

WITNESS STATEMENT

Criminal Procedure Rules, r 27. 2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B

URN

Statement of: Yu Zhang

Age if under 18: Over 18

(if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation: Police Officer

This statement (consisting of 1 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Witness Signature:

Date: 09/03/2020

This statement is written in regards to the new licensing application for Panav Food & Wine. I am currently the SNT ward sergeant for Sudbury Ward. I have been in this position now for over 2 years. I am aware of this new application based on the applicant displaying a notice on the premises and via the Police licensing team who notified me that the area is subject to a Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) As the ward sergeant I am confident I can explain what the ASB and drinking problems are like in the area where this premises is situated.

The location of this new license is at 804 Harrow Road, this is a parade of shops between Rugby Avenue and Elton Avenue. This location already has numerous off licenses and other shops which sell alcohol. There is a Tesco very close by as well. I feel there is little need to add another shop which sell alcohol in the area. This would only serve to drive down the price and cheap alcohol. Cheap and readily accessible alcohol would in turn increase ASB such as street drinking, drunk and disorderly behaviour and other associated crimes.

Sudbury SNT Ward holds a Ward Panel meeting every 3 month. The purpose of this meeting is for the local police officers to meet with representatives of the local community. These representatives can raise their local concerns and task ward Promises. These promises are issues that the local community would like police to deal with. Every single meeting the issue of street drinking and related ASB is raised and it has been one of the 3 Ward Promises on numerous occasions. This means that even when compared to other much more serious crime such as robberies, the local residents would rather we concentrate on street drinking. Their reasoning behind is that whilst robberies is very impactful when it happens, the changes of it happening is slim. On the contrary, street drinking and ASB happens on a very regular basis and over time could have a significant effect on one's wellbeing. While I appreciate I don't know how the new owner (s) would operate their business I am conscious that we are struggling to tackle those already in existence hence why the Council implemented the CIZ.

The location of the license is very near to Rugby Avenue. The junction of Rugby Ave and Harrow Road is one of the hotspot of Street drinking and ASB. On an almost daily basis there are groups of up to 10-15 males loitering at this street corner. They stay there well into the early hours of the morning. They live a large amount of litter on private premises and the level of noise they made greatly affects the residential houses they are congregating next to. They also block access to the alleyway and garages. This street drinking and ASB is one of the reasons why the local residents and shop keepers have gated that alleyway.

Witness Signature:

Signature Witnessed by Signature:

Continuation of Statement of:

Just next to Rugby Avenue there is a Betting Shop. The combination of the off licenses and Betting Shop already attracts a lot of ASB to the area. Even though the Betting Shop have a strict no alcohol rules this simply means the drinkers often gather right outside the Betting Shop. The combination of being drunk and losing money often provide the catalyst for other offences such as drunk and disorderly, criminal damage of the betting shop and other property nearby as well as assaults.

Sudbury Park Mansions is a small private residential block near the junction with Elton Avenue. We've received numerous complaints regarding ASB in that location. Groups of youth of force their way into the block, breaking the front door in the process. I'd had to request that front door to be fixed every few months. As well as drink these youth would also smoke cannabis. I know this because I've seen the rubbish left behind, there are cans and bottles of alcohol often left for the residents to clean up. Last week I also a very large pile of vomit left on the stairwell. Again these groups of youth make a lot of noise, intimidate the local residents and have even assaulted them. The stairwell is narrow and it is very unpleasant for the local residents to have to walk past these youth to get back to their own homes.

Sudbury and Harrow Road Train station suffer from much of the same issues as Sudbury Park Mansions. Groups of youth would sit at the platform, drinking and smoking cannabis. The way the station is designed means that all the commuters have to walk past this group as they use the station. This means that a large proportion of local residents are affected by the ASB and street drinking at this location.

Butlers Green is a green space (Park) just up the road, about 100 metres away. In the summer month there are groups of up to 20 people gathering at the location consuming alcohol. This spot again is one of the locations that comes up again and again at resident meetings for being a hot spot for ASB. Adding another off license to the area would fuel the ASB at this location even more. Brent Council introduced Public space protection orders for parks (PSPO). The orders do offer an enforcement aspect but this has limitations and requires resourcing to be available when the ASB or drinking is taking place at all hours.

These small off licenses are often also focal points for other crime such as theft and fraud. I've personally dealt 2 fraud offences where the suspect have taken stolen bank cards and gone around the off licences to commit fraud. Just a few months ago my team reported a linked series of 3 theft from motor vehicles where they have broken into cars at Vale Farm sports centre (5 mins walk of this premises). One of the victims who had his contactless card stolen reported that his card was used within very quick succession in 3 or 4 shops on the Harrow Road near 804 (This premises). Having gone to check CCTV and asked for the receipts it was found that alcohol was the preferred choice and purchased for a lot of these transactions.

I am all for new business opportunities and have nothing against the applicant but I am mindful that this area is saturated with licensed premises that sell alcohol, hot food and offer betting/gambling facilities. As I refer to above the Police are already tackling issues in the area and the introduction of a new shop selling alcohol simply put, will not help the community who are experiencing regular poor behaviour with individuals intent on drinking, causing ASB.

Witness Signature: *Yvonne 26/11*

Signature Witnessed by Signature: