

CUMULATIVE IMPACT POLICY and STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY

1. Before considering the Cumulative Impact Policy Consultation and consequential recommendation we would propose to set out some excerpts from the proposed 'Draft Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028'.
 1. Fylde's Vision Statement
'We want Fylde to offer a wide choice of high quality and well managed entertainment and cultural venues within a safe, orderly and attractive environment'
 2. Authority Profile para 2.3
'Lytham and St Annes retain much of their Victorian and Edwardian character as popular seaside resorts. More restrained and refined than Blackpool they are noted for open sands, excellent parks and gardens and for peace and quiet that attracts both young and old as visitors and residents'
 3. Planning para 6.1
'The use of premises for licensable activities normally requires planning permission. Such use will normally require express planning consent or must otherwise be lawful i.e. Have a certificate of lawfulness issued by the planning authority'
 4. General Approach to Licensing para 7
'The Authority aims to support a diverse cultural offering providing something for everyone in a safe, healthy and welcoming environment. It supports a mixed night time economy which attracts all parts of the community, including families and is not dominated by premises whose primary focus is the sale of alcohol.'
 5. The Prevention of Public Nuisance para 14.3
'Licensed premises have a significant potential to impact on communities through public nuisance. In considering what constitutes a public nuisance we will make a judgement as to whether the effect of the licensable activities on those living or working in the area around the premises is disproportionate or unreasonable. It is accepted that such disturbance could affect small numbers of people and does not need to cause a major disturbance to the whole community'
 6. Cumulative Impact
'The licensing authority acknowledge that a concentration of licensed premises in a particular area can result in an increased number of people walking through or congregating in streets during the night, with the potential to increase crime, anti-social behaviour, noise pollution, littering and other disturbance to residents'
'A licensing authority may adopt a Cumulative Impact Policy for an area.....'
'Evidence should be obtained as to the nature of and location of the problems occurring and a thorough consultation must take place'
2. We at Lytham Voice, having a mandate from many residents and businesses in Lytham, particularly in FY8 5 endorse and wholeheartedly agree with these policies, objectives, ambitions and aspirations.
3. However, whilst the policy document is laudable and to be commended, it is a document only and in no way reflects what has actually happening to the culture, character and presentation of Lytham. At weekends, particularly between March and October, there is no high quality entertainment or a mixed night time economy attracting all parts of the community, including families. The town is dominated by premises whose primary focus is the sale of alcohol.

4. As to the Community Impact Assessment;

1. The recommendation is to take no further action. The reason given is that '.....there is a perception of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour, it is not supported by statistics'
2. We submit that this is a wrongful and inaccurate interpretation of the statistical survey and that there has been a failure to consider and/or obtain readily available first hand, eye witness evidence. It would have been very easy (and not costly) to spend a Saturday evening in Lytham, in or about Clifton Square/Henry Street from say 8pm to 2am with a mobile phone or tablet camera to record that which actually occurs, even in winter. The noise of amplified/live music could have been recorded, the number of people congregating in the street, their ages, character, their groupings and their behaviour observed. The late night disturbances and noise pollution emanating from the nightclub, Marvins, in very close vicinity to the long standing retirement home, the Homestead would have been noted. Traffic movements and parking, volume and noise during and at the end of the night would have been seen. If we, at Lytham Voice, had been informed that this simple method of evidence gathering would not to take place we would have done it ourselves. We did not do that as we believed that such evidence would not have been treated as impartial.

We thus rely on your own personal knowledge of the area; your knowledge that this assessment was taking place and your obvious knowledge and experience of licensing issues to decide whether a CIP is appropriate.

3. P.S. Nat Cox has provided a response based solely on crime data. It was P.S. Cox who last summer suggested to Lytham Voice that a CIP may well be appropriate for Lytham when he was consulted about licensing problems. He has provided the data set out in Appendix 2 (p 72) of the assessment.

Analysing this data it shows that between the hours of 10pm to 2am 32 crimes were recorded in FY8 5 in 2023.

The total crimes recorded for this time period in all the Fylde was 150 crimes. FY8 5 thus records 21.33% of all Fylde crimes

FY8 5 has a population of less than 6000 which is approximately 8% of the total Fylde population.

We thus have 8% of the population (and an average age of 50, with a large proportion over 65) and 21% of the crime. The inferences to be drawn from this are obvious, an excessively disproportionate amount of crime during late night drinking hours.

One of these crimes is listed as violence against the person and is now proceeding as a murder/manslaughter. Whilst this is not the fault of any particular establishment, it has caused substantial reputational damage to Lytham and grave worries and concerns for the parents and partners of those socialising in Lytham.

No evidence has been sought from PCSO Gary Hickman who has been the town's 'local bobby' for many years. He would have been an expert source of Police evidence based on his experience and local intelligence.

There is no other police evidence available as police officers are rarely if ever seen in Lytham town centre on weekend nights.

All we have is some data and statistics which in themselves are likely to be inaccurate due to under reporting. This is confirmed in the Assessment itself at

pages 45-48 and at page 21, para 17. The data for both crime and anti-social behaviour is likely to be far worse than that actually recorded.

4. As to ASB the survey shows that 32% of residents have experienced ASB
30% reported it to the Police/Local Authority.
79% were not happy with Police/LA response
15% of stakeholders, local businesses have experienced ASB
93% do not believe that there are measures in place to prevent further incidents of ASB.
This must be profoundly disturbing for the Police/LA when almost every resident has no confidence in them. This must explain the underreporting.....why bother reporting a crime or ASB when you know nothing will be done about it.
Further, crime and ASB, unless occurring inside the licensed premises are outside their remit. They are, however a direct result of the type, character and nature of the licensed premises and the clientele they cater for.
A Community Impact Policy would assist in preventing any increase in the 'wrong' type of premises.
It would substantially increase the confidence residents have in the Police/LA in their willingness and ability to combat crime/ASB
It would also help Fylde BC to achieve the goals, aspirations and ambitions set out in paras 1 (a-f) hereof, which result directly from the present unregulated/ automatic procedure.
5. Not only would a CIP help residents, the Police, FBC and local businesses there is a democratic mandate for it from the people of Lytham who have experienced manifest and dramatic changes to the character and culture of the town in the last 5-10 years.
63% of the residents want a CIA and 15% are neutral and can live with it. That would be a very sizeable majority on any local election.
66% of stakeholders (local businesses including licences) do not want any more late night music/alcohol bars.
The key reason, from a stakeholder, 'we're becoming more like Blackpool'

5. As Licence Committee members and Councillors you will have your own knowledge, experience and local intelligence as to how and why the character of Lytham is changing. Until now there has been no consultation with or agreement from the residents or businesses of Lytham as to this.
Much of the problem lie with just a few businessmen, not usually local residents, who have a vision for the town that is at odds with that promoted by Fylde BC and endorsed by residents. They have opened bars, restaurants and pubs, promoting loud amplified music internally and externally and live music internally and externally. Their vision is to make Lytham a go to destination for 'partying' at weekends. They have been successful. Many visitors now travel to Lytham, from all over Lancashire not for the green/beach/foreshore, not for the Hall or the gardens or the parks or to shop but merely to eat drink and party. This is now the dominant ethos after 8pm at any weekend.
6. We submit that on the basis of the evidence available to you personally as councillors, committee members and Fylde residents; on the basis of the democratic mandate and on the basis of a proper statistical analysis there is ample material and evidence available for you to properly reject the recommendation and adopt a CIP for Lytham.

7. That deals with the CIP issue but there remains the reality of night time weekends in Lytham. We submit that the following should be given consideration by either the Licensing Committee or the appropriate department, probably planning and/or environmental health. There has to be a holistic approach.
 1. Those licensed premises who have intentionally and illegally erected building developments without planning permission in the Lytham Conservation area do forthwith comply with the Enforcement Notices served on them pre 2020 and comply with the democratic decisions of Councillors on the Planning Committee and the legal decisions of Planning Inspectors. Please see Lytham Voice Website— Unauthorised Development Clifton Square Lytham
 2. That FBC adopt a more rigorous approach to the Licensing Objective—Public Nuisance This should cover ALL open spaces parks and gardens to which the public have access as well as residential properties. This would prevent for example Clifton Square (where there are or will be 8 Licensed premises out of 12 commercial outlets) being subject to noise pollution and blight from live bands/amplified music being broadcast into the Square from licensed premises. The Memorial Gardens, set up in the 1920s to remember the men of Lytham who died in the 2 world wars and other conflicts should be treated with respect and dignity and not subject to similar blight and pollution from licensed premises. We do not object to live bands or amplified music but such entertainment should be constrained within the licensed premises.
 3. FBC should respect and enforce rights of way in the centre of Lytham where such rights which have existed for 50-100 years have now been blocked by tables, chairs and planters to the detriment and inconvenience of the disabled, wheelchair users, the blind or partially sighted and families with buggies and prams. This occurs particularly outside Pizza Express/The B can be reported contemporaneously and that this number is advertised publicly in the Conservation Area.
 4. That enforcement be taken against taxi drivers who do not use the marked taxi ranks but queue and cause blockages on the public highway.
8. We ask you as the licensing committee to implement a CIP for Lytham and to seek to enforce the Public Nuisance Licensing Objective.
We ask you as Councillors, and those on the Planning Committee, to enforce the democratic decisions of that committee and the legal decisions of the Planning Inspectorate in respect of unauthorised developments in Clifton Square.

We apologise for the late service of this document but we were under the impression that we would be given some time to address you tomorrow as this whole assessment process was instigated by Lytham Voice and your committee agreed unanimously with our submission in October that such an exercise was necessary. We only found out about 2 hours ago that we were being denied an opportunity to speak.