

**RESTRICTED** (when complete)**WITNESS STATEMENT**

(CJ Act 1967, s9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

The MG11 back sheet must be completed and submitted with this statement

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Statement of: James NEIGHBOURAge if under 18: over 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: Police Sergeant 1538

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) 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 anything in it, which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature: James NeighbourDate: 17/03/2021
☐ X if witness evidence is visually recorded (Supply witness details on rear)

I am a Police Sergeant and hold the position of Neighbourhood Police Sergeant for Central South Swindon Neighbourhood Team. I have been a Police Officer in Swindon since 2000. I manage a number of local beat areas and supervise other Police Officers (PC's) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) addressing the wide range of policing needs of the local community. This function is based around coordinating a problem-solving approach to medium and long-term issues in conjunction with partner agencies and other stakeholders.

There are a number of long-term issues that generate complaints from the public and traders within Swindon. One of my tasks is to address these complaints and to implement long-term solutions; these solutions aim to reduce the fear of crime in the area. These complaints often get filtered back to me from the Neighbourhood Teams via informal conversations with members of the public, formal community street meetings, or engagement with our partner agencies such as InSwindon, the businesses that operate in the town and Swindon Borough Council. In particular is the issue of street drinking and the associated anti-social behaviour in the Broadgreen area of Swindon

The Broadgreen area is a culturally diverse residential area of Swindon close to the town centre, the area was made subject of a Cumulative Impact policy that is dated September 2016 since that time Police have conducted enforcement work in the locality resulting in the licenses of three off licenses being revoked.

Within the area of Broadgreen there are 5 off licences operating with 3 of those being on Manchester Road (a road that measures approx. 0.4 miles in length). Most operate between 0600 – 2300hrs with one being open till 0200hrs. The off licence stores predominant focus is the sale of alcohol and the alcohol displays take up a large amount of the shop floor space with single cans of alcohol being available for purchase. There are a further three on licences within the area.

The area suffers from alcohol related anti-social behaviour, crime and disorder. The police believe that this is exacerbated by the off licences attracting street drinkers to the area.

Broadgreen historically is an area that attracts a diverse group of persons and is often a 'beacon of light' and a familiar location for persons to congregate, or a location of continuity for persons with chaotic lifestyles. As such the issues that occur in the locality effect the community both during the day and into the night.

Signature: James Neighbour

Signature witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_

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**RESTRICTED** (when complete)Continuation statement of James NEIGHBOUR

The issues stemming from the ASB include:

1. General drunkenness behaviour and the nuisance this causes to members of the public;
2. Littering and environment impacts from public urination;
3. Dominating of public spaces which inhibits the use of the public space by general members of the public;
4. Violence against the person

A Check of Wiltshire Police STORM logs that have all been linked to alcohol related incidents in the locality shows that between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 22<sup>th</sup> February 2021 we have received 150 of complaints from members of the public who have been affected. Evidence and research show that only about 1 in 5 of incidents are reported to Police as people become accustomed to this behaviour should it go unchecked in an area over a period of time and it becomes part of their daily life.

Whilst many of the main street drinkers have injunctions or Community Protection Notices banning them from consuming alcohol in the Borough of Swindon and many are also banned from entering the town centre, the presence of such a propensity of alcohol outlets is making it increasingly difficult to manage. New groups of individuals are also congregating in the area. It is known that many are purchasing alcohol in Broadgreen and consuming it in the area. Broadgreen has numerous alleyways where street drinkers feel they are able to consume alcohol without attracting the attention of police. Unfortunately, these alleyways back onto residential premises leaving the local residents affected by their behaviour.

The area is currently under review for an application to be made for a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for the purposes of controlling alcohol related anti-social behaviour in the area which allows a police officer to remove alcohol from a person who is believed to be drinking in the area. PSPOs are only implemented on areas which have a problem with alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour.

As well as the use of a Public Space Protection Order under the ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014 Wiltshire Police have also conducted operations with partner agencies at the licensed premises in this area in an effort to ensure compliance, police have objected to new licence applications.

Individuals have been targeted with Community Protection Notices and a number of Section 35 Dispersal Powers have been utilised.

All of the off licences in this area have been provided with advice and guidance on serving to those who are drunk and the sale of cheap high ABV alcohol to street drinkers in order to uphold the licensing objectives.

Despite all this work there is still a significant issue with alcohol related ASB and incidents within the locality and as such Wiltshire Police would support an application to renew the current Cumulative Impact Police that is in place in the area as I believe that this assist in reducing crime and disorder and will assist in improving the quality of life for those that live, work and visit the area.

Attached is a summary of these incidents.

James Neighbour

Signature: James Neighbour

Signature witnessed by: \_\_\_\_\_

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