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LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2019

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Agenda item 6 - Application for the grant of a premises licence for Oodles Chinese, 40 Woodhouse Lane, Woodhouse, Leeds, LS2 8LX

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Premises License Hearing – 16th July

Location & Proximity

- Oodles is located in close proximity to a certain number of nightclubs, partygoers will need to travel further from these locations to reach other food establishments before returning home. They will also have to cross roads whilst intoxicated, increasing the risk of accidents happening.
- There is a very limited number of food establishments within the vicinity to accommodate the food demands of the populous. We can see from our own observations that these establishments become a “holding area” for inebriated people.
- The combination of hunger and alcohol create a toxic environment. We are proposing to reduce the risk to customers by giving an additional food option that has a much faster serving time, with a very limited wait and therefore those crowds will not have to travel further into the city centre, once they have been given their food are more likely to go home as opposed to creating a nuisance in the area. We will be implementing a dispersal policy (please find attached) that will ensure that customers are removed from the area as soon as they have received their food.
- We will be sealing off the seating area so that we do not act as a holding area for customers.
- By removing the people from the area quickly, it reduces the chances of crowds gathering and creating a nuisance. This will reduce the amount of policing needed in the area.
- Oodles is a quick service restaurant, whereby customers will be served within 5-7mins of placing their order. We can potentially serve 300 customers in 1hr, who can then head home. However on late nights we will be operating a reduced menu whereby only the items on the larger menu which can be prepared and served in 3-5 minutes will be available to customers. This will increase our capacity to turn over the food and customers at a higher rate and allow them to leave the area and the town quicker
- Oodles is conveniently located next to a taxi rank, so customers can walk out of the restaurant and straight into a taxi. The shorter walking distance means less people on the streets and lowers the risk of them being victims of crime.

Crime Rates

- Cumulative Impact Zones are not working because the crime rate in these areas is increasing year on year, therefore the measures put in place are not effective.
- In a study conducted by Wolverhampton City Council to evaluate the effectiveness of their Cumulative Impact Policy, one of the key conclusions was that it had not had any effect on reducing the overall crime rate.
(<https://wolverhampton.moderngov.co.uk/Data/Licensing%20Committee/201202011000/Agenda/06%20-%20Licensing%20Act%202003%20-%20Review%20of%20Cumulative%20Impact%20Zone.pdf>)

6.0 **Key conclusions**

- 6.1 Despite the observations from the police described in 5.5 within the first twelve months following implementation of the Cumulative Impact Policy, the data provided shows that there has been no significant change in overall crime and disorder.
- Detailed Crime Statistics for the Leeds City Centre show that Anti Social Behaviour incidents have remained constant for a 12month period between May 2018 and April 2019, with no

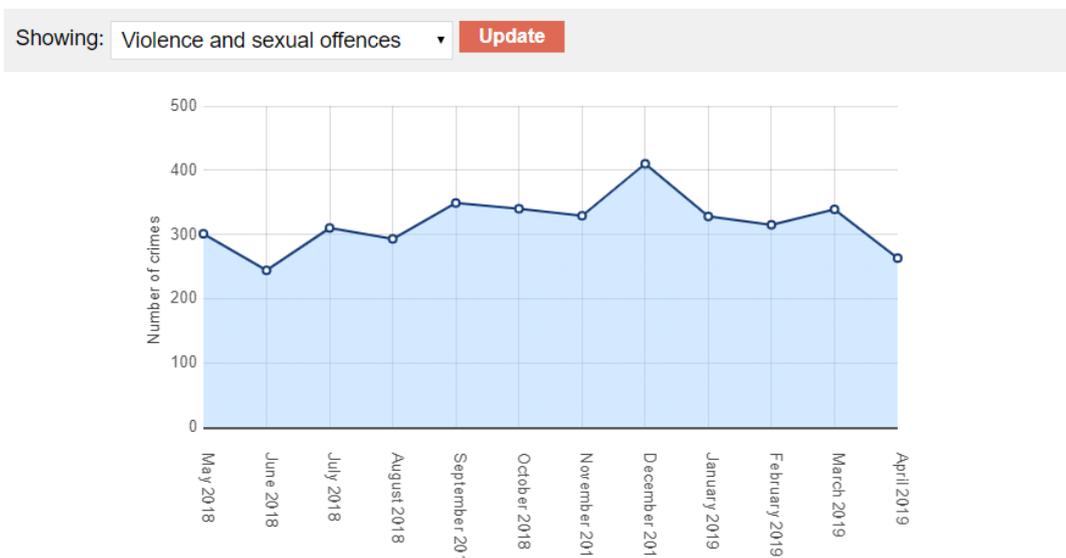
significant decreases that can be attributed to the CIP. (https://www.police.uk/west-yorkshire/LDT_CITY/crime/anti-social-behaviour/stats/#crime_trend)

Crime levels in this area between May 2018 and April 2019



- Violence and sexual offences have seen a small increase, which strengthens our point surrounding dispersal of crowds, and that people walking alone are more vulnerable to attack.

Crime levels in this area between May 2018 and April 2019



- Oodles Leeds is part of an initiative known as “Safe Zones”, which was pioneered in Huddersfield in response to a spate of violent crime, which attracted national media coverage from the BBC. The idea of a Safe Zone is to offer an individual sanctuary if they feel they are in physical danger, the manager on duty will take the individual who would be classed as unsafe into a secure area of the building unavailable to the public. They will have a chaperone with them at all times, police will be contacted and the designated staff member will stay with them until help arrives. Please see the article link below: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-47737853>

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- BACIL – Businesses Against Crime In Leeds. Oodles Leeds is a registered member of BACIL, which is a dedicated number of businesses who work in partnership with Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Police to actively reduce crime in the area, for both the day and night time economy. Each member is given a tablet with updates regarding crime in the area and offered training on how to mitigate risk.

<http://bacil.org/#>

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BACIL Awards Evening 2019

Do you go above and beyond to keep the city centre a safe place to live, work and play? Nominations for the 2019 BACIL Awards Evening open on 1st April 2019! To find out more information about the event and sponsorship opportunities please contact rachael@bacil.org

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Local Economy

- Denial of new issue premises licenses are harming the local economy because it means that local businesses are losing revenue and in turn they're not re-investing into local suppliers.
- The large multi-nationals, such as McDonalds and Taco Bell have been granted licenses but are not reinvesting into the local economy.
- CBOX t/a Oodles Chinese will be employing between 10-15 staff members, contributing to tax, NI and pension contributions on their wages.
- CBOX t/a Oodles Chinese are paying business rates and VAT
- CBOX t/a Oodles Chinese will be reinvesting into the local economy by purchasing fresh meat and produce from local suppliers.
- CBOX will be employing security staff to police the site and work towards implementation of the dispersal policy.
- CBOX will be using disposable and recyclable consumables. We will not be serving alcohol or using glass bottles, decreasing the risk of harm.
- CBOX LTD will be working in tandem with the police and local authority to work towards making the area safer and implement policies to reduce incidents of crime in the area.
- CCTV is fitted at our premises. It is an active deterrent for anti-social behaviour and we are committed to continuing its provision. All new premises are fitted with digital equipment and the camera locations are selected in conjunction with the local police Crime Prevention Officer whenever possible. We are committed to training adequate numbers of employees in each branch in the use of the CCTV system so that immediately following an incident a trained member of staff is always available to replay footage or download material. This material will always be made available to the statutory authorities without delay. All CCTV footage will be retained for a period of at least 30 days.

Dispersal policy:

We accept that our responsibilities cannot simply end at our front door and that, by contributing to better managed branches at the end of the night, we can help deliver a safer town centre. We acknowledge that by the very nature of our operation we can be potential sources of nuisance, anti-social behaviour and crime which may create concern for the immediate neighbourhood, its residents and the authorities. We therefore implement a dispersal policy in our branches which will seek to reduce the pressure on the police at the end of trading, ease customers' passage home and minimise the likelihood of local residents being disturbed. The key factors of that policy are:

- Where music is provided in our branches, music levels will be reduced towards the end of the evening to assist in the quiet and orderly dispersal of customers. Our experience is that because customers have not been using raised voices against the background of loud music immediately prior to leaving the premises they tend to leave more quietly.
- Wherever possible, lighting levels are manipulated to become 'brighter' at the end of trading hours to encourage the gradual dispersal of patrons during the last part of trading.
- On dispersal our staff actively encourage customers not to congregate outside the venue, direct customers to the nearest taxi ranks or other transportation away from the area.

- Our managers will not hesitate to speak to any groups that congregate in the vicinity of the premises after closing time and ask them to move on.
- We ensure that there is strong management and staff presence in the customer area and at all exit points during the dispersal period.
- We routinely place signage at exit doors asking customers to respect the rights of our neighbours to the quiet enjoyment of their homes.
- Where it is deemed appropriate we can provide customers with site-specific information on how they can get home safely. Where customers require individual assistance in obtaining safe transport from our premises we do whatever is reasonably possible to help, for example by providing details of bus routes or contacting taxi and private hire operators on their behalf.

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