

STATEMENT OF WITNESS*(Criminal Procedure Rules, r. 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s. 9)*

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Statement of: Constable James Hazell

Age if under 18: Over 18

Occupation: Police officer

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature:



Date: 24 Apr 2023

This statement is in regards to the licensing of strong alcohol products in the HILLDENE AVENUE, FARNHAM ROAD area.

I write this statement on 24/04/2023. I am a Police Officer working as a Dedicated Ward Officers as part of the Neighbourhood Policing Team in Harold. I cover HEATON WARD. HILLDENE AVENUE and FARNHAM ROAD is part of my ward that I cover. I have worked on NPT team for a total of 8 months with an attachment at another unit in between so I would say I am up to date and aware of the issues in the area. I have been asked by the East Area Licensing Team on my thoughts and opinions of an Off License getting permission to sell strong alcohol for a cost effective price on HILLDENE AVENUE close to FARNHAM ROAD.

In my professional opinion and knowing this area relatively well I believe that this Off License selling this kind of alcohol will have a huge detrimental effect of the community, the area and the people who frequent this area. Firstly, this area has a high footfall of Street Drinkers who have been in the area for number of years and who have caused huge distress and Anti-Social Behaviour to the community nearby and has been an ongoing issue for us a Ward Officers for some time. To evidence some of the issues that have been report over the years below is some intelligence reports that I have found that evidence some of the issues:

KDRT00384314 – Informant stated that the regular street drinkers we using the area on HILLDENE AVENUE J/W FARNHAM ROAD as an area to drink alcohol all day, use drugs and use the street corners as there area to urinate in. The informant in this Intel report went on to say “this is an ongoing issue in the area and that the people have been there for years on the benches causing ASB. They has even seen people injecting themselves by the side of the library and is concerned for the children in the area that have to see this. They stated the group often go into COOP and GREGGS and shoplift whatever they like and allegedly security have been told not to do anything.” The informant is concerned of their behaviour and the effects it is having on the local community. This report was from 07/09/2022.

KDRT00384542 – This is also an Intel report stating that a regular street drinker on HILLDENE AVENUE J/W FARNHAM ROAD was urinating in public view and was using the area as his place to go to the toilet all day so he can stay in the area to drink alcohol. This report was on 15/09/2022

KDRT00379609 – This is an Intel report stating that member of the public could hear huge argument/disagreement coming from near the bus stop on HILLDENE AVENUE. She went to find out what was going on and she then noticed it was regular street drinkers having argument between themselves and was so loud that everyone could here. Informant warned the street drinkers of their behaviour and told them to keep the noise down as it is disturbing all the residents close by. This report was made 17/03/2022

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Signature Witnessed by:

Continuation of Statement of: Constable James Hazell

KDRT00374953 – This is an intel report from informant which states “Street drinkers at hilldene avenue are causing problems around the location drinking out of numerous cans bottles being sick on pavement where they congregate and stealing from local businesses Greggs bakers have complained about people running into the store and stealing foodstuffs on a daily basis even from delivery vehicle a number of males were spoken to by officers about their conduct and behaviour.” This report was from 22/09/2021.

KDRT00363419 – This is an Intel report where informant states “On 17/07/2020 ISR stated that the public toilets at HILLDENE SHOPS are being forced open late at night by the street drinkers and they are taking their drugs in there. The public toilets are behind the street drinker’s bench. These toilets are out of action but are being forced open most nights.” This report was made on 17/07/2020.

From the intelligence reports above this clearly shows the issues that have been brought to our attention. This has been over a period of a number of years too which indicates this has not been a “One off Issue”.

The issues reported clearly show that the street drinkers urinate in public, cause noise nuisances, increase crime rates and all round make the area less attractive place to be, work and visit. I can also say in my experience of visiting the area and street drinkers being present, there is vomit in the vicinity of the street drinkers which is unhygienic and not a nice place for kids to grown up and be around too. There is also lots of children in the area that witness this behaviour and we do not want this to have a negative influence on children’s upbringing.


Secondly, the area has a huge crime rate of theft/shoplifting reports. Although we cannot say that this is defiantly the street drinkers or people who are consuming high volumes of alcohol, you can see from the Intel above that it is reported that it seems this is being caused by the consumption of alcohol.

From reviewing the intel above and knowing the area well I believe that if stronger alcohol is available at a cost effective price then the behaviour seen by officers and reported to police will increase significantly and get even worse than it is at this stage. I believe that the Anti-social behaviour that comes with drinking in the street will massively increase which will then impact the community and the residents that live in the area. I also feel it will have a negative impact on the businesses in the area as shoplifting is an issue as it is but with more/stronger alcohol and then the need to find funds to keep buying the alcohol then the need to shoplift will become even greater. Also with residents not wanting to come to the area due to the Anti-social behaviour caused by the street drinkers this will mean businesses will lose customers and could affect their business to the point of possible closure.

Finally I would like to touch on the health and wellbeing on the people who would buy this high strength alcohol on a regular basis. The street drinkers that are most likely to buy this alcohol in my opinion have an alcohol addiction and they cannot control their addiction. This means they will keep drinking to the point of collapse or even worse. This means that by selling stronger strength alcohol this could affect their health even more to the point that they would need to be hospitalised which then carries its own negative effects.

Ultimately, in my opinion the alcohol already on sale is sufficient enough for all local persons and resident to buy and enjoy alcohol as they please and for them to enjoy it safely. The need to sell stronger strength alcohol is not required for the local residents who live in the area and therefore the sale of stronger strength alcohol will only bring unnecessary and wider issues that are not needed.

This concludes my statement.

Witness Signature: 

Signature Witnessed by: