken by being thrown down on the pavement or roadside, people urinating and defecating in streets or in resident's front gardens, noise created by shouting and irrational behaviour and more.

- Children cannot play safely in front gardens and the level of alcohol-related noise impacts on children's sleeping patterns which has an impact on their studies in many cases.
- A number of bus-stops along Lincoln Road are used during the day by street drinkers (and therefore cannot be used by bus passengers);
- The outdoor gym at New England Rec is sometimes occupied by drinkers and so cannot be used by resident for exercising;
- Drinkers use the park (including the seating in the children's play area), dump their bottles in it, and use the trees in it as urinals, this means these facilities are no longer safe or available for residents.
- Similar behaviour takes place throughout public spaces in the area. The side roads off Lincoln Road in Millfield, such as Sargeant Street, have spots that are used for drinking as the drinkers know they are unlikely to be bothered by the police or wardens there, evidenced by the number of discarded cans, bottles and cigarette ends nearby.
- As many of the licensed premises conducting off-sales in the area can do so from early in the morning until late at night, residents suffer from the nuisance of alcohol-related behaviour all day.

These factors have had its impact resulting in a significant level of 'White flight' from this area as proven by the last Census results. The remaining numbers of long-term residents are deeply concerned but unable to seek help especially with drastically reduced policing resources. Hence there is exceptionally low confidence to report such matters to police, that is if they are able to wait for long time prior to someone answering calls on 101.

All these factors mean that there is a high level of fear of crime in the area and unless people have choice, they would avoid the vicinity of Lincoln Road at a late night hour due to rowdy behaviour of drunk people in the street. Many residents would avoid the area at any time unless they have to come or pass through.

With this and the current Cumulative Impact Policy in mind, we also make this representation under all the Licensing Objectives set out in the Licensing Act 2003, namely.

- a. The prevention of crime and disorder
- b. Public safety
- c. The prevention of public nuisance
- d. Protection of children from harm

The MANERP's primary aim is to try to regenerate an area that has been sadly neglected for many years. The largest single problem of all revolves around the ease, low cost but above all, availability at which alcohol can be purchased and subsequently abused. The impact on the area is huge and is a cause of concern for all the statutory agencies and bodies.

Since its introduction, the Cumulative Impact Policy has been a small but nonetheless noticeable improvement in the Millfield and New England area. However, if the policy is terminated there is every probability that the problems that were responsible for the C.I. Policy's' introduction in the first place will return and worsen. This will place a higher burden on the police, the council and the NHS as well as the associated stress and strain that residents and businesses will have to suffer.

We therefore ask that the Cumulative Impact Policy be renewed.

Yours Sincerely

**BRIAN W J GASCOYNE BEM**

**On behalf of the Millfield and New England Regeneration Partnership**

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**Vice-Chair - Community First Peterborough**

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