

The following visits have taken place to Oval Space since the review papers were submitted:

26th September 2021

Pc Perry and Pc Leban visited at around 01:00, the venue was not at capacity, there was a Bruce Springsteen Birthday Party event taking place. As we went up the stairs into the venue we observed two drunk males, one so drunk he walked into a wall before stumbling down the stairs nearly falling over. Another male was also clearly drunk, his speech was slurred and he was unsteady on his feet and he spent 5 minutes giggling while showing PC Leban pictures of his burnt down lorry as we waited for the manager.

We asked to see alcohol refusal log which showed 4 refusals in 3 months, 3 of which were from one event on the 1st of August. We pointed out to the manager that the refusals log was unacceptable as there were so few refusals it was simply not believable they had so few drunk people, especially given the two drunk people we had seen as we entered the venue.

We also looked at incident log which showed that at some events there were significant amounts of drugs still being found on customers inside the venue, after they had been through the searching at the entrance. We also found 3 bags of drugs on a clipboard with no details on them. We have no idea how long the drugs had been there, or if any of the drugs had been removed. They should have been stored in the safe. Told that these bags should be filled out and put in the safe immediately

10th September 2021.

PC Perry and PC Ward visited the venue around 2:30 am, the venue was at capacity as there was an after party for the "Body Movements Festival" taking place. We observed the crowd and there were a few intoxicated people who were unsteady on their feet, and their eyes were glazed and were clearly drunk. We pointed this out to the manager and told him our concerns as many of the customers would have been drinking at the Body Movements Festival earlier in the day, and therefore much more at risk of becoming vulnerable through drink and drugs, therefore much closer observation was needed.

We asked to see the refusals log, which showed only one new entry in the two weeks since our last visit, and that was dated for August 2021. We spoke to the manager about this who admitted that

the refusal logs were still not being used despite visits by Police and a Licensing Review being instigated. The manager said that he was working to bring the Oval Space up to standard but that there was lots of work to be done.

The following Crimes have taken place at the Oval, since November 2019. The reason we have gone back two years is twofold, firstly the venue has been closed for a period due to Covid legislation so we need to go back a reasonable amount of time to get a clear picture of crimes at the venue. Second, the crimes below will show a clear pattern of crime and disorder, especially violence taking place at Oval Space.

4th June 2021 – Sexual Assault

At about 10:45pm a female customer claimed that she was sexually assaulted by a male groping her breasts and that another male had then exposed himself to her. The woman was then followed into a toilet by the male who had groped her. Both the victim and a witness were to quote the venue staff “Quite Intoxicated”.

Although the venue staff did offer care to the victim, and get statements they did not inform Police until 2 days after the incident.

Crime report 4215945/21 refers.

5th December 2020 - Assault

At about 10:40 pm the victim states he was in the club when a male who he did not know came up from behind and grabbed him around the neck until he passed out. The victim regained consciousness lying on the floor. Moments later the same suspect did it again.

The victim complained to the premises manager who told him that both events were captured on the in premises CCTV. The victim states he is still experiencing chest and neck pain as a result of this assault.

The manager was contacted by Police and the CCTV supplied, which showed the offence taking place, but the CCTV is of poor quality and Police are unable to identify the suspect.

Crime report 4235346/20 refers.

14th November 2020 - Drugs

Police were conducting mobile patrols when their attention was drawn to a vehicle parked up on The Oval. When Police pulled up along side the driver was seen to gulp furiously at water. In the E2 area this is common with drug dealers swallowing drugs to prevent Police recovering them.

Pc JORDAN 3701u approached male in the front passenger seat of the vehicle where there was an immediate smell of cannabis. The passenger also admitted to having cannabis on his person.

Three small bags of herbal cannabis were found in his jacket and he was given a Community Resolution.

Crime Report 4232463/20 refers

16th February 2020 – Stabbing

At about 03:30 the victim has. He stated that he was in the middle of the dance floor when he felt two jabs to his back. He did not see who assaulted him or what implement was used. He then approached security and informed them that he felt like he had been stabbed and received two puncture wounds to his back. He was then taken out back to be treated and the London Ambulance Service (LAS) called. It was the LAS and not the venue who called for the police to attend.

Police arrived on scene first, were directed to where the victim was being treated. The victim told Police that he does not know why this has happened. He had not been involved in any altercation with anybody prior to being attacked. He was simply in the middle of the dance floor when he was stabbed. Staff were spoken to but no one appears to have witnessed the incident.

CCTV shows two suspects wearing puffer jackets and beanie hats walk across the dance floor of the club, they walk towards the top left of the CCTV and one of the males stabs at the victim three or four times. The two suspects then make off.

Crime Report 4204801/20 refers

16th November 2019 – GBH Assault

At about 01:45am a large fight took place at Oval Space between two groups of customers which resulted in a male receiving a fractured eye socket (fractured in 2 separate places), a large lump to

the right side of his head, a concussion, a torn muscle under his right eye and a bleed under the eye, which has caused a swollen pouch under his right eye.

Police recovered the CCTV from the Oval Space, the footage shows a large melee take place involving what appears to be two groups of males who are fighting each other. Due to being unable to see any faces, it is difficult to identify who the victim is. With the large numbers of people involved on both sides, it is also incredibly difficult to identify who out of the large group assaulted him to cause the injury the victim sustained. As a result the case cannot be progressed.

Crime Report 4235459/19 refers.

What the above crimes demonstrate is a venue that was failing to maintain order, and protect its customers prior to Covid, a trend that has sadly continued after lockdown ended. Following the stabbing on the 16th February 2020, the second serious violent attack to take place at Oval Space in the period of a couple of months Police held a meeting with the management of Oval Space.

At that meeting on the 21st February 2020 the management of Oval Space admitted that they knew they needed to improve, and said they would put measures in place to improve security. Despite the ample opportunity presented to them there has been no effective review of how Oval Space keeps its customers safe.

Since Lockdown ended it has been clearly evidenced in both the crimes that have taken place and visits by Police Licensing that there has been no improvement in the venue. Serious crimes are still taking place involving Oval Spaces customers, security are still failing to prevent drugs entering the venue, customers are still becoming drunk. By looking at the photographs of the alcohol refusal logs since the review was submitted we can see that the venue have failed to manage the basics like stopping its customers becoming drunk and storing drugs in clearly marked bags in a safe, not left in unmarked bags on a clipboard.