

Tim Whelan  
Director of Service Delivery  
Lewes District Council & Eastbourne Borough Council  
1 Grove Road  
Eastbourne  
BN21 4PN

### **Response to the Eastbourne Licensing Strategy 2019-2024**

Dear Tim,

Recently, the Eastbourne *unLtd* Chamber of Commerce met and agreed to form a group focused on considering the opportunities afforded by the night-time economy. Our group consists of Shoe Simes (The Eagle and Dew Drop Inn), Heidi Lane (Crown and Anchor), Natalie Lennol (The Lamb Inn) and Lisa Cartwell (The Pilot Inn).

The group has since met twice, and we have started to develop a plan to consider how Eastbourne can improve and enhance the night-time economy which generates £66bn annually for the UK<sup>1</sup> and employs 1.3m people. A recent Guardian report<sup>2</sup> showed that whereas other towns have increased their 'experience economy' Eastbourne has lost 8 bars and pubs in five years – more than any other town.

Whilst we are still in our early stages, we do have several comments with regards to the draft licensing strategy. As we develop further understanding of best practice, we would welcome the opportunity to speak to licensing officers, Councillors and the licensing committee about the steps other authorities and licensee holders are taking in their areas to promote a vibrant night time economy.

Whilst we welcome that Eastbourne Borough Council recognise the need for more cultural events and activities, it is disappointing that little mention is made throughout the report of the benefits of a vibrant night time economy. Normally, a vibrant night time economy is a sign that a town is prosperous and affluent and brings a huge benefit to the tourism sector.

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<sup>1</sup> Building a Night Time Economy, LGIU, 2016

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/ng-interactive/2019/jan/30/high-street-crisis-town-centres-lose-8-of-shops-in-five-years>

The report states that “the cumulative impact of licensed premises in this area continues to undermine the promotion of the licensing objectives” but no details are given how. Given that the CIP has been in place for some time, with apparently little effect, now is the time to reconsider its viability and usefulness.

Numerous recommendations have been made by the Local Government Information Unit and Cornerstone Solicitors<sup>5</sup> on how a structured night-time economy can be realised. It talks about the importance of forward planning and partnership working. Rather than implement a CIP, we would like Eastbourne Borough Council to work in partnership with stakeholders to develop a plan for our night-time economy. A well-managed smart night time economy will make the streets feel more safe and secure. Obviously, as ever, we would be very happy to work with the local authority, statutory agencies, stakeholders and residents groups to help develop this vision for the night time economy.

Once again, our group is currently meeting to discuss what we would like to see as the future of the town’s night time economy, and we welcome the opportunity to work closely with you to help with these plans.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "PP S. Healy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Heidi Lane

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<sup>5</sup> <https://cornerstonebarristers.com/cmsAdmin/uploads/night-time-economy-final.pdf>