



**Proposed Designation Order for Dudley Town Centre and Priors Park for restricting the consumption of alcohol in Public Places.**

**Under section 13(2) Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.**

**Police report (documenting information from 01/05/04 until 05/11/04)**

**Officer reporting.** Inspector BRAMWELL. Dudley police station, New street, Dudley.  
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**Introduction.**

Dudley Town Centre is predominantly made up of a shopping area and open market that trades throughout the week. There is a well-used bus station and surrounding car parks that give access to pavements/walkways to the centre. The Town Centre is surrounded by public gardens and parks that are used by the public for necessary or recreational needs on a daily basis.

It has become apparent as a result of complaints over an extended period from the public, key stakeholders and police observation that there are a significant number of people who resolve to drink alcohol in open public places. It is evident from investigations that these people will buy cheap alcohol from town centre retailers and consume it in places of public resort. Much of the consumption is to excess, and some of these drinkers are known to be alcoholics. Crime and disorder is a direct result of their intoxication, which is then reported to the police. Groups of these drinkers frequent certain areas in the town centre and their presence in an intoxicated state leads to members of the public being intimidated and frightful of going near them or using nearby amenities.

In order to reduce crime and disorder and increase public reassurance, it is requested that an area surrounding Dudley Town Centre and Priory Park be designated, to stop the consumption of alcohol in Public Places.

The area being considered encompasses Dudley Town Centre, Priory Park and surrounding areas to include possible dispersal sites. The streets that surround the area are Woodland Avenue, Gervase Drive, Broadway, Castle Hill, Wolverhampton Street, north Street, Hall Street, Dudley Bypass, Martin Hill Street, Vicar Street, King Street, Queens Cross, Wellington Road, Wolverhampton Street, Salop Street, Nith Place, Limes Road and back into Woodland Avenue.

This area is such that it incorporates alcohol outlets that are likely to sell cheap alcohol and areas adjacent to these locations that have the potential to be used for the consumption of alcohol.

Within this area are two very small but significant sites that suffer from constant problems of disorder and drunkenness over a considerable period; these are Horseley Gardens and Priory Park.

#### **Horseley Gardens.**

Horseley Gardens is a public area leading from Cross Street car park to Wolverhampton Street. It consists of a single pavement lined by a number of benches and surrounded by a grassed area.

This area is frequented by a number of individuals who congregate to drink alcohol. There have been considerable calls to this location that have resulted in Police action or attendance. This area is often avoided by members of the public due to the drunkenness. The area is also being blighted by graffiti and litter which is associated with the drunks. People using this area over several years have become somewhat acclimatised to the displays of antisocial behaviour from these gathering groups which has resulted in them failing to report these incidents to police in the belief that nothing can or would be done to resolve the issue.

#### **Horseley Gardens and Wolverhampton Street area.** **Incidents of disorder or drunkenness.**

May 2004.	1 incident
June 2004.	7 incidents
July 2004.	7 incidents
August 2004	16 incidents
September 2004	15 incidents
October 2004	4 Incidents

Total number of incidents is **50**



These incidents have been highlighted in relation to disorder and drunkenness only. It represents a small area of Dudley Town Centre and does not take into account any associated criminality or unrecorded incidents. This is clear evidence that there is a problem in relation to anti-social behaviour and drunkenness in this area during the day and into the evening on most days of the week. If this area was included in a designated area for restricting the consumption of alcohol it is felt that there would be a drastic reduction of disorder/drunkenness incidents.

### **Priory Park.**

Over the past few years various different groups responsible for anti-social behaviour have plagued the Priory Park. Many of the problems are alcohol related and these groups have lead to members of the public feeling frightened, intimidated and being discouraged from using the park. Some of the Anti-social behaviour can spill over into the surrounding streets and gravitate up to the Town Centre. There have been reports of groups of 20 strong who have been drinking in the afternoon. These larger groups are mainly from the local colleges who spend the afternoon drinking and by their sheer size and drunken behaviour cause concern to members of the public. Other reports have been from groups in the early evening who hang around the park causing vandalism, stone throwing and verbal abuse. There have also been racist attacks on houses bordering the park.

### **Priory Park Incidents of Disorder and Drunkenness.**

May 2004.	5 incidents.
June 2004	1 incident.
July 2004	1 incident.
August 2004	1 incident.
September 2004	5 incidents.
October 2004	1 incident.

These incidents have been collated in relation to the Priory Park only. They do not include the surrounding streets.

As it is based on a small area it clearly suggests that there is a problem of anti-social behaviour and drunkenness and it would support reports that it is local students who congregate at this location to drink. These figures do not include evidence about criminality or unrecorded incidents in the area.

If it is considered that there is insufficient evidence to support an application a further more in depth profile could be prepared.

It is believed that the implementation of an order restricting the consumption of alcohol in public places in Dudley town centre would significantly reduce the number of incidents of crime and disorder by enabling J1 police resources to effectively interdict the individuals concerned. Also, anyone arrested as a result of this legislation will be offered a referral to the Alcohol Referral Scheme being administered on the J1 OCU. These measures would go a considerable way in reassuring the public and key stakeholders of our commitment to tackling antisocial behaviour.



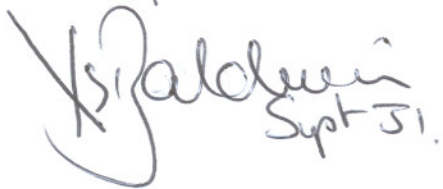
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Insp 3595

November 2004

Although persuasive, these figures do not reflect the scale of the problem caused by people drinking in public places.

Apart from the tangible element, the overall impression of Dudley is affected by persons' perception of it's safety and desirability.

The application is fully endorsed and supported.

  
Supt J1.