

Appendix Seven – Metropolitan Police

In regards to the CIZ covering Brick Lane I have spoken with my Licensing colleagues and would like the following to be taken in to consideration.

While we would like to oppose every new license within the zone this would legally be questionable, and in the long term it is not going to help the local area especially if we want to change the clientele that frequent Brick Lane.

The whole purpose of the saturation zone was to combat 'the continued development and increasing number of restaurants, late night takeaways, off licences and bars, has the potential to lead to public disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area.' We as police officers remain resolute that the plan in place should be used to combat vertical drinking bars and such establishments where there sole purpose is to serve alcohol. The recent application for an Italian style restaurant where alcohol was being sold at a premium price is a business we feel would not increase ASB, not that dissimilar to the recent application for a cinema to have a small bar for customers. However, the granting of a licence to Beach Blanket Babylon was a disappointment to us despite our objections and concerns that it would lead to further disorder in the area.

Food outlets inherently attract late night customers across the borough, who's operating hours are designed to catch the person who has been drinking all night, and as such this naturally leads to disorder, noise nuisance and littering. We are against any further licences being granted for chicken shops, Subways or such establishments where seating is limited, and the main aim is to serve food and then get the customer back on the street in the shortest possible time.

The Licensing team are also keen that Early Morning Restriction Orders (EMRO's) restricting the time after which alcohol may be sold or supplied, set by the Licensing Authority between midnight and 06:00 under a Premises Licence, Club Premises Certificate or Temporary Event Notice, should be utilised more often.

In summary we feel that each case should be decided on it's merits, and that the saturation zone should be used to target specific types of premises that are historically proven to create ASB and/or alcohol driven, but encourage applications where premises would expect persons to have only a couple of drinks as part of a meal or entertainment. We understand that Brick Lane needs to evolve in order to survive, but we need to remember that the area is surrounded by residential dwellings and heavily populated, a difficult balance to achieve.