

**Report of:** Environmental Health Business Manager

**To:** Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee

**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**Title of Report :** Review of Statement of Licensing Policy –  
Consultation Outcome

### Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To report back to the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee so that the Committee can recommend a Revised Statement of Licensing Policy for adoption by Council.

**Key decision:** No

**Scrutiny Responsibility:** Environmental

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report Approved by**

**Legal:** Daniel Smith, Lawyer

**Finance:** Nichola Stretton, Group Accountant

**Policy Framework:** Statement of Licensing Policy

### Summary and Recommendations

This report provides the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee with details of the comments received during the recent consultation programme on the revised draft Licensing Policy Statement as a whole and consultation on the Special Saturation Policy for the City Centre and proposed Special Saturation Policy for the Cowley Road area.

The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:-

- (a) consider the comments received on the revised draft Licensing Policy Statement;
- (b) resolve whether any amendments to the revised draft Licensing Policy Statement are necessary in the light of the comments received;
- (c) consider the evidence from Thames Valley Police, Oxford Safer Communities Partnership and representations received in relation to

- the need for a Special Saturation Policy for the Cowley Road area and decide whether that evidence is sufficient to recommend adoption of such a policy;
- (d) consider the evidence from Thames Valley Police, Oxford Safer Communities Partnership and any representations received concerning the retention of the existing Special Saturation Policy in the City Centre and decide whether that evidence is sufficient to recommend that the policy should be retained;
  - (e) delegate authority to the Legal and Democratic and Environmental Health Business Managers to amend the revised draft Licensing Policy Statement in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee;
  - (f) delegate authority to the Legal and Democratic and Environmental Health Business Managers to carry out textual alterations to the Licensing Policy Statement to comply with legislation; and
  - (g) subject to the amendments to the draft, RECOMMEND Council to adopt the revised Licensing Policy Statement at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Introduction**

1. The Licensing Act 2003 requires the Council to carry out its licensing functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives, namely:-
  - the prevention of crime and disorder;
  - public safety;
  - the prevention of public nuisance; and
  - the protection of children from harm.
2. Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 provides that Licensing Authorities must have regard to the Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State in formulating their Licensing Policy Statements and in discharging their functions under the Act.
3. The Licensing Policy Statement must be kept under review and be determined and re-published every three years. The current policy was adopted by Council in January 2005. The Committee agreed a revised draft Licensing Policy Statement (LPS) at its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July. The Committee also agreed a consultation period from 13<sup>th</sup> August to 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

### **Purpose of the Licensing Policy Statement**

4. The LPS has four main purposes, these are:-
  - To highlight for elected Members on the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee, the boundaries and powers of the Authority and to provide parameters within which to make decisions. The Authority will be able to test applications against the criteria set out in the LPS and if

necessary add conditions to those set out in the Operation Schedule submitted.

- To inform all licence applicants of the parameters within which the Authority will make licensing decisions and how a licensed premises is likely to be able to operate. There will still be a requirement for each case to be examined on an individual basis.
- To inform residents and businesses of the parameters within which the Authority will make licensing decisions and therefore how their needs will be addressed.
- To help inform a court of law how the Authority arrived at its decisions when these are challenged in a Court and to support these decisions.

### **Special Saturation Policy**

5. Following consultation, Oxford City Council adopted a Special Saturation Policy (SSP) for the City Centre area in 2005. For the past three years the Council and Thames Valley Police have kept this Policy under review.

6. In April this year the Council resolved :-

“This Council believes that there is a strong and urgent case for adding a section of Cowley Road to the Special Saturation Zone for licensing purposes. Council therefore requests the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership to consider this issue, and report to the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee on the issue, with evidence, if appropriate, to support the introduction of A Special Saturation Zone”.

7. In June this year evidence was submitted by Thames Valley Police to support the current SSP for the City Centre and the proposed SSP for the Cowley Road area. This evidence included maps defining the boundaries of the areas under consideration which are included as Appendix 1.

8. A Special Saturation Policy (SSP) may be included in the Licensing Policy Statement. This must be based on the potential cumulative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises in a particular area of the authority. Before adopting an SSP the licensing authority must consider available evidence and representations.

9. The Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State states that “in some town and city centre areas, where the number, type and density of premises selling alcohol for consumption on the premises are unusual, serious problems of nuisance and disorder may be arising or have begun to arise outside or some distance from licensed premises”. For example, concentrations of young drinkers can result in queues at fast food outlets and for public transport. Queuing in turn maybe leading to conflict, disorder and anti-social behaviour. While more flexible licensing hours may reduce this impact by allowing a more gradual dispersal of customers from premises, it is possible that the impact on surrounding areas of the behaviour of the customers of all premises taken together will still be greater in these cases than the impact of customers of individual

premises. These conditions are more likely to occur in town and city centres, but may also arise in other urban centres and suburbs.

10. There should be an evidential basis for the decision to include a SSP within the Licensing Policy Statement. The steps to be followed in adopting a SSP are set out in the Statutory Guidance:

- “identification of concern about crime and disorder or public nuisance;
- consideration of whether there is good evidence that crime and disorder or public nuisance are happening and are caused by the customers of licensed premises, or that the risk of cumulative impact is imminent;
- identification of the boundaries of the area where the problems are occurring”

11. The key issues relating to the adoption of a SSP are:

- The potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area.
- Consideration is given to available evidence (Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, etc.) and representations from “Responsible Authorities” (Police, Fire and Rescue, Planning etc.) and “Interested Parties” (members of the public, businesses and bodies representing them).

12. The Authority must include full justification as to why an SSP has been adopted, including what problems there are and why, and why these cannot be resolved other than by restricting further licensed premises. Substantial evidence must be collated to support an SSP and a summary should be given in the Licensing Policy Statement. The policy should also clearly specify the geographical area where the SSP is to apply.

### **Consultation**

13. Before determining the revised LPS, the Licensing Authority must consult the persons listed in section 5(3) of the 2003 Act. These are:

- a) the chief officer of police for the area;
- b) the fire authority for the area;
- c) persons/bodies representative of local holders of premises licences;
- d) persons/bodies representative of local holders of club premises certificates;
- e) persons/bodies representatives of local holders of personal licences; and
- f) persons/bodies representative of businesses and residents in its area.

14. The views of all those persons/bodies listed should be given appropriate weight when the revised policy is determined.

15. The draft revised LPS which was approved for consultation by the Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2007, included a number of agreed amendments. Changes to the Policy were also made as a result of the updated Statutory Guidance and new legislation since the Act was introduced in 2003. In addition to consultation on the revised LPS, it was decided to consult on the review of the existing SSP for the City Centre and the proposed SSP for the Cowley Road Area. The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership was asked by the Committee to submit their comments on the proposals for both of the SSP areas.

### **Responses to Consultation**

16. 586 licensed premises and 34 Authorities/Associations were informed of the consultation process. Copies of the revised draft Licensing Policy Statement were made available in libraries, public buildings and on the City Council Website. In addition, the 6 Area Committees were consulted at their August / September meetings.

17. In response to consultation, 18 representations have been received. A list of respondents is given in Appendix 2 along with their comments. These representations are summarised in Appendix 3 along with officer comments and proposed responses. Comments noted from Area Committee meetings are reported in Appendix 4. The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership has submitted a representation on both the existing Special Saturation Policy for the City Centre and the proposed Special Saturation Policy for the Cowley Road area which is given in Appendix 5.

18. The majority of responses we received from the public were in relation to the proposed SSP for the Cowley Road area. Most representations were very supportive of the proposal with a suggestion to extend to Iffley Road. We also received a request to define what the Authority would consider as a relevant representation and clarification of vicinity.

19. Of the area committees, East Area Parliament strongly supports the creation of an SSP for the Cowley Road area and recommends that Iffley Road also be included. Cowley Area Committee supports the creation of an SSP for the Cowley Road area. North Area Committee supports the retention of the SSP for the City Centre but not to extend it along Walton Street and Little Clarendon Street. It also supports the creation of an SSP for East Oxford. Central, South and West Area Committee supports retaining the SSP for the City Centre and extending it to Walton Street and Little Clarendon Street if there is evidence for doing so.

20. The Oxford Safer Communities Partnership supports an extension of the existing SSP in the City Centre, with no adjustments to its boundary. The partnership also supports a new SSP area in East Oxford based on the borders submitted.

## Suggested Amendments to the LPS following Consultation

21. Add to PP2 High Volume Vertical Drinking Establishments (HVVDs) so that it now reads:

"Where necessary and appropriate, the Authority will attach conditions to Premises Licences for HVVDs and similar premises (if not volunteered by the venue operator and following an appropriate Representation or Relevant Representation) which require adherence to:

- (a) a prescribed capacity;
- (b) an appropriate ratio of tables and chairs to customers based on the capacity; and
- (c) the presence of Security Industry Authority (SIA) registered security teams to control entry for the purpose of compliance with the capacity, *and to supervise other areas within the premises.*"

22. Add to OS6 Smoke free Premises so that it now reads:

"The Authority expects operating schedules to detail how premises will be able to comply with the Health Act 2006 without compromising any of the four licensing objectives *e.g. re-entry policies, drink supervision, litter management, noise control etc.* Applicants may wish to include additional plans to highlight any smoking areas they propose to use.

23. Add 2 new paragraphs. To follow paragraph 2.5.10 of LPS.

*"The Authority will accept relevant representations from interested parties residing or involved in business "in the vicinity of" the premises concerned. The Authority has chosen not to define vicinity as a fixed distance from a premises. The Authority will consider representations from those that can demonstrate that they are (or, in the case of new premises, are likely to be), affected by activities occurring (or potentially occurring) on the premises."*

*"Where a notice of a hearing is given to an applicant, the authority is required to provide the applicant with copies of the relevant representations that have been made. In circumstances where the Authority considers that the interested party has a well-founded fear of intimidation and may be deterred from making a representation because of this, the Authority may withhold some or all of the interested parties personal details giving only enough details (such as street name) which would allow an applicant to be satisfied that the interested party is within the vicinity of the premises."*

24. Add new paragraph to follow 8.6.1 and new appendix as proposed by Nightsafe Manager.

*"The Authority fully supports the "Nightsafe" partnership initiative to combat crime and disorder associated with the night-time economy. (see Appendix )"*

25. Subject to Committee's decision on the City Centre SSP and the proposed SSP for the Cowley Road area, to amend paragraph 3.25 accordingly and to add the evidence submitted by Thames Valley Police as an appendix along with maps defining the boundaries of the areas.

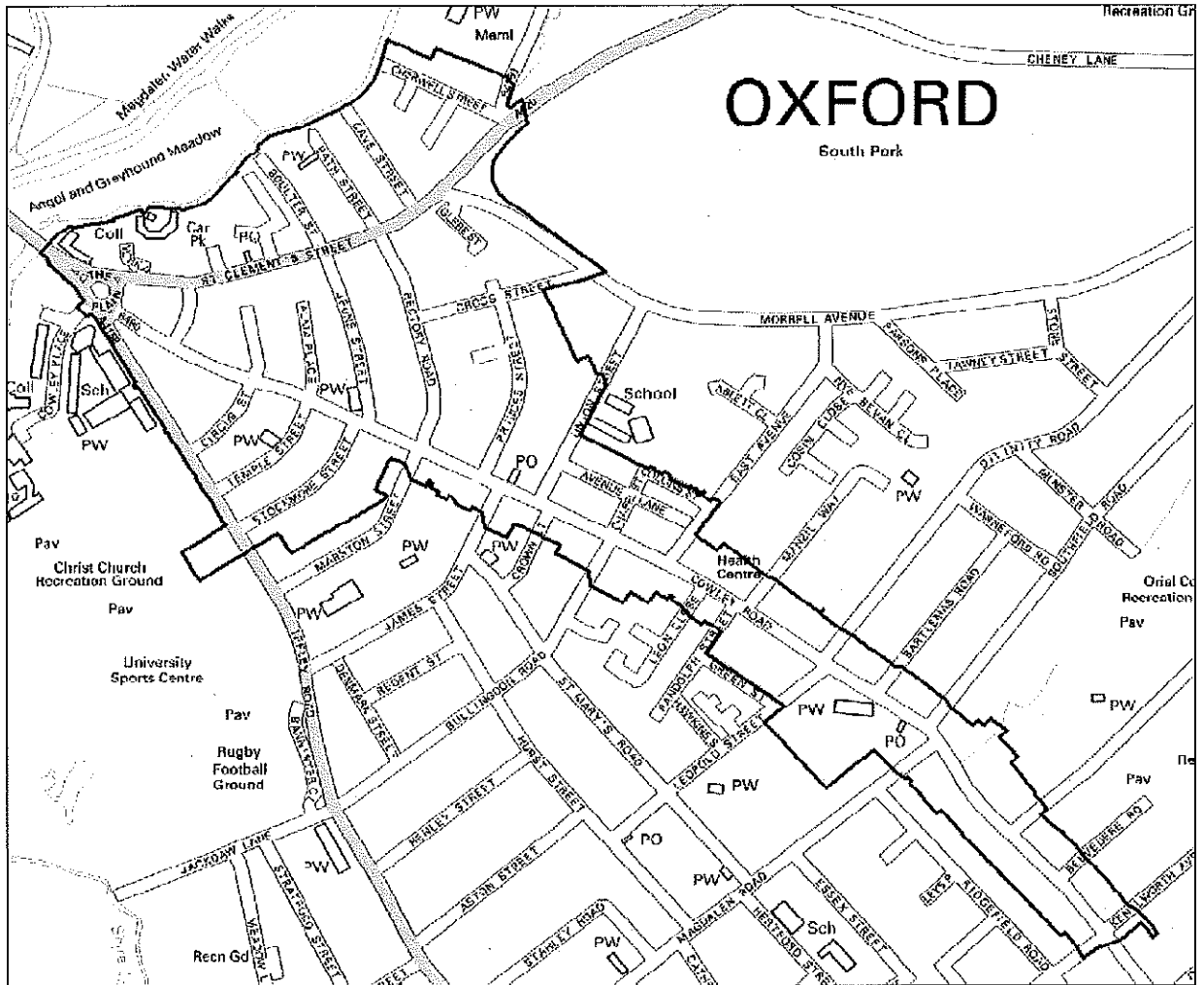
**Programme for adoption of the Licensing Policy Statement**

Consultation revised draft Licensing Policy Statement approved by Licensing & Gambling Acts Committee	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2007
Consultation with Area Committees (as representative of businesses and residents in the area), and with "Responsible Authorities" (Police, Fire & Rescue, Planning, Environmental Health, Health & Safety, Child Protection), representatives of current licence holders and registered clubs and others including Community Safety, Building Control and Trading Standards. Other consultees have been identified e.g. Oxford City Centre Management Company (OX1), Nightsafe and Residents Associations.	August / September 2007
Licensing & Gambling Acts Committee to approve the final revised draft Licensing Policy Statement amendments in light of the representations received	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2007
Council to adopt the revised draft Licensing Policy Statement	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2007

**Name and contact details of author:**

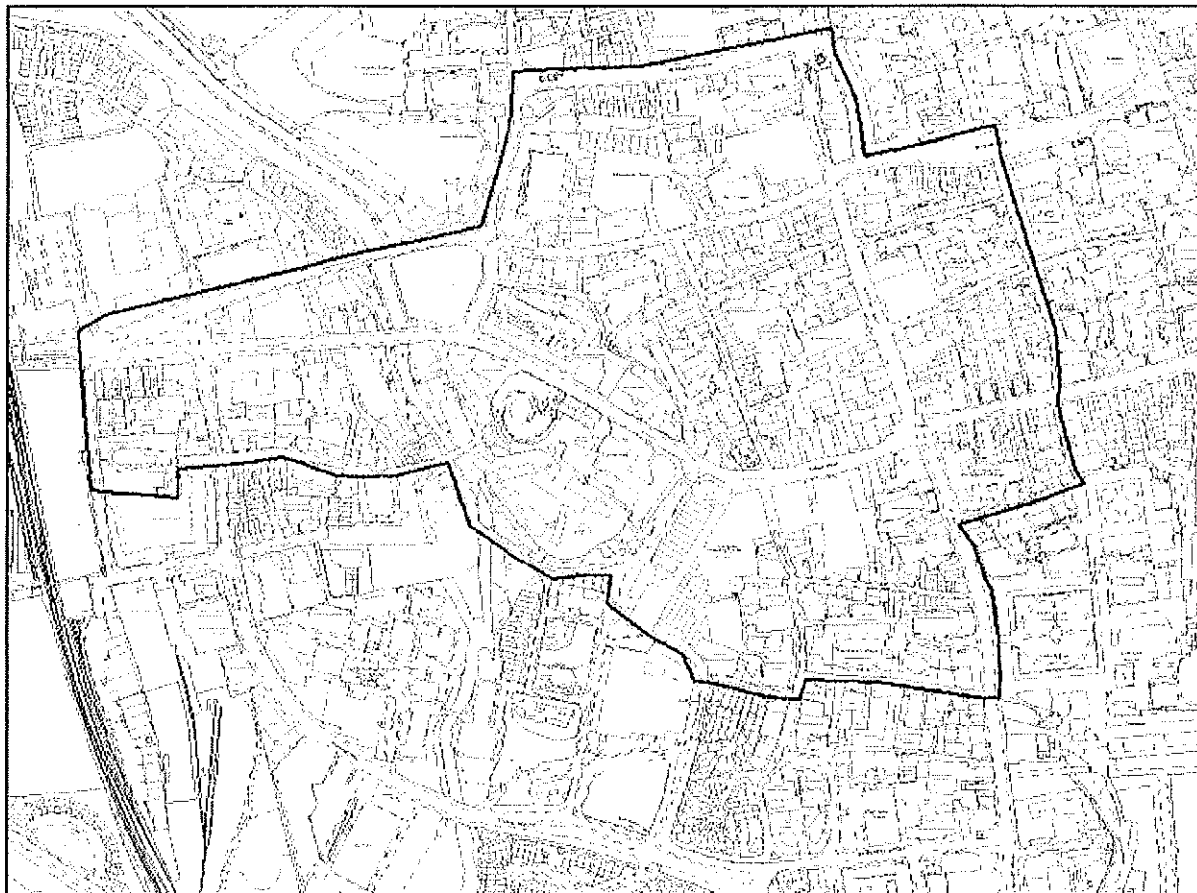
Selina Steel  
 Senior Licensing Officer  
 Telephone 01865 252067  
 Email [ssteel@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:ssteel@oxford.gov.uk)

Proposed Special Saturation Area for East Oxford





## Existing Special Saturation Area for Oxford City Centre



## Appendix 2

### Consultation Responses

OX1	Oliver O'Dell
Oxford Safer Communities Partnership	Brendan O'Dowda & Michael Lawrence
Sam Cooke	Wetherspoon Pub
Peter Hack	Oddbins Store
Derek Sherrin	The Corridor Bar
C Duffeleu - Weller	Pickwicks Guest House
John Temple	St Johns Resident Association
Robert Ciampoli-Messiou	Joes Restaurants
Stella Welford	Friends of Old Headington
Susan Mallett	Member of the Public
Pamela Webber	Member of the Public
Lee Carter	Member of the Public
M Young	Member of the Public
Katie Portwin	Member of the Public
John Harris	Member of the Public
Revd Professor Andrew Linzey	Member of the Public
Hazel Douglas	Member of the Public
Karen Crossan	Nightsafe

# Comments sheet

Oxford City Council's "Statement of Licensing Policy"

The Licensing Authority  
Oxford City Council

31 AUG 2007

Please help us by completing these two columns if you can.

The four licensing objectives are:

- CD - Prevention of Crime and disorder
- PS - Public safety
- PN - Prevention of public nuisance
- CH - Protection of children from harm

From Name: OLIVER O'DELL  
 Contact details: 07771 536826  
 Oliver@oxi.uk.com  
 Organisation / business: (if applicable)  
 OXI

Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	
Policy PP2 (pg 24)	NUMBER OF SIA STAFF AT VENUES (HANDS)	✓	✓	✓		POLICY PP2 (C) PRESENCE OF SIA REQUIRED STAFF SHOULD BE ABOUT HAUNTING SECURITY / CUSTOMER RATIOS NOT JUST ABOUT DOOR ENTRY - SHOULD BE CENTREIA FOR SECURITY STAFF INSIDE THE VENUE.
Policy PP10 (pg 27)	LOITERING AT LATE NIGHT TAKE AWAYS	✓	✓	✓		IT WOULD BE GOOD TO RECOMMEND THAT LATE NIGHT TAKEAWAYS SHOULD NOT HAVE FOOT MACHINES OR GAMER MACHINES THAT ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LOITER IN AND AROUND THESE PREMISES.
Policy PP12 (pg 27)	STREET DRINKING	✓	✓	✓		IS THERE A POSSIBILITY TO INCLUDE A CLAUSE ABOUT NOT SERVING TO KNOWN STREET DRINKERS.

CD – Prevention of Crime and disorder  
 PS – Public safety  
 PN – Prevention of public nuisance  
 CH – Protection of children from harm

Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	
policy 256 (p934)	make policy more definite	✓	✓	✓		Change 'may' include additional plans... to 'should' include additional plans...
(p934)	specific smoking law policy	✓	✓	✓		Should there be a specific policy to respect impact of smoking legislation Sect 1A :- re-entry licences, drink supervision, litter management etc.

Please return your comments by 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007  
 to: "Licensing", Oxford City Council, 10 St Ebbs Street, Oxford. OX1 1PT  
 or visit [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk) and email to: [licensing@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@oxford.gov.uk)

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From Name: **SAM COOKS**  
 Contact details: **S9D BETWEEN TOWNS R.D. OX4 3LR**  
 Organisation / business: (if applicable) **WILKINS RYDON PUB**

Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:			
		CD	PS	PN	CH

Your comments

continued overleaf ... (use a blank sheet if necessary)

26 Sep 2007

CD – Prevention of Crime and disorder  
PS – Public safety  
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Paragraph, page or policy reference  (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue?  (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	
	SMALL AMOUNT OF DRUGS MAYBE	✓				
	CHILDREN ARE ALLOWED UNTIL 9pm				✓	
	WE CLOSE AT 12 AM ALTHOUGH WE HAVE A LICENSE UNTIL 1 ON FN+SAT			✓		

Please return your comments by 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007  
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24/07/07

# Comments sheet

Oxford City Council's "Statement of Licensing Policy"

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From Name:  
**PETER HACK**

Contact details:  
**108 HIGH ST. OXFORD**  
**01865 725 254**  
Organisation / business: (if applicable)  
**OPDBINS**

Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	
	Unsupervised children, attempts to purchase alcohol by/for minors.	✓	✓	✓	✓	To date (21/9/07), we have recorded 274 refusals to sell alcohol at Oddbins Oxford High Street during 2007. This includes refusals to individuals through to groups in excess of twenty people, plus adults attempting to purchase for minors. 99 of the 274 refusals came in the months of July and August, of which 62 were recorded as being possibly foreign students. The police had to be called twice because of abuse directed at staff and other customers by people refused service during those two months. There were at least ten other incidents of abuse. Every evening during the summer after closing the shop at 10pm, the market would be crowded with

continued overleaf ... (use a blank sheet if necessary)

- CD – Prevention of Crime and disorder
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Paragraph, page or policy reference  (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue?  (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:			
		CD	PS	PN	CH

**Your comments**

language students behaving in a drunk & rowdy manner. On more than a couple of occasions, I witnessed youngsters either purchasing alcohol from Sainsburys, or successfully getting adults to purchase it for them. Once, I brought this matter up with the Sainsbury manager.

During this time, there appeared to be no supervision or control of the students from either University or language school authorities.

I suspect that youngsters managed to get adults to purchase from Oddbins, as the police presence that would have deterred this was rarely there. The levels of refusals & abuse during summer 2007

have been very bad, and much worse than

Summer 2006.

Please return your comments by 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007

to: "Licensing", Oxford City Council, 10 St Ebbs Street, Oxford. OX1 1PT

or visit [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk) and email to: [licensing@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@oxford.gov.uk)



24 AUG 2007

# Comments sheet

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- CH - Protection of children from harm

From Name: **DEREK SHERIN**

Contact details: **01865-247519**

Organisation / business: (if applicable)  
**THE CORRIDOR BAR  
119 CONLEY RD OXFORD**

Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	
	STREET DRINKING IN EAST OXFORD	✓	✓	✓		THESE APPEAR TO BE A PROBLEM WITH HOMELESS OR PEOPLE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, GETTING ACCESS TO ALCOHOL FROM OUTLETS IN THE AREA WHILST IN AN INEBRIATED STATE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACTION AGAINST LICENSED PREMISES THAT DON'T DISCOURAGE THIS.

Paragraph, page or policy reference	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	
(Blank for general points)						

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24 AUG 2007

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		CD	PS	PN	CH

**Your comments**

From Name: *C. Duffelen-Weller*

Contact details: *15-17 London Road  
Healdington*

Organisation / business: (if applicable)  
*Pickwick's Guest House*

	<i>Litter from Pubs blown or thrown onto over premises</i>					<i>Maybe more litter bins should be provided by pubs in outside drinking areas</i>

Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	

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## St John Street Area Residents' Association

### REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

1. The present arrangements for publicising applications for extension of licensing hours are unsatisfactory. The requirements for notices in newspapers are inadequate. If newspaper publicity is to be relied upon, there should be a stipulation that adverts should be placed in one of the generally recognised and widely available local papers, e.g. Oxford Times or Oxford Mail. Furthermore, such public adverts should be supplemented by circulation of applications to all interested parties – for definition of an interested party see below.
2. There should also be better publicity available to the public about how to oppose an application. It is not clear whether there is at present a leaflet readily available to the public about their rights in the matter (this uncertainty is itself symptomatic of the general uncertainty surrounding licensing), but such a leaflet should accompany the circulation to all interested parties mentioned above.
3. We understand that at present an interested party is defined in the Act as someone who resides 'in the vicinity' of the premises concerned, and that this wording is interpreted by the Council as someone who lives within 100 metres of the premises in question or is on a direct route from the premises to a bus stop or taxi rank. This interpretation is quite unrealistic when applied to the centre of Oxford (there were apparently only two persons who counted as interested parties in relation to the recent Po Na Na application). We understand that other Councils have less restrictive interpretations. St John Street and other central Oxford locations suffer from the problem of attributing loud street behaviour to a particular venue: our residents are nevertheless, by any reasonable definition, interested parties in relation to alcohol consumption in central Oxford, and the Council's interpretation of the Act should reflect this fact.
4. We suggest an extension of the Special Saturation Policy area to include Little Clarendon Street, from where late-night disturbance in St John Street is likely to increase.
5. The Association attempted recently to oppose an application in Central Oxford, but the Senior Licensing Officer declined to accept a representation from a properly elected officer of the Association, acting in accordance with the rules of the Association and on behalf of the Committee of the Association, unless it was accompanied by a "completed and signed letter from the residents ['the persons you intend to represent'] to the licensing authority". We understand that this is a requirement of the Act, rather than the Licensing Authority's interpretation of the Act. Whatever it is, it is outrageous, and an affront to local democracy. Furthermore, we were informed by the Licensing Officer that "the applicant will still have the right to know the name and address of any person who lodges a representation". At least one of our residents did not oppose a recent licensing application for fear of reprisals, in the light of earlier experience of a complaint to the Council (this earlier complaint was not on a licensing matter, but the same principle applies).
6. Some of the matters above relate to the Council's interpretation of the Act, and some to the Act itself. It is difficult for the public to know precisely who is responsible in detail for the present situation, but the Council must be aware that it is causing great disquiet. We hope that the Council will alleviate this disquiet by altering its implementation of the Act where it is able to, and by bringing pressure to bear on central Government to modify aspects of the legislation over which the Council itself has no direct control.

11 SEP 2007

# Comments sheet

Oxford City Council's "Statement of Licensing Policy"

Please help us by completing these two columns if you can:

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- CH - Protection of children from harm

**From Name:**  
ROBERT CAMPOLI-MESSROU

**Contact details:**  
JOE'S RESTAURANTS LTD  
260 BANBURY RD  
OXFORD OX2 7DX UK  
21 Cowley Rd, Oxford OX4 1HF  
Organisation / business: (if applicable)

Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	
		✓				Too many licensed premises allowed in any particular area eg Cowley Rd - many former shops allowed to become licensed operations. Still applications in progress. This affects safety and peace / atmosphere of the area.

Paragraph, page or policy reference  (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue?  (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	

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# Friends of Old Headington

Honorary Secretary: Stella Welford, 33 Old High Street, Headington, Oxford OX3 9HP  
Telephone: (01865) 764024  
email: stella@swelford.fsnet.co.uk

Selina Steel  
Senior Licensing Officer  
Licensing Authority  
Oxford City Council  
Ramsay House  
10 St Ebbe's Street  
Oxford OX1 1PT

Environmental Health Dept  
Oxford City Council

27 SEP 2007

Received

25 September 2007

Dear Ms Steel

## Review of Statement of Licensing Policy (LPS)

Thank you for asking us to respond to this consultation. Our only comment is that the situation at The Black Boy Public House on Old High Street has improved immeasurably since the changes there when it was taken over by the Mustard Group.

Previously there were great problems with all the points you make in your letter concerning crime and disorder, public safety and public nuisance, and the involvement of children. We have no concern about any behaviour of this sort now and hope the current arrangements at the pub will continue for a long time.

Yours sincerely

Stella Welford  
Hon. Secretary



**STEEL Selina**

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**From:** Susan Mallett [susan.mallett@newmarston.net]  
**Sent:** 15 August 2007 16:23  
**To:** Councillor van ZYL Caroline; STEEL Selina  
**Subject:** Licensing policy statement - 2 queries re treatment of live music

Dear Caroline,  
I'm writing to you as Lead Member responsible about the drafted revised Statement of Licensing Policy currently in public consultation.

As you know I'm a folk musician with an interest in maintaining community access to small scale live music events, in many cases of unamplified music in local pubs and cafes. These events are often attended by local elderly and disabled persons, who do not have good access to other live music and social events for reasons of disability, low income and social isolation.

I hope you would consider a couple of points as part of the review.

1. Can the imposition of a Special Saturation Policy in the Cowley Rd ensure it won't have unwanted effects on local events that are important to local residents such as the Cowley Rd carnival?
2. Can the city centre and Cowley Rd Special Saturation Policies refer specifically to taking a different approach to variations or applications for unamplified music between 8am and 11pm (similarly to the special case with respect to license application conditions not being enforceable for unamplified music as detailed in 7.3.9 of your document).

A link between unamplified live music (such as folk music) and crime has not been shown in the police report from Thames Valley police, and also in the lack of evidence provided under specific Freedom of Information requests to the Department of Culture, Media and Sports about this issue. It would seem a disproportionate use of the Licensing Act if unamplified music like folk music were prevented from any new licensing applications or variations in the SSP areas.

I have copied in Selina Steel, so she can include my comments as part of the public consultation.

Thanks for your help and attention to these points.  
Best wishes,

Susan Mallett

# Comments sheet

Oxford City Council's "Statement of Licensing Policy"

Please help us by completing these two columns if you can.

The four licensing objectives are:

- CD – Prevention of Crime and disorder
- PS – Public safety
- PN – Prevention of public nuisance
- CH – Protection of children from harm

From Name: *Ramela Webb*

Contact details: *87, Bellingdon Road Oxford*

Organisation / business: (if applicable)  
*Resident*

Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	
						<i>Comment</i> <i>longer licensing hours are already too long! (for all 4 reasons)</i>

continued overleaf ... (use a blank sheet if necessary)

Paragraph, page or policy reference  (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue?  (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	

CD – Prevention of Crime and disorder  
 PS – Public safety  
 PN – Prevention of public nuisance  
 CH – Protection of children from harm

Please return your comments by 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007  
 to: "Licensing", Oxford City Council, 10 St Ebbs Street, Oxford. OX1 1PT

or visit [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk) and email to: [licensing@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@oxford.gov.uk)

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**HIBBERD Allan**

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**From:** Lee Carter [lee.carter@sph.nhs.uk]  
**Posted At:** 12 September 2007 13:36  
**Conversation:** Draft Statement of Licensing Policy  
**Posted To:** licensing@oxford.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Draft Statement of Licensing Policy

Well done for all the work that has gone into this.

My thoughts don't fit neatly into the boxes on the Comments Form, so here they are freehand...

Policy GN15 - Is it still appropriate to be referring to Grandfather Rights when no such applications can be submitted ever again?

Policy PP14 - Licensed premises don't have ashtrays any more - you might want to think about a different example of a potential weapon (ummm - but I can't think of an alternative at the moment).

Policy OS11 - Nothing to add, but I was wondering if there's any mileage in thinking about the sometimes excessive discounting that goes on in the 'off' trade. Young people in particular are known to get half drunk on the cheap supermarket stuff and then finish off in the City Centre to the detriment of the Crime and Disorder licensing objective. Just a thought...

Hope you are all well.

Lee.

Lee Carter  
Business Support Manager

Supporting Public Health  
4150 Chancellor Court  
Oxford Business Park South  
Oxford OX4 2GX  
T: 01865 334700 F: 01865 334746

16 AUG 2007

# Comments sheet

Oxford City Council's "Statement of Licensing Policy"

Please help us by completing these two columns if you can.

The four licensing objectives are:

- CD - Prevention of Crime and disorder
- PS - Public safety
- PN - Prevention of public nuisance
- CH - Protection of children from harm

From Name: M. Younus  
 Contact details:  
 2 GILFUS ROAD  
 HEADINGTON  
 OXFORD OX5 7QA  
 Organisation / business: (if applicable)

Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:				Your comments
		CD	PS	PN	CH	
		✓				CHARGE PARENTS WHO BUY THESE KIDS ALCOHOL & TOBACCO. (HELP BUSINESSES BY TAKING THESE STEPS)
				✓		Band drinking from public site completely drink in your own premises or @ Pubs & clubs early.
					✓	ISSUE EVERY CHILD WITH PHOTO ID @ 16 YRS THROUGH SCHOOLS FREE OF CHARGE.

Paragraph, page or policy reference	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:			
		CD	PS	PN	CH
		<p><b>Your comments</b></p> <p>NEED CAN STOP CHILD BUYING ALKOHOL &amp; TOBACCO          BUT VERY HARD TO STOP PARENTS &amp; ADULTS          AS THEY WOULD CLEARLY STATE IT AS FOR THEIR OWN USE.</p>			

CD – Prevention of Crime and disorder  
 PS – Public safety  
 PN – Prevention of public nuisance  
 CH – Protection of children from harm

Please return your comments by 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007  
 to: "Licensing", Oxford City Council, 10 St Ebbs Street, Oxford. OX1 1PT  
 or visit [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk) and email to: [licensing@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@oxford.gov.uk)

HIBBERD Allan

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**From:** Katie Portwin [katieportwin@yahoo.com]  
**Posted At:** 13 September 2007 11:38  
**Conversation:** Consultation Special Saturation Policy for Cowley Road  
**Posted To:** licensing@oxford.gov.uk

**Subject:** Consultation Special Saturation Policy for Cowley Road

Dear Sir/Madam,

Comment on consultation exercise for special saturation policy for Cowley Road.

I support the introduction of a special saturation policy in this area.

The introduction of such a policy would benefit local residents by safeguarding the diversity of amenities available in this community, and would also benefit the existing local businesses. It would meet the licencing objective of reducing crime and disorder.

Yours Sincerely, —

Katie Portwin  
Flat 3, 86-90 Cowley Road  
Oxford,  
OX4 1JB

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Yahoo! oneSearch: Finally, mobile search that gives answers, not web links.  
<http://mobile.yahoo.com/mobileweb/onesearch?refer=1ONXIC>

13 SEP 2007

**Comments sheet**  
Oxford City Council's "Statement of Licensing Policy"

Please help us by completing these two columns if you can.

Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:			
		CD	PS	PN	CH
	Extension of Special Saturation Area	✓	✓	✓	

The four licensing objectives are:

- CD – Prevention of Crime and disorder
- PS – Public safety
- PN – Prevention of public nuisance
- CH – Protection of children from harm

**Your comments**

I should like to express approval of the proposal by Thames Valley Police to extend the SSP to East Oxford dated 26.6.07.

From Name:

John Harris

Contact details:

12 Tree Lane

Kffley

OXFORD OX4 4EY

Organisation / business: (if applicable)



Paragraph, page or policy reference (Blank for general points)	Briefly, what's the issue? (e.g. Drugs, Children in pubs, Longer hours etc.)	Please mark the objective(s) which apply:			
		CD	PS	PN	CH

CD – Prevention of Crime and disorder  
 PS – Public safety  
 PN – Prevention of public nuisance  
 CH – Protection of children from harm

**Your comments**


Please return your comments by 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007  
 to: "Licensing", Oxford City Council, 10 St Ebbs Street, Oxford. OX1 1PT

or visit [www.oxford.gov.uk](http://www.oxford.gov.uk) and email to: [licensing@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@oxford.gov.uk)

**HIBBERD Allan**

**From:** Andrewlinzey@aol.com  
**Posted At:** 10 September 2007 03:00  
**Conversation:** Special Saturation Policy  
**Posted To:** licensing@oxford.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Special Saturation Policy

Dear Licensing authorities

As a local resident (91 Iffley Road), I welcome the possibility of including Cowley (and I also hope Iffley Road) within the scope of the above well-intentioned policy.

We have lived here for 15 years and the situation is getting worse. I am in a good position to observe this because - as a writer and an academic - I invariably spend the night writing and my study looks out on the Iffley Road.

We face general rowdiness (which prevents my wife sleeping) through to brawling and vandalism. Only a couple of months ago, I confronted a gang abusing a wheelie bin only to be told by one of them that I should go back into my house before he "smacked my head". That is only one of many incidents, which have generally increased during the last six months.

I fear the extension of drinking times has adversely affected the situation. We have always had people spilling out onto the Iffley Road from the City Centre and Cowley Road, but before it was mainly confined to 12 midnight to 2am - now it is generally from 1am to 4.30am. Actually, even later. Only yesterday morning there was a tremendous kerfuffle in Marston Street around 5am - I never did know what it was about (one is reluctant to confront rowdy people in one's dressing gown!).

And please do include Iffley Road within the scope of the policy. As it is, we already have people spilling out from the Cowley Road into the side streets and the Iffley Road itself. Of course Friday and Saturday nights are the worse, but it is not only those nights.

So I would welcome the policy being applied to the Cowley and Iffley Roads. It has the chance of preventing the situation from at least getting any worse.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly

The Revd Professor Andrew Linzey, PhD, DD  
 Director of the Oxford Centre for Animal Ethics  
 Member of the Faculty of Theology, University of Oxford  
 and Honorary Professor, Universities of Birmingham and Winchester.

Address: 91 Iffley Road, Oxford OX4 1EG, England.  
 Telephone and fax: 01865 201565  
 E mail: andrewlinzey@aol.com  
 andrew.linzey@theology.ox.ac.uk  
 director@oxfordanimaethics.com

[www.oxfordanimaethics.com](http://www.oxfordanimaethics.com)

Books include:

*Animal Theology* (SCM Press/University of Illinois Press, 1994)  
*Dictionary of Ethics, Theology and Society* (Routledge, 1996)  
*After Noah* (Mowbray/Continuum, 1997)  
*Animals on the Agenda* (SCM Press/University of Illinois Press, 1998)  
*Animal Gospel* (Westminster John Knox Press, 1998)  
*Animal Rites* (SCM Press/The Pilgrim Press, 1999)  
*Animal Rights: A Historical Anthology* (Columbia University Press, 2005)

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**HIBBERD Allan**

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**From:** Hazel Douglas at Enteleki [hazeldouglas@enteleki.co.uk]  
**Posted At:** 09 September 2007 13:52  
**Conversation:** Special Saturation Policy (SSP) for East Oxford  
**Posted To:** licensing@oxford.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Special Saturation Policy (SSP) for East Oxford

I am just writing to say that I fully support the adoption of an SSP for the Cowley and Iffley Roads in East Oxford.

There are, in my opinion, already slightly too many bars in the area and we are already saturated (as, indeed, are many of the people on the street at night!)

Best wishes,

Hazel Douglas  
37, Marston Street,  
Oxford  
OX4 1JU  
Tel: +44 (0) 1865 247003  
Mob: 079 89 97 59 69  
Skype ID: hazel.douglas

Email: [hdouglas@enteleki.co.uk](mailto:hdouglas@enteleki.co.uk)

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world." – Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi



## Why Nightsafe ?

Oxford Safer Community Partnership (CDRP) identified that a multi agency initiative needed to be taken to tackle alcohol related ASB.

The action of Nightsafe in the short term is aimed at reducing the number of alcohol violent incidents. The longer-term aim is to raise the awareness of the effects of binge drinking and the negative consequences it can have on those who participate in the late night economy.

Nightsafe also want to support the evening economy by ensuring Oxford is and feels a safe place for all members of the community to visit in the evenings

## Who are the Nightsafe Partners ?

Police

Fire & Rescue

Trading Standards

Primary Care Trust

A & E

City & County Councils

Further details can be found on [www.nightsafe-oxford.org.uk](http://www.nightsafe-oxford.org.uk). The Licensing Authority will regard a commitment in the operating schedule to fully support and participate in the "Nightsafe" activities, which are relevant to the premises, as a positive approach.

"Nightsafe" includes the following elements:-

- Star Rating Scheme
- Challenge 21
- Radio Link
- Safer Clubbing
- Operation Birria (City) & Bratwurst (East Oxford)
- Pub Watch
- Polycarbonate where appropriate
- Hi Vis Jackets for Door staff
- Alcohol Free Zones
- CCTV in licensed premises
- CCTV in the street
- Reduction in "Binge drinking" associated with drinks promotions
- Education campaigns associated with alcohol, crime and disorder
- Test Purchasing
- Yellow card scheme
- Multi Agency Inspections
- Targeting of repeat offenders

## Comments received about Oxford City Council's draft Statement of Licensing Policy

Area	Representation:	Comment:	Policy / Para	Action proposed
Public Safety	Presence of SIA registered security should be about realistic security/customer ratios not just about door entry, should be criteria for security staff inside the venue.		PP2	Add to PP2 (c) "and to supervise other areas within the premises."
Public Safety / Public Nuisance	Appears to be problems with homeless or people with mental health problems, getting access to alcohol from outlets in the area whilst in an inebriated state. Would like to see action against licensed premises that don't discourage this.	See Pubwatch scheme re collective agreements about exclusion. Para 8.6.1 & OS10 of the LPS.		To raise at next Pubwatch meeting.
Public Nuisance	It would be good to recommend that late night takeaways should not have fruit machines or games machines that encourage people to loiter in and around these premises.	Covered by Gambling Act.	PP10/11	
Public Nuisance	Maybe litter bins should be provided by pubs in outside drinking areas.	Too prescriptive for policy.		
Public Nuisance	Ban drinking from public sites completely drink in your own premises or in pubs & clubs	Oxford already has Alcohol Free Zones.		
Protection of Children from harm	Issue every child with photo ID at 16 years old through schools free of charge.	Connexions Card scheme now closed. For other schemes see Appendix 5 of the LPS.		
Crime & Disorder	Charge parents who buy there kids alcohol and tobacco.	Already an offence		
All Licensing Objectives	Longer Licensing Hours are already too long for all for reasons	Licensing hours covered in Part 5 of the LPS.		
All Licensing Objectives	Is there a possibility to include a clause about not selling to known street drinkers.	See Pubwatch scheme re collective agreements about exclusion. Para 8.6.1 & OS10 of the LPS.	PP12	Will raise issue at next Pubwatch meeting.
All Licensing Objectives	Oddbins recorded 274 refusals to sell alcohol in 2007. 99 refusals came in the month of July and August of which 62 were to foreign students. Police called twice because of abuse directed at staff. At least another ten incidents of abuse.	Information rather than comment on LPS.		Licensing to liaise with Police over issues raised.

Area	Representation:	Comment:	Policy / Para	Action proposed
	<p>During summer months, commarket crowded with language students behaving in drunk and rowdy manner. No supervision or control of the students from either university or language school authorities. Police presence would deter this type of behaviour/abuse.</p>			
Smoke Free Premises	<p>Licensed premises don't have ashtrays any more - you might want to think about a different example of a potential weapon.</p>	<p>Still have ashtrays in beer gardens / outside areas</p>	pp14	
Smoke Free Premises	<p>Change 'may' include additional plans to 'should' include additional plans</p>	<p>Can't implement this as beyond statutory requirements.</p>	OS6	
Smoke Free Premises	<p>Should there be a specific policy to reflect impacts of smoking legislation such as:- Re-entry policies, drink supervision, litter management etc.</p>	<p>Good point</p>	OS6	<p>Add to OS6 1st sentence "e.g. re-entry policies, drink supervision, litter management, noise control etc."</p>
SSP	<p>Too many licensed premises allowed in any particular area eg. Cowley Road. Many former shops allowed to start licensed operations. Still applications in progress. This effects safety and peace / atmosphere of the area.</p>	<p>Support for SSP</p>		
SSP	<p>Approval of the proposed SSP.</p>	<p>Support for SSP</p>		
SSP	<p>As a local resident of Iffley Road, I welcome the possibility of including Cowley (and I also hope Iffley Road) within the scope of the above well-intentioned policy.</p> <p>We have lived here for 15 years and the situation is getting worse. I am in a good position to observe this because - as a writer and an academic - I invariably spend the night writing and my study looks out on the Iffley Road.</p> <p>We face general rowdiness (which prevents my wife sleeping) through to brawling and vandalism. Only a couple of months ago, I confronted a gang abusing a wheelie bin only to be told by one of</p>	<p>There is no evidence from Thames Valley Police to support inclusion of Iffley Road.</p>		<p>Licensing to liaise with Police over issues raised.</p>

Area	Representation:	Comment:	Policy / Para	Action proposed
	<p>them that I should go back into my house before he "smacked my head". That is only one of many incidents, which have generally increased during the last six months.</p> <p>I fear the extension of drinking times has adversely affected the situation. We have always had people spilling out onto the Iffley Road from the City Centre and Cowley Road, but before it was mainly confined to 12 midnight to 2am - now it is generally from 1am to 4.30am. Actually, even later. Only yesterday morning there was a tremendous kerfuffle in Marston Street around 5am - I never did know what it was about (one is reluctant to confront rowdy people in one's dressing gown!).</p> <p>And please do include Iffley Road within the scope of the policy. As it is, we already have people spilling out from the Cowley Road into the side streets and the Iffley Road itself. Of course Friday and Saturday nights are the worse, but it is not only those nights.</p> <p>So I would welcome the policy being applied to the Cowley and Iffley Roads. It has the chance of preventing the situation from at least getting any worse.</p>			
SSP	<p>I'm a folk musician with an interest in maintaining community access to small scale live music events, in many cases of unamplified music in local pubs and cafes. These events are often attended by local elderly and disabled persons, who do not have good access to other live music and social events for reasons of disability, low income and social isolation.</p> <p>I hope you would consider a couple of points as</p>	<p>If an SSP is implemented this will not prevent applications for events such as the Cowley Road Carnival. A SSP is a "presumption of refusal" and is aimed at permanent premises rather than events. All applications will be</p>		

Area	Representation:	Comment:	Policy / Para	Action proposed
	<p>part of the review. Can the imposition of a Special Saturation Policy in the Cowley Rd ensure it won't have unwanted effects on local events that are important to local residents such as the Cowley Rd carnival?</p> <p>Can the city centre and Cowley Rd Special Saturation Policies refer specifically to taking a different approach to variations or applications for unamplified music between 8am and 11pm (similarly to the special case with respect to license application conditions not being enforceable for unamplified music as detailed in 7.3.9 of your document).</p> <p>A link between unamplified live music (such as folk music) and crime has not been shown in the police report from Thames Valley police, and also in the lack of evidence provided under specific Freedom of Information requests to the Department of Culture, Media and Sports about this issue. It would seem a disproportionate use of the Licensing Act if unamplified music like folk music were prevented from any new licensing applications or variations in the SSP areas.</p>	<p>considered on their individual merits. See GN19 of the LPS. The Council supports cultural events.</p> <p>Already concessions in place for unamplified music which will not be changed by policy. A SSP is a "presumption of refusal" not outright refusal. All applications will be considered on their individual merits. See GN19 of LPS. See also paras 7.3.9, 4.2.1, 4.2.2 and GN23 of the LPS.</p>		
Notification of Applications and Representations	<p>The present arrangements for publicising applications for extension of licensing hours are unsatisfactory. The requirements for notices in newspapers are inadequate. If newspaper publicity is to be relied upon, there should be a stipulation that adverts should be placed in one of the generally recognised and widely available local papers, e.g. Oxford Times or Oxford Mail. Furthermore, such public adverts should be supplemented by circulation of applications to all interested parties – for definition of an interested party see below.</p> <p>There should also be better publicity available to</p>	<p>Publication of applications set by Licensing Act.</p> <p>Already available on</p>		To provide leaflet giving same



Area	Representation:	Comment:	Policy / Para	Action proposed
	<p>the public about how to oppose an application. It is not clear whether there is at present a leaflet readily available to the public about their rights in the matter (this uncertainty is itself symptomatic of the general uncertainty surrounding licensing), but such a leaflet should accompany the circulation to all interested parties mentioned above.</p>	<p>website, in appendices to LPS and from DCMS.</p>		<p>information.</p>
	<p>We understand that at present an interested party is defined in the Act as someone who resides 'in the vicinity' of the premises concerned, and that this wording is interpreted by the Council as someone who lives within 100 metres of the premises in question or is on a direct route from the premises to a bus stop or taxi rank. This interpretation is quite unrealistic when applied to the centre of Oxford (there were apparently only two persons who counted as interested parties in relation to the recent Po Na application). We understand that other Councils have less restrictive interpretations. St John Street and other central Oxford locations suffer from the problem of attributing loud street behaviour to a particular venue: our residents are nevertheless, by any reasonable definition, interested parties in relation to alcohol consumption in central Oxford, and the Council's interpretation of the Act should reflect this fact.</p>	<p>Agree there is confusion over interpretation of "Interested Party". Suggest no fixed distance restriction (no 100 metre rule) but to decide on whether to accept representation on whether it is relevant in terms of the Licensing Act requirements and statutory guidance.</p>		<p>Add new para. To follow para 2.5.10 "The Authority will accept representations from interested parties residing or involved in business "in the vicinity of" the premises concerned. The Authority has chosen not to define vicinity as a fixed distance from a premises. The Authority will consider representations from those that can demonstrate that they are (or, in the case of new premises, are likely to be), affected by disorder and disturbance occurring or potentially occurring on the premises.</p>
	<p>We suggest an extension of the Special Saturation Policy area to include Little Clarendon Street, from where late-night disturbance in St John Street is likely to increase.</p>	<p>There is no evidence from Thames Valley Police to support the inclusion of Little Clarendon Street.</p>		

Area	Representation:	Comment:	Policy / Para	Action proposed
	<p>The Association attempted recently to oppose an application in Central Oxford, but the Senior Licensing Officer declined to accept a representation from a properly elected officer of the Association, acting in accordance with the rules of the Association and on behalf of the Committee of the Association, unless it was accompanied by a "completed and signed letter from the residents [the persons you intend to represent] to the licensing authority". We understand that this is a requirement of the Act, rather than the Licensing Authority's interpretation of the Act. Whatever it is, it is outrageous, and an affront to local democracy. Furthermore, we were informed by the Licensing Officer that "the applicant will still have the right to know the name and address of any person who lodges a representation".</p> <p>At least one of our residents did not oppose a recent licensing application for fear of reprisals, in the light of earlier experience of a complaint to the Council (this earlier complaint was not on a licensing matter, but the same principle applies).</p>	<p>Requirement to provide applicant with copies of representations. Resident could ask responsible authority to cover their representation. Authority may withhold some details in exceptional circumstances because of fear of intimidation or violence.</p>		<p>To clarified Policy for representations along with appendix and production of information leaflet.</p> <p>Add following new paragraph above.          "Where a notice of a hearing is given to an applicant, the authority is required to provide the applicant with copies of the relevant representations that have been made. In circumstances where the Authority considers that the interested party has a well-founded fear of intimidation and may be deterred from making a representation because of this, the Authority may withhold some or all of the interested parties personal details giving only enough details (such as street name) which would allow an applicant to be satisfied that the interested party is within the vicinity of the premises."</p>

Area	Representation:	Comment:	Policy / Para	Action proposed
Nightsafe	<p>Nightsafe wishes to add an Appendix to the Policy.</p> <p>Oxford Safer Community Partnership (CDRP) identified that a multi agency initiative needed to be taken to tackle alcohol related ASB.</p> <p>The action of Nightsafe in the short term is aimed at reducing the number of alcohol violent incidents. The longer-term aim is to raise the awareness of the effects of binge drinking and the negative consequences it can have on those who participate in the late night economy.</p> <p>Nightsafe also want to support the evening economy by ensuring Oxford is and feels a safe place for all members of the community to visit in the evenings.</p> <p>Who are the Nightsafe Partners ?</p> <p>Police  Fire &amp; Rescue  Trading Standards  Primary Care Trust  A &amp; E  City &amp; County Councils</p> <p>Further details can be found on <a href="http://www.nightsafe-oxford.org.uk">www.nightsafe-oxford.org.uk</a>. The Licensing Authority will regard a commitment in the operating schedule to fully support and participate in the "Nightsafe" activities, which are relevant to the premises, as a positive approach.</p> <p>"Nightsafe" includes the following elements:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Star Rating Scheme</li> <li>• Challenge 21</li> <li>• Radio Link</li> <li>• Safer Clubbing</li> <li>• Operation Birria (City) &amp; Bratwurst (East</li> </ul>	Support Nightsafe.		<p>Add new para. to follow 8.6.1 "The Authority fully supports the "Nightsafe" partnership initiative to combat crime and disorder associated with the night-time economy. (see Appendix )</p> <p>New Appendix as proposed by Nightsafe Manager.</p>

Area	Representation:	Comment:	Policy / Para	Action proposed
	<p>Oxford)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pub Watch</li> <li>• Polycarbonate where appropriate</li> <li>• Hi Vis Jackets for Door staff</li> <li>• Alcohol Free Zones</li> <li>• CCTV in licensed premises</li> <li>• CCTV in the street</li> <li>• Reduction in "Binge drinking" associated with drinks promotions</li> <li>• Education campaigns associated with alcohol, crime and disorder</li> <li>• Test Purchasing</li> <li>• Yellow card scheme</li> <li>• Multi Agency Inspections</li> <li>• Targeting of repeat offenders</li> </ul>			

**COPIES OF MINUTES TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**SOUTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

Resolved to:-

- Note the report;
- Ask that any additional comments or observations be made to the Area Co-ordinator, who would pass them on

**EAST AREA PARLIAMENT**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2007**

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended), concerning the Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy. Selina Steel presented this report to the Area Parliament. She explained that the City Council had adopted its licensing policy in 2005, and was obliged to review it at least every three years. The report was therefore out for consultation, and the deadline for comments was 22<sup>nd</sup> September. Comment sheets were available via the Council's website.

In answer to a question, Ms Steel explained that the Council followed guidance issued by the Government when dealing with licensing hearings, and the naming of interested parties. Although it was understood that some people who objected to a licence application might wish to do so anonymously, this was out of the Council's control. The Licensing Authority was always impartial. It was not possible for anyone to request a review of a licence application unless they were prepared to be named; and if people were being intimidated, they were advised to go to the Police. Councillors could make representations on behalf of people however.

If a Special Saturation Policy (SSP) was to be introduced for Cowley Road, the Licensing Authority would need as much evidence as possible to back it up. Councillor Benjamin undertook to raise this at the next meeting of the City Policing Board.

Resolved to:-

- Note the report;
- Recommend that Iffley Road be included in any SSP for the Cowley Road area;
- Strongly support the creation of a SSP for the Cowley Road area (including Iffley Road), as soon as possible

## **NORTH EAST AREA COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday 21 August 2007**

Resolved to:-

Note that the issue would be further considered by full Council and that local people were welcome to raise concerns during the consultation period.

## **COWLEY AREA COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

The Committee agreed:

- To support the adoption of a Special Saturation Policy for East Oxford based on Crime and Disorder;
- To note that the deadline for consultation responses was 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007;
- To note that a request had been made by a Member of the public for the consultation of license applications be amended to include local residents and not just statutory consultees.

## **NORTH AREA COMMITTEE**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September**

Resolved to:-

- To support the retention of the Special Saturation Policy (SSP) in the City Centre;
- Not to support the extension of a special Saturation Policy along Walton Street and Little Clarendon Street;
- To support the adoption of a Special Saturation Policy for East Oxford based on the crime and disorder levels experienced in the area;
- That greater enforcement of existing license conditions should take place on existing establishments;
- To note that the deadline for consultation responses was 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2007.

## **CENTRAL, SOUTH AND WEST AREA COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday 11th September 2007**

Resolved to:-

- Agree that the existing Special Saturation Policy in the city centre should remain and that the possibility of extending it, if there is evidence for doing so, to Little Clarendon Street and Walton Street be investigated.
- Agree not to comment on the adoption of a Special Saturation Policy in east Oxford.
- Ask that officers take account of comments made by members of the Committee and members of the public.
- Note that the deadline for comments and the fact that further comments may be received until this date.

**Letter in support of a Special Saturation Policy in Oxford City Centre and East Oxford**



To the Licensing Authority

We are writing to summarise the concerns of the Oxford Community Safety Partnership to the concentration of licensed premises in Oxford City Centre and Cowley Road and St Clements in East Oxford, and their cumulative impact on crime and disorder. The Partnership fully support an extension of the existing Special Saturation Policy in the city centre, with no adjustments to the boundary of the SSP, and give their support to a new Special Saturation Policy area in East Oxford, the borders of which have been submitted to the Licensing Authority and include a large section of Cowley Road and most of St Clements.

Evidence of the cumulative impact

Below are two tables illustrating the increasing trend in violent crime in both these areas during the five months from April to August, 2007.

City centre	April - August 2006	April - August 2007	Percentage change	East Oxford	April - August 2006	April - August 2007	Percentage change
Common Assault (incl. on PC)	99	108	9.1%	Common Assault (incl. on PC)	59	72	22.0%
Wounding	139	153	10.1%	Wounding	64	85	32.8%
Theft from a person	153	159	3.9%	Theft from a person	25	31	24.0%

More detailed analysis of crime and disorder can be found in the analysis supplied by Thames Valley Police in their initial representation for a Special Saturation Policing. One area of analysis that has provided a more fulsome picture of the problem is the data collated by the John Radcliffe II Hospital Emergency Department reception staff. All attendees who have alcohol as a contributing factor to their injuries are asked where they were last drinking. This has provided the partnership with a greater understanding of the levels and types of assaults occurring within the city. Recent concern has been expressed regarding the number of assaults using a bottle or glass in the city centre.

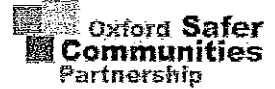
The city centre.

The city centre contains more than 60 licensed premises with a combined capacity of over 18,000 people. Since de-regulation under the Licensing Act 2003, the number of premises with extended hours has increased and we are experiencing more people on the streets later into the evenings and early mornings, times when there is little transport available. We have worked in partnership to introduce a number of initiatives to reduce the levels of alcohol-related violence in the area, including a citywide Alcohol Designation Order and our NightSafe Scheme. Through NightSafe we have run high visibility police operations, targeted repeat offenders, undertaken high profile media campaigns and focussed on working with licensees to curb anti-social behaviour.

Operation Birria guides our high profile police activity in the city centre. Recent extracts from Operation Birria illustrate the continuing problems within the city centre and support the need for the SSP in reducing the cumulative impact of this anti-social behaviour. The weekend of the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> August is a typical example:



# Letter in support of a Special Saturation Policy in Oxford City Centre and East Oxford



- Five violence incidents including one victim unconscious and one with a broken nose. One of these incidents resulted in six arrests.
- Eight Public Order offences.
- Three Other incidents of various minor misdemeanours.

The Special Saturation Policy in the city centre has been used a number of times. A national chain of pubs who market themselves as theme pubs with high numbers of vertical drinking spaces failed to obtain a license as the Licensing Authority ruled that this type of establishment would not contribute to achieving the four licensing objectives.

## East Oxford

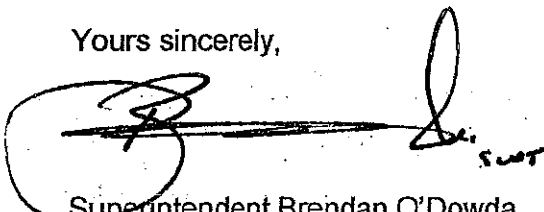
OSCP support an SSP in the area of the Cowley Road and St Clements. Alcohol-related crime and disorder has been increasing in East Oxford as illustrated in the table above, albeit not at the same level as the city centre. We believe these levels are unacceptable and there is no indication of the levels of crime and disorder in the area falling.

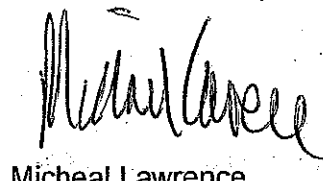
There are over 20 licensed premises in the proposed area with two, The Carling Academy and The Bingo Hall, with a combined capacity of over 2500 people. These two premises are opening soon and will result in a large number of people exiting in the early hours of the morning in to a predominantly suburban area with poor transport links at that time of night.

NightSafe is in operation in East Oxford, however, there are fewer police officers on patrol due to the demands of the city centre a mile away. CCTV provision is currently being discussed with the East Area Parliament, that will go some way to identifying offenders and there will be a high profile operation in October to coincide with the return of students.

We strongly support the continuation of the Special Saturation Policy in the city centre and the creation of a new area in East Oxford. The policy will provide the partnership with opportunities to combat the cumulative impact of a large number of people in two areas with high concentrations of licensed premises and the resultant crime and anti-social behaviour.

Yours sincerely,

  
Superintendent Brendan O'Dowda,  
Oxford Police Area Commander

  
Micheal Lawrence,  
Chair of the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership

