

# THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Division/Station : Oxfordshire BCU

St. Aldates Police Station, OX1 1SZ

From : Chief Inspector Jack Malhi

To : The Licensing Authority

Subject :

Ref : Special Saturation Policy (SSP) Review Date : 26 June 2007

Tel.No. 01865-266207

Respectable members of the Licensing Authority,

I refer to the initial submission made to the authority that led to the formulation of the current SSP which is now under review. The rationale for having such a policy remains as valid as it was then and now supports extension of the policy to East Oxford.

In general, recorded incidents of violent crime have continued to rise and alcohol related incidents in particular in the vicinity of and within licensed venues. The statistical data collated by the Nitesafe partnership (operational section of the Oxford City CDRP) that includes data provided by the Primary Care Trust will show that both timing and location of incidents of violent crime have strong correlation with the night time economy with considerable volume of crime occurring within the close vicinity of the City Centre and East Oxford. An increase in the number and capacity of the venues places increased burden on policing and other services. In the past six months alone the incidents of violent crime and criminal damage in these areas have gone up by 31%. This is particularly noticeable in view of the total increase of 5.8% in the whole of Oxford and the general trend of reduction in crime in other categories.

The Hi-Visibility patrols by uniformed police officers and early intervention techniques to prevent serious violence are highly resource intensive tactics that are needed to cater for the safety of revellers in the late evenings. An increase in the incidents due to an increase in the footfall in the City can seriously undermine the capacity to provide such high visibility patrols.

The recorded violent crime in East Oxford has gone up by 34.7%. East Oxford has seen an increase in the number of late night restaurants and entertainment venues which corresponds to this increase whereas in the outlying areas like Blackbird Leys, Littlemore, Rose Hill and Iffley violent crime has fallen by 6.2% to 20.4%.

The prosperity of businesses including the licensed entertainment business depends in significant ways on the perception of crime and disorder in the area. The licensed venues require additional resources in policing and other local services including public transport. The Special Saturation Policy helps in managing demand, addressing issues of public safety, and crime and disorder more effectively.

During the next week, the 'Nitesafe' partnership will be preparing the relevant maps showing crime patterns and identifying areas for application of the Special Saturation Policy.