

Appendix 2



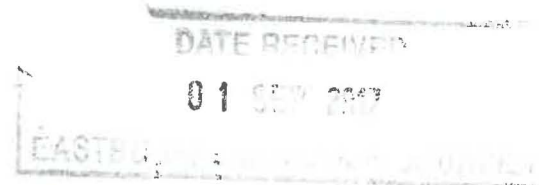
HART
OF EASTBOURNE

Willy Todd Leisure Ltd

The Hart of Eastbourne
89, Cavendish Place. Eastbourne, BN21 3RR

Eastbourne Borough Council
1 Grove Road
Eastbourne
BN21 4TW

1st September 2017



Dear Sirs,

Re: Consultation Eastbourne's Cumulative Impact Area

I am writing with regard the above consultation as a licensee in the town, a resident of the town and as Chair of Nightwatch, part of the Eastbourne Business Crime Group.

The current cumulative policy was written for a time (2006/7) when the licensed trade was a very different type of business in the town, pubs and clubs were busy, the student trade was vibrant and the overall night time economy was diverse and varied. However, this brought associated problems of late night disorder and a saturation of licensed premises. Initially, the CIP was written and brought in to address these problems and to be fair, it worked well. Unfortunately, the CIP is now grossly out of date, the statistics are laughable and wholly irrelevant to the current state of trade and Eastbourne's dying night time economy.

As a minimum, I feel that if it is kept in place, it should be stripped back to basics and totally rewritten to reflect the current state of the licensed trade in Eastbourne and the dramatically reduced late night disorder.

Your letter regarding this consultation of 24th July 2017 also has a suggestion to keep the Cumulative Impact Area but remove the streets in the Little Chelsea area. Let me assure you that if this happens there will be a lot of very angry businesses that have worked hard for years with both the police and the council to address the late night issues by being active members of the Nightwatch scheme in the town. This scheme has won national awards over the years for the way it is run and for its successes. Strangely, until recently, there has been only one business in the Little Chelsea area that has been a part of the scheme and they have been wholly inactive from the start. This has recently changed with Maxims recently joining the scheme due to rising 'issues' with their premises that they are trying to address by joining Nightwatch. Therefore, to remove an area that, supposedly, has no issues with

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disorder is not only inaccurate but also grossly unfair as even though this area has done little or nothing to address the problems of night time disorder, they wish to benefit from removal from the Cumulative Impact Area because of the work and successes of diligent Nightwatch members and because a number of Eastbourne Councillors drink in the Little Chelsea area.

I would also strongly suggest you read page 100 of your own policy which is a Licensing review, albeit outdated, by Ian Fitzpatrick. The penultimate paragraph states:

It is contended that if the Cumulative Impact Policy was rescinded or if the CIZ was substantially reduced in area, there would be a risk of a crime increase in Eastbourne and an even higher risk of crime increase in the current CIZ area.

This, interestingly, brings me on to my final point. With a positive and hard working Business Crime Group now in operation that regularly meets and discusses both day and night time crime and disorder, do we actually still need a CIP in Eastbourne?

I'm sure many people will have noticed that the number of licensed businesses in Eastbourne town centre has reduced over the last few years and that Eastbourne is no longer the place to go for a night out. Pubs and bars have closed and the towns nightclubs has also reduced. Although this is very much a national issue, Eastbourne nightlife is dying at an incredible rate. Compare this to other local towns, Hastings has a diverse and increasing night time economy and yet late night disorder is relatively stable (in part due to a successful Pubwatch scheme). I feel there is now actually a strong case to actually remove the CIP from Eastbourne and in its place encourage licensees to be more active in policing themselves and their own businesses. Eastbourne needs to find a balance between regimented 'red tape' policies and encouraging a more diverse and active licensed night time economy. The CIP as it now stands strangles new business and new ideas. It has created pocketed areas that suffer from disorder that is actually nothing to do with the night time economy (homelessness, drug users etc) but, ironically, the Nightwatch scheme still tries to address these issues as well as its own.

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To conclude, I would like to see the CIP removed and more help for businesses to police themselves and the night time economy via the Nightwatch scheme so that we don't return to the days of old.

At worst, the CIP needs a dramatic and extensive rewrite to reflect the increasingly poor current state of Eastbourne's night life that will enable it to grow with the town and flourish in a similar way to other towns. There is no middle ground for keeping the current policy and removing Little Chelsea.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Morris
Director

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