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APPENDIX 2

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Please ask for: PC Mick Boyd  
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Facsimile:  
Email: m.boyd@west-midlands.police.uk  
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Our Reference: Que Pasa  
Your Reference:

Date:

Dear Janet,

In reply to the application for the variation of the premises licence for Que Pasa, Ryemarket, Stourbridge, West Midlands Police is of the opinion that the following licensing objectives will be undermined.

The prevention of crime and disorder.  
Public safety.  
The prevention of public nuisance.

The variation intends to extend licensable activities at the premises from 02.00hrs to 03.00hrs following Friday and Saturday evenings. West Midlands Police intend to make representations based on the above licensing objectives that the intended variation will undermine the Special Policy regarding the Cumulative Impact in Stourbridge Town centre.

An application was made on behalf of these premises when it was known as the Toad at the Glassworks in November 2005 for a variation of licensable activities till 03.00hrs. This application was later withdrawn.

Que Pasa is one of the leading chain driven bars in Stourbridge. It has a capacity of 500 split between two floors. It has not been competing as well against its main rivals Lloyds Bar and Chicago Rock Café, its numbers often falling below what they achieve. A series of TEN's applications were received for 14 th, 21 st, and 27 th February. These TEN's were not opposed due to the quiet time of year in respect of the licensing trade, and the fact that there were no other TEN's that clashed. This was a time when there had been some police intervention with other drinks promotions on Stourbridge Town, and competition was so high that a meeting was called by the police between the area managers of Que Pasa, Lloyds and Chicago Rock where it was agreed that no major changes would take place without some consultation regarding the effect on the night time economy. It was suspected that the TEN's applications by Que Pasa were a prelude to applying for a variation of hours in order to stay ahead of the competition.

The variation application has sent a ripple of interest among area managers and DPS's of other bars within the Ring Road. One other application has already been received requesting the same variation, and expressions of interest for similar applications have been received at the licensing dept at Halesowen police station. It can be predicted that this application will motivate others in the area to apply for the same such is the competition between licenced premises at present. It is therefore intended to show that this application based on the above licensing objectives would contribute to the cumulative impact on Stourbridge.



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After the changes in the licensing law, all of Stourbridge's High Street clubs extended their opening hours to mirror each other and usually, (except with the use of a TEN) close at 0200hrs. The police have adopted special measures to deal with crime disorder and anti social behaviour in order to tackle these problems. While policing strategies are constantly being reviewed a 0300hrs conclusion of licensable activities would be outside of the current plans in place.

Analysis of violent crime within Stourbridge Town Centre shows Friday to Sunday are the peak days for offending within this area. Violent crime in Stourbridge used to account for 18.2% of all violence on the Dudley South policing area, since the introduction of cumulative impact Stourbridge has maintained a year on year reduction since, reaching a low 12.8% last year and is on course to match if not exceed that at the end of 2008/09. Statistics show that with any significant change to the nighttime economy, such as a new premises opening or an old one closing has an effect, with violent crime rising or falling accordingly. The granting of a licence to trade until 0300hrs is considered just as significant a change to the night time economy and would adversely affect crime and disorder in Stourbridge Town centre.

After 01.00hrs taxi's form the main mode of transport from Stourbridge Town centre. At present we have taxi marshalls who assist in stopping unauthorised vehicles coming into the High Street, and ease the flow of taxi's collecting revellers for their journey home. Prior to the taxi marshalls being implemented traffic in the area would come to a standstill with vehicles fighting for trade and roads becoming blocked, causing traffic congestion, general chaos and a danger to pedestrians. Funding for this service is limited and under threat. Should the hours for licensable activities extend that for which funding is available for taxi marshalling, we would resort to the position described prior to marshalling. A request for funding was made by the town centre manager Hannah Rogers at the last pub watch meeting held at Que Pasa on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009. The members of the pubwatch including Que Pasa declined to assist.

The later disorder noise and traffic in the area must be considered. Stourbridge Town centre is also a residential area with residents living side by side with the bars and late night refreshment houses. It is considered that later licensable activities will affect the quality of life of those persons living within the Ring Road and will have a negative effect on persons visiting the area.

In conclusion the stability of keeping lower crime and disorder figures and upholding public safety depends on maintaining the licensing hours, and joint partnership policies that make Stourbridge Town centre a reassuring place for the law abiding, and to deter those that seek to bring disorder and violence to the area.

PC Mick Boyd  
Licensing Officer  
Dudley South Ocu



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