

Additional Evidence presented by Middlesbrough Council, Responsible Authority for health, against the application for a premises licence in respect of premises situated at 85 Borough Road, Middlesbrough the Licensing Act 2003

The application made is for the grant of a new premises licence from 07:00 – 22:00 hours seven days a week for the supply of alcohol. Mr Muhammed Tayyeb Butt, the proposed Premises Licence holder and Designated Premises Supervisor for the business, made the application.

There are a number of concerns regarding the current application made to Middlesbrough Council's Licensing Authority and it is our opinion that the granting of this premises off licence will have a negative impact on the Crime and Disorder, Public Safety and Protection of Children from Harm licensing objectives.

In Middlesbrough there are high levels of alcohol related crime and disorder and wholly attributable hospital admissions recorded. This, together with the high density of licensed premises evidenced the need for Cumulative Impact Policies.

Middlesbrough Council have two Cumulative Impact Policies (CIP). CIP 1 covers on-licensed premises in a designated area of Middlesbrough Town Centre. CIP 2 covers off licence premises across 5 ward areas including Central, Newport, North Ormesby, Park and Longlands and Beechwood.

The premises are situated in Central Ward, just outside of the boundary for the CIP 1 area (Town Centre). The premises sits within CIP 2 policy area as the Central ward is covered in the off licence policy. Central ward borders with Newport, North Ormesby and Longland and Beechwoods wards, all of which are covered within the CIP 2 policy. The premises are also situated in close proximity of Middlesbrough Council's commissioned alcohol recovery services.

The Licensing Act 2003 states that where a Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) is in place, there is a presumption that applications for new premises licences or variations to existing premises licenses will be refused. This is unless it can be demonstrated that the granting of the licence will not negatively impact on the licensing objectives.

It is our opinion that the granting of this licence will negatively impact on the licensing objectives.

Useful data about the area in which the premises will be located can be found in the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 which is an index used to provide a set of relative measures of deprivation for small geographical areas (Lower layer super output areas -LSOA). Central ward is made up of 5 LSOAs. Central ward was the 6th most

deprived ward in Middlesbrough in 2019. All LSOAs in central are ranked as being in the top 5% most deprived areas with regard to health deprivation and disability, which measures risk of premature death, impairment, quality of life through poor physical or mental health .46% of the recorded deaths were premature ,with people losing an average of 9 years of life, with residents suffering a lower life expectancy than those in the rest of Middlesbrough or nationally .Central ward has consistently higher rates of all types of emergency admissions to hospital then overall in Middlesbrough for all causes, and much higher rates of self harm. In addition all the LSOA areas in central ward are within or near the top 10% of the most deprived areas nationally for crime.

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 was estimated to cost the economy in England up to £25 billion per year and for Middlesbrough a total of £56.5 million which included costs relating to health, social care, crime and licensing. It costs the NHS over £3.5 Billion year.

More than 9 million people in England drink more than the recommended daily limits. 24.3% adults in Middlesbrough drink more than 14 units alcohol week, with 19.9% adults identified as binge drinking.

People in Middlesbrough are more likely to die of alcohol related conditions or specific reasons compared to England or the region. Middlesbrough has an alcohol mortality rate of 68.1 per 100 000 population which is significantly higher than the rate for England (46.5%)and the region (57.1%),with the rates for men being particularly high (101%).The rates for alcohol specific mortality of 19.4 per 100 000 population in Middlesbrough are significantly higher than England (10.9)

In 19/20 it also had one of the highest rates of hospital admissions (1001 per 100 000 population) compared to England(644) and the North East(936) for alcohol related disorders such as -: cardio vascular disease, mental and behavioural disorders, self-poisoning and exposure and unintentional injuries, with the proportion of admissions being significantly higher for males(68.75%) than females. Such alcohol related illnesses/disorders have a huge impact on the National Health Service.

Alcohol misuse continues to present an area of concern in Middlesbrough affecting the lives of many individuals, families and communities.

Throughout 2020 and to date there has been an alarming rise in the numbers of people choosing to drink at home during the Covid-19 pandemic with an estimated half a million people across the region drinking above the Chief Medical Officers guidelines.

A recent alcohol study completed by Teesside Universities researchers with Middlesbrough residents across all ward areas, provides evidence that people in Middlesbrough are drinking more at home due to the pressures and anxiety brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, including, financial pressures, unemployment, social isolation and daily routines being disrupted. For whatever reason, it is believed that alcohol in many cases is being used as a coping mechanism.

Deaths caused by alcohol have hit a new record high in England and Wales and high-risk drinking increased by almost 90% between February and September 2020. It was estimated there were 8 million people drinking at higher risk levels, with alcohol treatment services struggling to cope.

The table below shows some of the most recent deaths recorded in Middlesbrough between May and December 2020 where alcohol had been a contributing factor:

Date	Gender	Age	Ward	Local Authority	Substances linked	Number of arrests
01/05/2020	Male	20 - 24	Park End & Beckfield	Middlesbrough	Alcohol, cannabis	0
01/05/2020	Male	60+	Marton East	Middlesbrough	Alcohol, cocaine	14
25/05/2020	Male	40 - 44	Hemlington	Middlesbrough	Alcohol	7
09/08/2020	Female	60+	Berwick Hills & Pallister	Middlesbrough	Zopiclone, alcohol	20
18/08/2020	Male	45 - 49	Stainton & Thornton	Middlesbrough	Alcohol	83
23/09/2020	Male	50 - 54	Newport	Middlesbrough	Alcohol	24
22/10/2020	Male	30 - 34	Newport	Middlesbrough	Alcohol, other drugs	21
29/10/2020	Male	45 - 49	Brambles & Thorntree	Middlesbrough	Alcohol, tablets	1
18/11/2020	Male	45 - 49	Brambles & Thorntree	Middlesbrough	Alcohol, pregabalin, zopiclone	22

Some additional information relating to these statistics include:

- A proportion of individuals were alone in a property at time of death
- These deaths occurred during a period where pubs have been closed.

- The number of arrests of some individuals also indicate a potentially different user group/cohort.
- Cocaine or prescription medicines were often quoted alongside alcohol use. It's rare that a drug related death has a single substance detected so it is likely alcohol has been taken alongside other drugs.

Middlesbrough Council's Alcohol and Substance Misuse treatment services are currently working with approximately 1,360 clients. During 2020 there has been a steady increase in the numbers accessing services for the following reasons:

- Those that have been abstinent for a number of years have relapsed
- Those using opioids/non opioids where alcohol has also become a problem
- Those processed through the Criminal Justice System for alcohol related crime and issued an Alcohol Treatment Referral (ATR).

Middlesbrough experiences a number of issues including incidents of alcohol related crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour that impact on many lives. Such issues also impact negatively on our local NHS services including James Cook Accident & Emergency departments, Police and ambulance services.

Over the past three years, there has been an increase in Domestic Abuse. Such incidents often result in violence being used against another and injuries being sustained that require a clinical intervention.

A review of alcohol treatment and recovery services in Middlesbrough has been completed and a new integrated service continues to provide specialist treatment and aftercare for those suffering with alcohol dependency whilst focusing around the hidden harms often associated with alcohol consumption including domestic abuse and homelessness.

Middlesbrough Council are also working with the South Tees CCG who have recently re-commissioned the hospital's intervention liaison team in James Cook University Hospital due to the levels of harm caused by alcohol related A&E attendances and hospital stays experienced in local departments.

Alcohol is readily available in Middlesbrough and can be purchased from a number of different alcohol premises including off licences, supermarkets and premises offering alcohol delivery services making it easy for those who are vulnerable and suffering with alcohol addiction to access.

It is fair to say that between March 2020 and April 2021 we identified increases in certain alcohol related issues in Middlesbrough. During this period, a large proportion of on licensed premises/businesses if not all remained closed due to the Covid

restrictions put in place. However, off license premises remained open and continued to supply alcohol

Responsibility in the operation of a licensed premises and the sale of alcohol are paramount. It is imperative that staff in control of any licensed premises act responsibly to ensure that their premises manage the sale of alcohol, their customers and any vulnerability issues accordingly.

The expectation of those wishing to operate licensed premises is that they will have robust measures and procedures in place to ensure that the law is complied with to prevent alcohol sales being made to those that are underage, drunk or who are vulnerable.

In our opinion the applicant has failed to demonstrate adequately in Part M of his application how this premises, if granted a licence, would not negatively impact further on the licensing objectives and the surrounding areas in which he wishes to operate.

During the consultation period, Mr Butt was out of the country from 24 October until 24 November . On 7th December 2021 a meeting was held with the applicant, PC Arbuckle from Cleveland Police Licensing section, and myself, at Middlesbrough Police station to discuss concerns, establish the proposal around the applicant's business model and to find out more about the operation and control measures that the applicant was going to adopt to promote the licensing objectives.

During that meeting the applicant outlined his previous experience in the licensing trade, mainly in petrol sites which sold alcohol. He advised that he would train staff but when asked about procedures he mentioned controls of the petrol site he worked at yet could provide no details of the procedures that he was planning to implement in his own business, other than basic legal requirements ie no sales to underage or proxy sales, no sales to drunks or sales out of hours. It was all a bit vague. There was a lack of detail both on his application and in his answers. Of more concern however was that when asked he could not name all the licensing objectives, and he did not seem to fully understand what they meant.

Whilst he demonstrated a willingness to work with the responsible authorities regarding his stock, he was planning to sell Lambrini and Bella Brusco which was a concern given that these are known to be attractive to underage drinkers and dependent drinkers. It was clear that he hadn't considered the area in which the premises was to be based, nor the Cumulative Impact Policy. The proposed licensed premises is not going to be providing any different offer to that of existing premises in the area.

Having an additional outlet selling alcohol, making alcohol more available in an area already acknowledged to experience some of the highest levels of alcohol related health and crime issues, is a concern.

It is our opinion that the granting of this licence would further undermine the Crime and Disorder and Public Safety licensing objectives, exacerbating some of the alcohol related issues already experienced in Middlesbrough. This will undoubtedly add unnecessary pressures to our emergency services including NHS Accident and Emergency and Hospital departments, Ambulance Services and Police and impact on those already suffering the impact and harms caused by alcohol.

Signature:



Dated: 24th January 2022