

## Statement of Truth

I am Nick SEMPER and I am a partner in a Licensing Consultancy called 'The Licensing Guys' based at Rural Enterprise Centre, Vincent Carey Road, Rotherwas Business Park, HEREFORD HR2 6FE.

Currently we have been asked to represent a new business start-up called the No Problem Convenience Store at 41 Armley Ridge Road, LEEDS in the matter of their application for the Grant of a Premises Licence. These premises do not lie within a Cumulative Impact Area.

At about 14:00hrs on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 I was working in Yorkshire when I visited Armley Ridge Road to conduct an 'Environmental Visual Audit' of the area. An Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) is intended to produce detailed "Community Intelligence" to assess quality of life issues and is a common feature of partnership working. EVAs are completed by individuals or groups and may be accompanied by photos to provide further information or detail.

On my arrival I began an inspection of the open spaces that are accessible by members of the public using Armley Ridge Road.

I visited the grounds of the Armley Conservative Sports & Social Club. There I inspected the moderate quantities of rubbish that strewn in the undergrowth abutting Armley Ridge Road. I found several discarded empty pop and energy drink cans and cigarette packets, and a crushed can of Fosters Lager (4% abv), a flattened and weathered can of Desperados lager (6% abv) and a recently discarded can of Ace Cider (7.5%abv). Otherwise the area was devoid of evidence of street drinking and drug abuse.

I then visited the Disability Centre directly opposite the No Problem Convenience Store. There was zero litter present on the site. I spoke to a member of staff who stated that they did not have a problem with the application but directed me to the Centre Manager. However, I later found that the Centre Manager was dealing that day with a reported case of Coronavirus associated with the site and consequently could not speak to me.

I then went to inspect the churchyard of Christ Church which is on the opposite side of the road from the premises but slightly to the North. Again this location was devoid of any litter and evidence of street drinking and ASB.

I then went further down a public footpath leading from Christ Church to a public area below the church. Again, this location was devoid of any litter and evidence of street drinking and ASB.

I then walked the length of Armley Ridge Road looking for a nearby void premises with a front garden. I located one nearby at an unnumbered residential premises, which I believe is No 55. Although there was a quantity of rubbish in the overgrown front garden, it was again devoid of any evidence of street drinking and ASB.

I visited Elite Hairdressers which is the business premises adjacent to the applicant. I spoke with the owner (Sam), two members of staff (Natalie and Guris) and one customer (Stephanie) and explained the proposed application. Sam explained that she had run this business for five years, and also lived locally. None had any objection to the application.

Sam explained that there were few problems with street drinkers in Armley Ridge Road, but more down Armley Town Street – a ten-minute walk from their location. They told me that they do not experience or witness drug and alcohol dependent persons in the vicinity. They had no issues with people using the location as a public convenience but reported the usual issues with litter. They reported no issues with drugs detritus or children drinking or misbehaving in the park.

I engaged with other persons I met in the vicinity, who declined to 'go on the record', but stated similarly that they had no issues with the application per se. They told me that the nearest hotspot for street drinking and ASB was on Armley Moor, so I walked the ten-minute journey to the location(s) identified. I was told that the street drinking population allegedly sourced their alcohol from a 24hr Convenience Store with Off Licence near that location.

At Armley Moor I found no street drinkers present, no doubt due to the inclement weather. However, I did find some evidence of street drinking in the form of discarded empty cans near two benches set a distance apart.

1. At one location I found an empty can of Kestrel Super Strength Lager (9% abv). Otherwise I found the area comparatively litter free.
2. At a second location I found discarded empty cans of: 1 x Ace Apple Cider (7.5% abv), 1 x can of Zubr Lager (6%), 2 x cans of Warka Lager (6.5%) and a 1.5l bottle of Amorino perry (15% abv).

I placed all the discarded items that we located in a public litter bin.

I made a video recording of my findings, which can be found at <https://youtu.be/Fc5xWgKGOM8>

This is a statement of truth dated 04/10/20.

Signed: David Nicholas SEMPER