

CHURCHGATE AREA ASSOCIATION

Response to StEdmundsbury Borough Council Cumulative Impact Policy Consultation

The Churchgate Area Association, current membership 255, promotes the interests of all residents and businesses in the Mediaeval Grid of Bury St Edmunds. We have consulted with the residents and businesses over the proposal from the Borough Council to re-instate the SAP/ CIP for this area of Abbeygate Ward.

The consultation involved a door to door survey. The first section of the questionnaire related to anti-social behaviour and whether it was considered alcohol related and the second section to crime and disorder. The questions were the same as in a previous residents' survey in 2008. See Appendix 1. They were selected as they relate to the Licensing Objectives.

There were 75 responses to the 2008 survey. From an estimated 600 households we have received responses from 131 expressing their views on the areas that the Council advised as relevant to this consultation. The resultant figures show that not only has the response from our residents almost doubled but the views held indicate that the vast majority have been affected in some way by the problems highlighted. (Some responses didn't include answers to all the questions).

The percentages are of the total responses except for the last question which refers to the percentage of the 31 reported crimes.

CAA 2014 SURVEY RESULTS

Have you experienced any of the following in the immediate neighbourhood in the past 2 years?	YES		NO		Do you think any of this behaviour was alcohol related?	YES		NO		DON'T KNOW	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Noise and Shouting	106	(81%)	25	(19%)	94	(72%)	1	(<1%)	9	(7%)	
Obscene Language	77	(59%)	51	(39%)	65	(50%)	1	(<1%)	11	(8%)	
Urinating and vomiting	64	(49%)	64	(49%)	62	(47%)			0	2	(<2%)
Verbal Abuse	17	(13%)	109	(83%)	17	(13%)			0	1	(<1%)
Vandalism	73	(56%)	56	(43%)	45	(34%)			0	23	(18%)
Fighting	23	(18%)	100	(76%)	20	(15%)	2	(<2%)	3	(2%)	

The significant changes from the 2008 results are an increase in people affected by ‘Noise and Shouting’ from 72% to 81% and an increase in ‘Vandalism’ from 40% to 56%. The survey also very clearly demonstrates that the majority of people who have experienced problems know, or believe them to have been caused by alcohol related use or abuse. ‘Obscene language’ increased from 52% to 59% . The ‘Urinating and vomiting’ and ‘Fighting’ were slightly lower 52% and 21% respectively in 2008.

CAA 2014 SURVEY RESULTS

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
Have you suffered any damage to your property (including vehicles) over the past 2 years?	42 (32%)	81 (62%)	0
Have you been the victim of any other crime over the past 2 years?	16 (12%)	111 (85%)	0
Did you report any of these offences to the police?	31 (24%)	43 (33%)	0
If you reported the offences to the police were you satisfied with their response?	19 (61%)	6 (19%)	3 (10%)

There has been an increase in damage to property, including vehicles, from 24% in 2008 to 32% in 2014.

Other crime fell from 17% to 12%.

Almost the same proportion of offences were reported to the police i.e. 25% in 2008 and 24% in 2014. In 2008 69% were satisfied with the police response. This is evidence that Police statistics are an underestimate of the true level of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Conclusions

In the past 6 years the number of licensed premises have increased dramatically and also the hours they are open and allowed to serve alcohol, therefore it is reasonable to conclude that the supply of alcohol is directly responsible for the antisocial behaviour in the town centre and any thoroughfare leading out of the town. The fact that the noise occurs late at night supports this – see Survey Additional Comments.

Despite a fall in crime nationally the survey evidence is that antisocial behaviour and vandalism have increased in our area. In addition the police are not available to deal with other matters of concern to residents e.g. illegal parking, because they are busy in the town centre. There is a high level of unreported crime and a decline in satisfaction with the police.

The fact that residents and businesses – see Survey Additional Comments – frequently find vomit and urine on the street is also unacceptable.

We believe that the strong message from our members is that the SAP/ CIP should be re-instated in this area and would agree with the recommendation of the Town Council that the policy should be extended to cover the whole of the town centre and particularly Station Hill. It would also be beneficial if the fast food outlets closed before the clubs close, as happens in Newmarket. This would encourage the patrons of the various establishments to go home rather than loiter outside the bar or club, which requires a considerable police presence. If the policy is re-instated as we trust it will be, it is hoped that it will be properly applied by the Licensing Authority whenever an application is made by premises within its jurisdiction.

David Bonnett and Cathy Friel
CAA Licensing
30/4/2014

Reference: CAA Residents' Survey April 2008

APPENDIX 1. CAA CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY SURVEY 2014

	Have you been affected by any of the following in the immediate neighbourhood in the past 2 years ?	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW	Do you think any of this behaviour was alcohol related?	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
1	Noise and Shouting							
2	Obscene Language							
3	Urinating and vomiting							
4	Verbal Abuse							
5	Vandalism							
6	Fighting							

		YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
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7	Have you suffered any damage to your property (including vehicles) over the past 2 years?			
8	Have you been the victim of any other crime over the past 2 years?			
9	Did you report any of these offences to the police?			
10	If you reported the offences to the police were you satisfied with their response?			

APPENDIX 2.

CAA SURVEY 2014 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

- Very loud arguments late at night (after 11pm) rather than fighting
- Comment re questions 1 and 3 "very much so"
- Another comment re fighting "verbal"
- We do suffer with litter , cigarette stubs, food wrappings etc
- Have suffered from very loud music, flashing lights, verbal abuse when requesting the noise be turned down. Have to keep the windows shut because of the noise. Difficult to go sleep before midnight. We are at Churchgate St. The noise is from the Unitarian Meeting House.
- When our car was broken into and the satnav and other electrical equipment stolen it is assumed that this is related to drug abuse - selling stolen goods on.
- Re questions 1 and 2 - main source of this has moved
- Nothing to report in Westgate St but ongoing vandalism to cars in Friars Lane - broken windows and broken wing mirrors.
- Re 'don't know' answer to question 10. "The report hasn't been completed yet"
- Milk stolen on 2 occasions about 18 months to 2 years ago.
- Re Q.1 "But I live in the town centre". Re Q.8 "But not immediate area in Shire Hall".
- The S.A.P should definitely be reinstated.
- When we purchased our home we realised with the amount of pubs and restaurants in the area that there would be noise. Batt House on Westgate St could be a problem to look into as far as vandalism
- Broken bottles and glass
- Glasses from the D and P (Dog and Partridge) are often left outside my garage in Bridewell Lane - sometimes smashed on the ground.
- Attempted break-in
- Re Qs. 1, 2 and 3 "These are problems we have experienced in 6 weeks since moving in."
- Only scratches to other cars in the street. My concern is the speeding vehicles down the street.
- We have a shop in Churchgate Street. For us, arriving at the shop first thing in the morning is a concern; we are fed up with having to wash, scrub away vomit plus 'dog ends'. This is a regular thing. The offenders are usually from Queens Head. It seems the landlady doesn't think it's her responsibility to patrol/check the area close to her pub. The very least she could do is come out with a bucket of hot soapy water and a stiff broom. As I explained to her.