

Evidence presented by Middlesbrough Council, Responsible Authority for Health, in relation to the application made by Cleveland Police for a review of the premises licence for the Springfield Hotel situated on 113 Borough Road, Middlesbrough, under the Licensing Act 2003

As the Responsible Authority for Public Health a representation is being made on the grounds of crime and disorder, public safety, and protection of children from harm to support the application made by Cleveland Police in respect of The Springfield Hotel, 113 Borough Road, Middlesbrough. There have also been a number of serious public safety concerns relating to fire safety as outlined within Police evidence.

Cleveland Police have presented evidence in relation to repeated breaches of premise licence conditions, the conducting of licensable activity outside of permitted hours, violence at the premises, reports of underage drinking, smoking and serious public safety concerns relating to fire safety.

The Premises Licence holder and Designated Premises Supervisor for the Springfield Hotel is Derek Hetherington .It appears from the evidence provided from the police that he is not in day to day control of the business and is therefore not fulfilling his role as a Designated Premises Supervisor . The business is instead being operated by a male named Darren Hunter, who was found guilty at Teesside Magistrates Court, on 17th December 2018, for allowing people to smoke inside of the premises.

This representation is made to support the review application made by Cleveland Police as their evidence shows that this premises is not being run responsibly, indeed there appears to be a total disregard for the law .This is highlighted by the recent prosecution for smoking on the premises and the unwillingness of staff to engage with Responsible Authorities to rectify matters brought to their attention. There is concern that illegality in one area of the law may demonstrate a willingness to contravene other areas of legislation including the sale of alcohol to vulnerable people including children; indeed the Police evidence would suggest that this is already happening.

Public Health therefore have concerns that the way that the premises is being run poses a risk to the safety of the public, and undermines the licensing objectives.

Nationally and out of the 326 Local Authority areas, Middlesbrough is ranked number 13 for alcohol related mortality. Middlesbrough is also ranked within the top 10 for the highest hospital admissions which relate to the following alcohol related disorders -: cardio vascular disease mental and behavioural disorders, self-poisoning and exposure and unintentional injuries. Such alcohol related illnesses/disorders have a huge impact on the National Health Service.

In Middlesbrough, alcohol related data and intelligence has been collected which helps to identify areas associated with high levels of alcohol related crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and alcohol related hospital admissions relating to excessive alcohol consumption and health harms.

The Springfield pub is situated in central ward, a ward that was declared saturated by Middlesbrough Council due to the number of licensed premises within this area, the high

levels of alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour and alcohol related health issues all of which impact on blue light services. This area suffers from a number of issues including alcohol related crime and disorder, anti- social behaviour and public health.

The Central ward is the 4th most deprived ward out of 20 wards in Middlesbrough. There are high levels of unemployment, low education attainments and a high prevalence of ill health.

Between 2016/18 a total of 9 alcohol related deaths were reported following admissions to hospital from the Central ward. This year alone has seen 1764 alcohol related attendances to James Cook accident and emergency department from this ward, the highest proportion relating to wounds and injuries sustained whilst under the influence of alcohol. Between 2016/18, 221 wholly attributable alcohol related admissions have been recorded with 20 of those patients being admitted during this period on 3 or more occasions. Central ward is ranked the highest out of all the 20 wards in Middlesbrough for the number of alcohol clients in treatment.

The impact of alcohol misuse is broad, often hidden and adversely affects individuals, families and communities in many ways, with the harm being disproportionately greater for vulnerable and disadvantaged communities. It impacts upon a number of Council services as well as the NHS, Police, Criminal Justice System, Education, Voluntary and Community sector. The cost of alcohol misuse is estimated to cost the economy in England up to £25 billion per year and for Middlesbrough an estimated cost of £56.5 million for health, social care, crime and licensing. This ward is ranked the highest ward in Middlesbrough for alcohol related crime and the 3rd highest for anti-social behaviour.

The alcohol data for the central ward shows how important it is that licensed premises are both run and sell alcohol responsibly, particularly in the central ward area. It is imperative that all staff working in licensed premises have sufficient knowledge to comply with the law to prevent sales of alcohol to those that are most vulnerable, including children and dependant drinkers

Unfortunately the Springfield hotel does not appear to meet these requirements. It is clear from the evidence provided that there has been numerous breaches of the law over a period of time which include relevant offences as listed within the Licensing Act 2003. The Premises License Holder and DPS ,the person who should be in day to day control of this premises, Derek Hetherington appears to have little interest or control of the premises, and to have no respect for the law or for the conditions attached to the premises licence . He has failed to carry out his duties in making sure that the law and conditions of the premises licence are complied with. Failure to carry out his duties has resulted in the licensing objectives, namely crime and disorder, public safety and protection of children from harm, being severely undermined.



Sinead Upton, Principal Public Protection Officer
Middlesbrough Council

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