

**MEMORANDUM****To:**
Liz Rouse**Ref:****From:**
PC 9814 James BIRD
Wollaston & Stourbridge Town Neighbourhood Team**Ext:**
7909 6528**Date:**
29th September 2010**SUBJECT:**
Alcohol Free Zone Extension - Stourbridge

Please find enclosed a proposal outline I would respectfully ask you to consider for an extension to the current Alcohol Free Zone in place in Stourbridge Town Centre.

The current zone, which is bordered by the inside of the ring road (Map 1) was implemented to reduce alcohol related anti-social behaviour in and around the affluent night time economy of Stourbridge. This is complimented by the further alcohol free zone at Mary Stevens Park. It is proposed to extend the current alcohol zone as represented on Map 2

The zone is still well received by licensees, shop owners and members of the public having been noted in the points of view at local PACT/ Pubwatch and residents association meetings. Alcohol related violence has been at a minimum in the town centre and a marked improvement on alcohol related anti social behaviour has been seen during the period of time the zone has been in place. It also provides a valuable tool in seizure of alcohol from individual's intent on causing disruption and general annoyance to visitors to Stourbridge.

Due to the success of the alcohol free zone in Stourbridge Town I wish to propose consideration is given to extending the current zone to incorporate the Stourbridge Town Bus Station and the Old Quarter of Stourbridge. Within the last two years there has been a notable increase in Anti Social Behaviour, alcohol related damage and violence and also a general feeling within the communities there, of feeling less safe due to alcohol consumption in the street at night.

This is of particular concern around Greenfield Park where reports from members of the public of groups of youths drinking and being rowdy have been reported as a weekly occurrence. Greenfields Primary school have also voiced their concerns, especially the caretaker and head master who have spoken to officers regarding the amount of empty alcohol cans and bottles being thrown into the school playground on a regular basis.

The reduction of alcohol related crime and also the implementation of the alcohol free zone in the area has become a PACT priority as voted for by members of the public and continues to be our priority for our neighbourhood area. Officers on regular patrol have on a number of occasions had to call council refuse collectors to remove the discarded empty cans, bottles and food boxes from the park. The park should be a focal point within

the community where all age groups can mix, gather and feel relaxed in that environment rather than it is somewhere where they fear to go.

Another issue that is a weekly concern is the large amounts of criminal damage to motor vehicles report received that also fall within the proposed extended area. It is a belief that the issue is increased by the fact that residents in the area have become accustomed to the continual damage and are not reporting these crimes to police. The sample logs will show that this damage is generally committed Thursday through to Saturday on a late evening or early morning implying such crimes are committed en route to the town centre during evening licensing hours or on returning from the town centre.

The logs included with this proposal provide evidence of a continuing alcohol related problem in the areas requested. Please may I highlight that this information is shared with you under Section 115 (2d) of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It should only be used within this application and as such should also remain confidential under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Total related logs in proposed Alcohol Free Zone 28/09/08 – 28/09/10 - 189

Alcohol Related Incidents – 52%

Anti-Social Behaviour Incidents – 44%

Other – 4%

Alcohol Related Incidents - Anti-Social Behaviour – 83%

Alcohol Related Incidents - Violence – 17%