

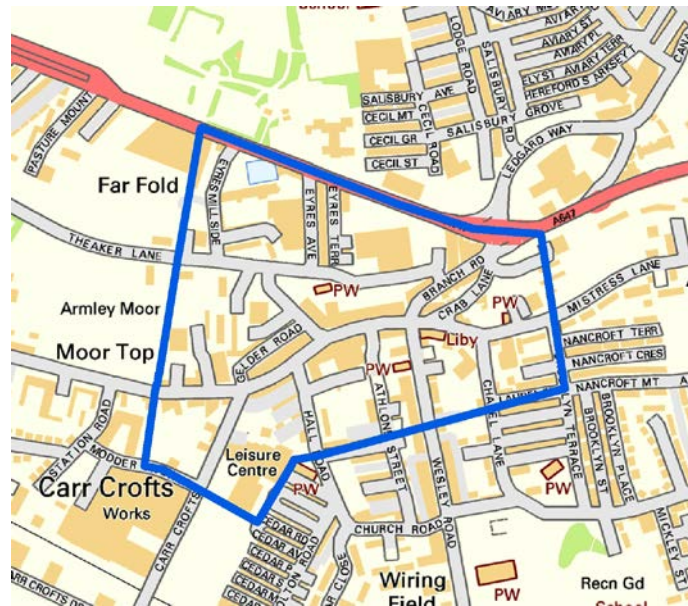
Armley CIP 2016 – Insert into Policy

Licensing Act 2003



Area 6 - Armley

7.51 Area 6 relates to the main shopping areas of Armley, known as Armley Town Street and Branch Road.



7.52 In recent years Armley has been highlighted due to levels of deprivation, poor health outcomes and, more recently, an increase of disorder in the main shopping areas.

7.53 In 2014 the Council recognised this as an area that would benefit from Local Licensing Guidance due to poor health outcomes of people living in LS12. This gives potential businesses extra information about the problems in Armley and encourages new businesses to think about the impact they are having in the area.

7.54 In the last few years residents have reported to the local councillors and MP their concerns about large groups of mostly male street drinkers gathering on Town Street. Residents find this intimidating and have reported feeling that this area is becoming a no-go zone. There is a culture of street drinking which involves two distinct groups.

- Firstly, adult Eastern European males drinking in small groups, generally orderly and compliant and who hand over alcohol when requested as per the DPPO.
- The second group are a more anti-social group of white British males who congregate on Town Street and whilst in drink commit crimes, and generally make a nuisance of themselves to passers-by and shop premises.

7.55 West Yorkshire Police, Leeds Antisocial Behaviour Team and the Council are already working with these two groups to stop the antisocial behaviour and have issued injunctions to stop a number of people from coming back to Town Street.

7.56 The number of off licences in the Armley area has steadily increased over the last ten years. This table show the number of licences issued as at 1st January each year.

		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
LS12	On	51	52	50	49	44	41	41	42	38	40	36
Postcode	Off	43	43	43	49	51	54	56	56	57	57	61
Armley	On	30	30	27	27	24	23	25	24	23	24	20
Ward	Off	24	25	30	31	34	37	38	38	37	38	41
CIP	On	8	8	7	7	6	6	6	6	6	8	6
Area	Off	2	2	5	5	7	8	9	9	9	11	12

7.57 In the CIP area, by the end of 2015, there were a total of 12 premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises (convenience stores, mini-markets and off licences) and 6 premises licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises (pubs, bars and clubs).

7.58 At the same time licensed premises have increased reports of antisocial behaviour, disorder and domestic violence have also increased in the wider Armley area.

7.59 In areas where there is an excessive accumulation of on-licensed premises, it is easy to provide a direct correlation between those premises and crime and disorder in the area, through an analysis of the operating hours of the premises and the peak times for incidents and calls for service.

7.60 It is harder to provide a direct correlation between the accumulation of off licensed premises and disorder in the same way as people are not drinking on the premises where they purchased the alcohol, and may delay drinking the alcohol until they arrive at home.

7.61 However in this area there is an issue with people drinking on the street and causing disorder and anti-social behaviour issues. West Yorkshire Police have identified that smaller independently owned off licences in the area are selling strong and cheap alcohol popular with street drinkers as they are finding bottles and cans as litter that are only available in certain shops. However as the shops aren't committing any offences selling these products they would not be subject to enforcement action.

7.62 Common sense would denote that new off licensed premises opening in the area where street drinking and the associated anti-social behaviour is most problematic would add to the problems already being experienced in the area and this view is supported by officers from LASBT and West Yorkshire Police.

7.63 It is the council's policy, on receipt of relevant representations to refuse all applications (new and variation) for premises licences which authorise the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises in the CIP area.

7.64 It is for the applicant to demonstrate that their application would not add to the cumulative impact of such licensed premises in the Armley area.

7.65 Further information and a full report of the evidence used to support this CIP is available from Entertainment Licensing.