

# **Supporting submission from Mr Philip Day, dated 12 February 2021**

## **PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION**

**MALINKA MARKET  
568-588 CHRISTCHURCH ROAD  
BOSCOMBE, BOURNEMOUTH**

### **SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF THOSE WHO HAVE MADE REPRESENTATIONS**

In brief summary, those who have made representations are concerned about the impact a grant of new licence permitting the sale of alcohol in this locality will have on the prevention of crime and disorder, public nuisance and public safety.

Up until November 2020, the Statement of Licensing Policy in force included a cumulative impact policy that covered Boscombe (and other parts of former Borough of Bournemouth).

The policy adopted by BCP Council late last year did not include such a policy for any part of the Council's area because no cumulative impact assessment had been undertaken as required by section 5A of the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended). It is understood that the reason that no such assessments have been undertaken was principally the police were unable to provide statistical evidence as to the extent that crime and antisocial behaviour was linked to the consumption of alcohol by either the perpetrator or the victim.

Nevertheless, this does not prevent the Licensing Sub-Committee from refusing an application for the grant of new licence if it considers that to do so would add to the cumulative impact of licensed premises in a particular locality. This would however require an evidential basis that there is indeed a problem that is linked to the sheer number of licensed premises in the area.

That evidential base will be as follows:

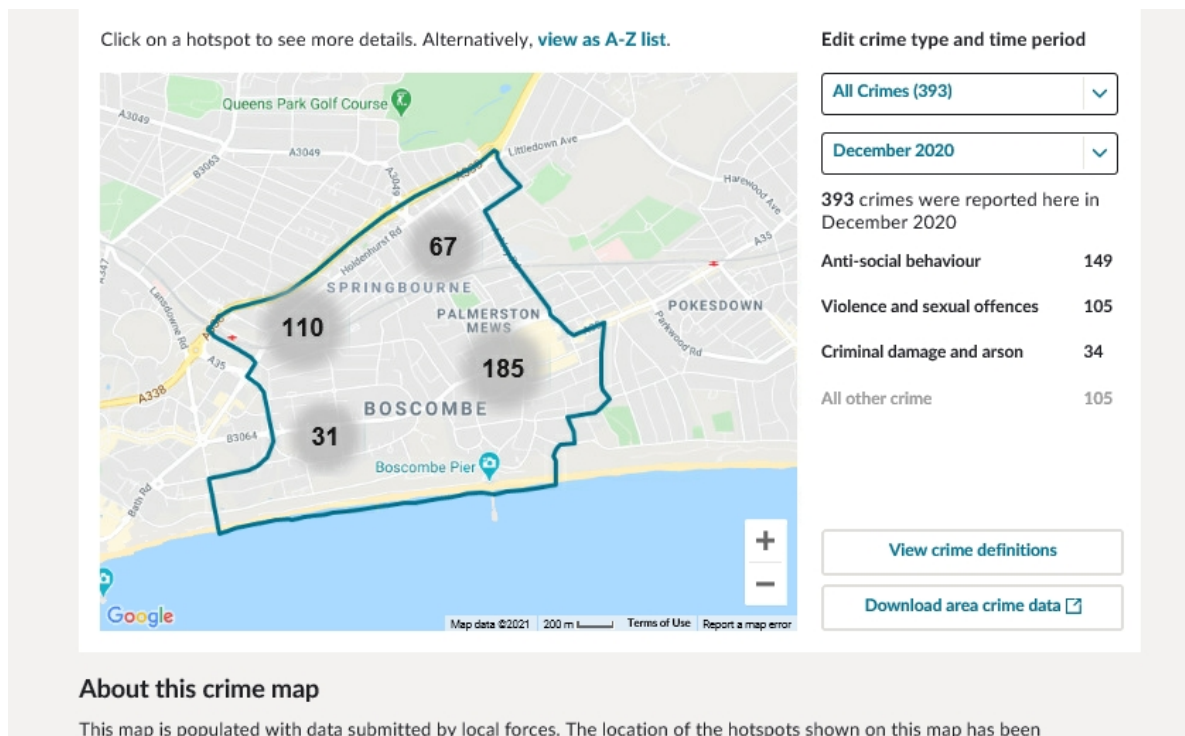
Evidence from local residents who have made representations about the extent of alcohol related crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in Boscombe.

Evidence from publicly available information from the Police at this link:

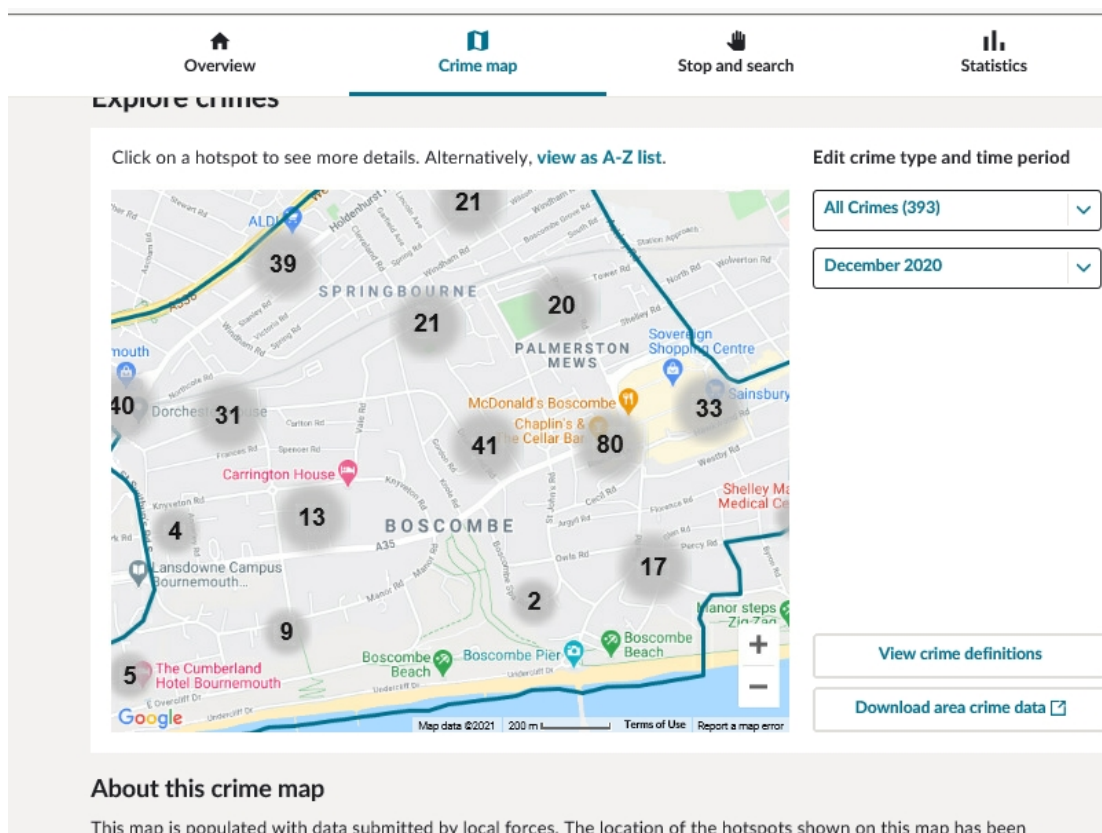
<https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/dorset-police/bournemouth-east-east/>

The following screen shots have been taken from that link:

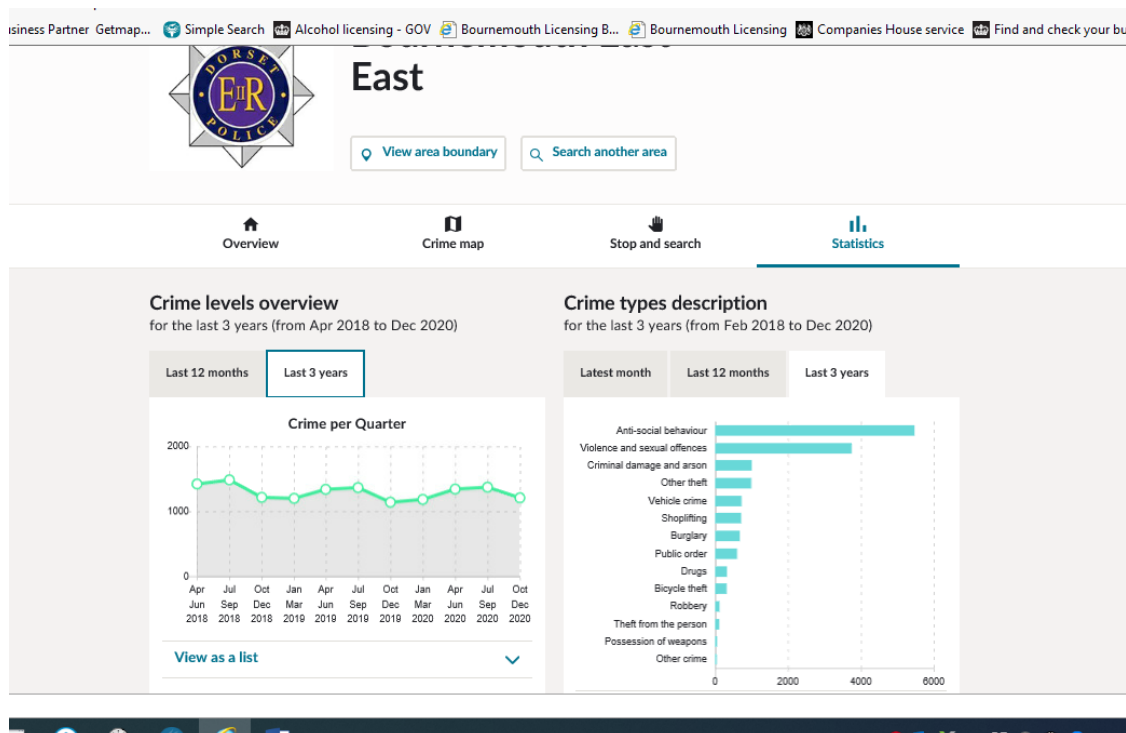
The first shows the total number of reported crimes in December 2020 in East Bournemouth being 393 (an average of over 10 a day) of which anti-social behaviour amounted to 149 incidents and violent crime a close second at 105.



The next screenshot shows a more detailed breakdown in Boscombe centre and it can clearly be seen that the most incidents occur in the pedestrianised area which is precisely where the application site lies.



This third screenshot shows the trend over the last three years.



It will be submitted that there has been no significant change in the level of anti-social behaviour or violent crime over this entire period. Indeed, it is also noticeable that the effect of the various “lockdowns” in the last year that have led to the effective closure of the “night-time economy” has made no difference to the statistics – members who have served on the sub-committee will recall that previous statistics produced by the police in support of a cumulative impact policy across Bournemouth showed that whilst in other areas (e.g. Old Christchurch Road and Charminster), the majority of relevant offences occurred after 11 p.m. at night, this was not true in Boscombe.

It must therefore follow that alcohol related incidents of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour can only be linked to the proliferation of off-licensed premises and not to the bars and late-night venues that operate in the area.

There are a significant number of alcohol-licensed premises in the locality.

I have been provided with the following list (please note that a number of those premises that are “on-licensed” are also permitted to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises):

*Licensed premises in the area:*

1. Ecomini -off licence shop. 457 Christchurch Road, BH1 4AD.
2. Crescent Food Hall - off licence shop. 497 Christchurch Road, BH1 4AE
3. Santa Cruz Cafe - 511 Christchurch Road, BH1 4AG
4. Romanian Food Shop - off licence - 515 Christchurch Road, BH1 4AG

5. Chaplin's & The Cellar Bar. 529 Christchurch Road, BH1 4AG
6. Booze Vegas - off licence shop. 537 Christchurch Road, BH1 4AG
7. Pizzeria Via Roma, 522 Christchurch Road, BH1 4BE
8. Polish Market - off licence shop, 532-534 Christchurch Road, BH1 4BE
9. Food plus grocery store- off licence shop, 553 Christchurch Road, BH1 4HA
10. Bosc Vegas - 24h off licence shop, 557 Christchurch Road, BH1 4AH
11. The Social Grill, 9-11 Sea Road, BH5 1DH
12. Aldi- off licence shop, 9-23 Palmerston Road, BH1 4DB
13. Lidl- off licence shop, 600 Christchurch Road, BH1 4SX,
14. Sainsburys- off licence shop, 637-641 Christchurch Road, BH1 4AP
15. Boscombe Convenience and off licence shop, 671 Christchurch Road, BH7 6AA,
16. O2 Academy Bournemouth, 570 Christchurch Road, BH1 4BH
17. Londris shop at petrol station 25-33 Palmerston Rd, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH1 4HN
18. Sea Road Food & Wine - off licence shop, 20 Sea Rd, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH5 1DD
19. Mary's delicatessen, 1 Ashley Rd, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH1 4LE
20. Agua na Boca, 667 Christchurch Rd, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH7 6AA
21. Marroy's Bar, 682 Christchurch Rd, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH7 6BT
22. Nisa Local - off licence shop, 724 Christchurch Rd, Boscombe, Bournemouth BH7 6BZ

*As you can see there is 14 off licence shops within 300 yard radius.*

This list appears to be incomplete in that it does not include the recent grant of a licence for Boscombe Pier (which is rather more than 300 yards from the application site) nor the Riviera Bar which is currently closed.

The granting of another "off-licence" in the locality and more to the point, in this specific location will inevitably lead to a greater availability of alcohol which will in itself exacerbate the existing problems in the centre of Boscombe that are related to street drinkers.

It is also likely to lead to increased competition between existing off-licences to try and maintain market share. Whilst this might be regarded as a good thing from the perspective of the consumer, the prospect of existing outlets lowering their prices in order to try and maintain market share will result in not only a greater availability of alcohol generally but also make it easier for those who have alcohol dependency to afford to buy more.

In that regard, the conditions that appear to have been agreed with the police will not in practical terms address the problems of street drinkers. The majority of beers and lagers have a strength of over 6.5% ABV are craft beers that are expensive and not bought by street drinkers. As anyone familiar with the habits of such persons will tell you, they prefer to buy large (2 or 3 litre) bottles of cider or small bottles of spirits, in particular cheap vodka.

There is also an alcohol rehab unit at 17 Carysford Road, BH1 1EJ less than half a mile away from the application site and that is also a cause for concern.

Bournemouth Borough Council and now BCP Council are very well aware of the particular (if not unique) problems that Boscombe has and in particular this specific area and has invested not inconsiderable sums of money in seeking to rejuvenate and revitalise the locality to improve the lot of those who live and work there.

The grant of this application would be a detrimental step that is likely to undermine the licensing objectives of preventing crime and disorder (fuelled by alcohol abuse), preventing public nuisance (caused by those who abuse alcohol) and public safety (those who have to run the daily gamut of street drinkers and the like who are sadly a feature of this locality).

The sub-committee is therefore invited to refuse this application.

Philip Day  
Laceys Solicitors LLP  
9 Poole Road  
Bournemouth  
BH2 5QR

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