

Representation made by a responsible Authority in support of an application for the review of an existing Premises Licence

Responsible Authority making representation

Lancashire Police

PS Jason Middleton

01254 353625

Name of Applicant who requested a review of this licence

Executive Director of Legal and Democratic Services on behalf of Hyndburn Borough Council

Premises Details

Opium and Voodoo Lounge

Willow Street

Accrington

BB5 1LP

Details of your representation in support of the review application

This supporting representation is brought on behalf of the Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary.

The information provided in the application is agreed by Lancashire Police and we fully support the application and the reasoning for it. We share the concerns regarding what can be described as an Irresponsible Drinks Promotions at the premises and the apparent increase in crime & disorder that can be linked to this promotion.

Since the meeting was held at the premises on the 10th August 2017 to discuss the All-Inclusive Drinks Promotions and the concerns of the Police and Local Authority were raised, the following incidents of crime & disorder have been reported to the Police.

Saturday 26th August 2017 at 5.32am – Crime reference ED1714024

Ambulance called to an 18 year old male victim who states unknown offender has entered into a fight with him after both have consumed alcohol and victim has been punched to the face causing injury to lip which required stitches.

Sunday 10th September 2017 at 2am – Crime reference ED1714829

Male, whilst in Voodoo, punched to the left eye causing bruising and swelling. Victim was asked to leave club and was followed outside by offender who then punched him again.

Saturday 16th September at 4.44am – Incident reference LC-20170916-0340

Call to Police from a male who stated he had been assaulted in Voodoo but then states that's not the main issue. He states that they are doing cocaine and other drugs. Call taker states the male was evidently intoxicated when being spoken to.

Saturday 23rd September 2017 at 1.17am – Incident reference LC-20170923-0094

Two separate reports of a drink fuelled argument in Voodoo which resulted in two women fighting with each other. One received a lump to the head and another grazes to her knees and elbows.

Saturday 30th September 2017 at 2.58am – Incident reference LC-20170930-0202

Female reports that whilst she was in Voodoo she was pushed over by another female and then dragged by the hair. Female recalls a few hours later to say she was very drunk and it all seemed worse whilst she was intoxicated.

Saturday 30th September 2017 at 4.34am – Incident reference LC-20170930-0285

Ambulance contact Police to report an unconscious 18 year old female who had passed out because of too much drink. At the same time there were reports of someone being bottled at the same location. This resulted in a female being arrested after its alleged she hit another female in the face with a glass bottle whilst in Voodoo.

Saturday 14th October 2017 at 1.33am – Crime reference ED1716962

Reports of large scale disorder outside Voodoo involving 10 people had just been in the premises. One female in particular was a concern and Ambulance were called and the female had to be taken to hospital because of the Ambulance crews concerns regarding her excessive alcohol consumption. This female later contacts Police after she's released from hospital stating she was also assaulted at the time of this incident. Comment from one of the officers who dealt with this incident (received by email) - *They had all been inside Voodoo in the dance floor, which is where it had started, it then spilled out onto the street and the group were dispersed a few times over the next 30 minutes. One girl in particular was absolutely paralytic and ended up going to hospital, partly because she was faking unconsciousness but mostly because she was so very very drunk.*

A yearly comparison for the same period (between August 26th & October 14th) for 2015 and 2016 shows that Lancashire Police were called on three occasions in 2016 and one occasion in 2015 for incidents that can be classed as alcohol related crime & disorder and can be linked to Voodoo on Willow Street. Therefore it can be clearly evidenced that incidents of crime & disorder have significantly increased at these premises.

Further to the meeting held at the premises on the 10th August 2017. On Saturday 14th October 2017 I emailed the Designated Premises Supervisor – Victoria Tarren – with my concerns regarding the recent incidents at the premises (email detailed in the application) but did not get a reply. I followed this up with a further email on the 17th October 2017 but disappointedly I have still have not had a response.

Submitted for your consideration.

Jason Middleton

Licensing Sergeant

East Division – Lancashire Police