

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE (when complete)

WITNESS STATEMENT(Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9; Magistrates' Courts Act 1980, s.5B;
Criminal Procedure Rules, Rule 16.2)

NICHE Ref. No:

URN:

Statement of: CO827 Brendan Counsell

Date of birth: Over 18

Occupation: Police Community Support Officer

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have willfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: B.Counsell

Date: 20th March 2023

Signature witnessed by:

Date:

Time and date statement taken: 23/03/22 at 14:34hrs.

Check box if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness defaults on rear)

I am the above named person and currently employed by West Yorkshire Police as a Police Community Support Officer based at Pudsey Police Station.

I have been a PCSO for almost 10 years and worked in the Armley area for around the last 9 years of those. One of my roles and responsibilities is tackling anti-social behaviour issues with in the Armley ward. The issues effecting this area are often complex and forward facing impacting the community, the quality of life they have living in the town and local businesses attempting to operate in the area.

Over the last 9 years I have seen many of the local shops close including launderette, charity shops and second hand buy and sell shops. These have all later re-opened as eastern European food shops or take-aways, In my opinion 2 of the main anti-social behaviour issues in Armley are drugs and alcohol related.

I am making this statement for a recent application from 6 - 8 Town Street, Armley, Leeds. based on my overall knowledge of anti-social behaviour and nuisance directly linked to street drinking in Armley.

There is an ongoing issue regarding street drinking and there has long been a ban on drinking outside in this area. I have regularly attended calls to service from members of the public and coming across these whilst on general patrol in the area. Groups of mainly males gather on the main Town Street in full view of shoppers drinking. These groups are from both the white British community and the eastern European community. If left to their own devices and not dealt with robustly the groups often become very intoxicated and either argue and fight amongst themselves or with passing members of the public trying to go about their daily business. I have witnessed males so intoxicated that they have passed out and not only fall asleep in shop doorways but have also urinated themselves without realising. This is incredibly distressing for other people who are wishing to use Town Street for its intended purpose. Local business groups and store managers regularly complain of drunkenness around the clock. This is putting the residents off shopping in the area

Armley is an easy area to access alcohol due to the fact that they are close to 15-20 shops in a square mile with an alcohol license which sell cheap strong alcohol and don't seem to be bothered about selling alcohol to drunk customers and the usual people who cause the main issues, generally the

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Continuation Statement of: CO827 Brendan Counsell

summer is much worse for street drinkers and complaints from members of the public stating that they are people urinating in public in the surrounding area, this then blows up when they put this on social media and the Police & council get abused for not doing anything.

As a Police community support officer for the area I can state that the behaviour of those involved in on the street drinking and related anti-social behaviour is of great concern and there are also community concerns. This type of behaviour clearly has a negative impact on the community and businesses and I would therefore object to the application to extend the premises and opening times.

Signature: B.Counsell

Signature witnessed by: