

REGULATION COMMITTEE
7 JANUARY 2009

SUBJECT	PROHIBITING THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL IN DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES (To inform the Committee of an application received for a Designation Order in Arlesey and the process by which the Order will be made)
REPORT OF	Director of Corporate and Democratic Services <i>Contact Officer: Mark Woolsey (Tel: 01462 611025)</i>

IMPLICATIONS

SUSTAINABILITY	None
LINK TO COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN AND OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crime reduction and tackling anti-social behaviour ▪ To encourage Community members to feel safe, at ease and free from crime in their homes and neighbourhoods.
RISKS	None
FINANCIAL	No direct financial implications, however, staff time will be allocated to facilitate requests for the designation
LEGAL	Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001
PERSONNEL/EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES	n/a
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/SAFETY	The use of the powers given to the Police as a result of the Designation Order will contribute to the reduction of anti-social behaviour in the District.
TRADES UNIONS	n/a
HUMAN RIGHTS	To be taken into account when considering the evidence for making the order.

OTHER DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO REPORT
Report of the Police with associated figures; Letter from Arlesey Town Council

RECOMMENDATION(S): (1) That the director of corporate & democratic services be authorised to proceed with the necessary consultations under the local authorities (alcohol consumption in designated public places) regulations 2001, in respect of the possible further alcohol designation order in Arlesey; (2) That the committee appoint three members to meet informally with the director of corporate and democratic services to consider the outcome of the

consultation and report back to this committee.
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1. Arlesey Town Council, with support from the Police, has submitted an application for an Alcohol Designation Order (ADO) to be made for areas in Arlesey.

Background

2. At it's meeting of the 22 January 2008, Mid Bedfordshire District Council adopted the powers under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 ('The Act'), to allow for Alcohol Designation Order applications to be considered in the district.
3. The Licensing & Regulation Committee received a report at its meeting of the 12 May 2004 setting out the provisions of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 and the procedures to be followed for making an ADO.
4. The Council has made three previous ADO's in the district, one for the areas of Ampthill, Biggleswade, Cranfield and Flitwick, one for areas within Stotfold and a further ADO for Flitwick.
5. An application for an ADO for areas within Shefford is currently under consideration prior to the necessary consultation being undertaken.

The Application

6. Arlesey Town Council has submitted an application for an ADO, with the full support of the local Police Officer. The letter making the application for the ADO is attached at Appendix 1.
7. The brief report from the local Police Officer, in support of the application, broadly details the problems that are being suffered, and is attached at Appendix 2.
8. An ADO is considered necessary due to the number of alcohol related incidents occurring in the town.
9. However, the precise details of the nuisance and the areas affected have not yet been explored. In order to investigate the nuisance and to satisfy the Council that an ADO is necessary and appropriate in these areas it is proposed that, as with previous applications, the consultation be delegated to the Director of Corporate and Democratic Services. The Director of Corporate and Democratic Services will consult with the consultees identified in the legislation and will also receive representations from the Police and Town Council on the precise areas to be designated.
10. To assist in this process it is proposed that the Regulation Committee appoint three Members to meet on an informal basis with the Director of Corporate and Democratic Services, or her representative, and officers from the Community Services Team to consider the outcome of the consultation

11. If it is agreed that an ADO should be made, a recommendation will be made to Council.
 12. In view of the Police support it is recommended that consultation under the Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007 be commenced and be delegated to the Director of Corporate & Democratic Services in respect of the request received from Arlesey Town Council.
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Background Papers:

Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001.
Home Office Letter of Guidance.
The Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007.
Licensing & Regulation Committee Report: 12 May 2004.

Location of Papers:

Council Reports: 22 January 2004 and 28 July 2005.
Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford,
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

File Reference:

RL.47.04



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(Town Clerk)

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Dave Rollings
Community Safety Officer
Mid Beds District Council
Priory House
Monks Walk
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Shefford SG17 5TQ

4 March 2008

Dear Mr Rollings

Alcohol Free Zone – Arlesey, Beds

At a recent Town Council meeting, Arlesey Town Council gave consideration to local residents concerns, recent police reports to Council, members and Town Council's staffs own experiences of nuisance youths, that it was decided it was now time to apply for an Alcohol Free Zone for Arlesey.

I have enclosed a report from PC Steve Holbrook from our Neighbour Policing Team supporting our application and would appreciate your advice on how this can be achieved.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Elsie Hare
Town Clerk

PROPOSAL FOR APPLICATION OF ALCOHOL FREE ZONE IN ARLESEY.

Police Report.

Since the initial application was made at the beginning of 2008, Arlesey has seen the implementation of a new Pub Watch Project. This group sees the Public Houses of Arlesey and Stotfold meet together in an attempt to tackle the issues of patrons that are responsible for incidents of crime and ASB in their premises.

As there is no existing Alcohol Free Zone (A.F.Z.) there is the potential for any patrons that are banned from the public houses to then consume alcohol on the streets of Arlesey.

This aside, the problems to date have mainly involved young people who have obtained alcohol from the local licensed shops in the village. These shops are located away from the meeting areas that the young people use. This results in the young people walking through the village to get to those meeting areas.

These are predominately the area around the Community Centre, Arlesey Train Station and the Church End area of the village.

The groups are of mixed ages with a number being over the age of 18, but a larger number being under the age of 16.

Police and Police Community Support Officers would benefit from the powers assigned to the A.F.Z. because it enables them to target those people that are in this group that are above the age of 18, but who are consuming alcohol with the younger members.

The areas that have been identified encompass the greater part of the village because of Arleseys' geographic layout. It is a very linear village consisting of 3 main roads. These are Stotfold Road, High Street and Hitchin Road.

The Church End area of the village, which lies to north and includes a bubble of residential homes as well as two licensed shops, two Public Houses and The Train Station.

Church End:

This area includes Stotfold Road, House Lane, St Peters Church, St Peters Avenue, Church Lane, The Rally, Grove Court, Bury Mead and Chase Hill Road. These areas are all regularly effected by alcohol related incidents. They are intersected by public footpaths and alleyways. The young people frequent these areas because of the two licensed shops within close proximity to each other. They then travel on foot to the train station where both residents of Church Lane, House Lane, Stotfold Road and Old Oak Close all experience problems with rowdy drunken behaviour as well as assaults and criminal damage.

We also see the same issues in St Peters Avenue as this road joins House Lane to Church Lane which then access The Rally area of the village and St Peters Church.

Reports from the vicar of St Peters Church include expressions of disgust because of the sheer volume of empty alcoholic drink containers and general litter. The Church has also seen repeat damage being caused to the building and grounds.

The Policing plan has seen involvement from Mid Beds ASB team as well as Aragon Housing Youth Involvement.

Visits by Trading Standards and Bedfordshire Police Licensing have also seen local shops fail test purchases.

The residents of Old Oak Close have been subjected to the same level of rowdy intoxicated behaviour from, not only groups of young people, but intoxicated adults as they alight the trains and make their way home of a late evening.

The High Street:

This area of Arlesey has, historically, always suffered the most from ASB, alcohol related and otherwise. This is due largely to the fact that Arlesey Community Centre is situated in the centre of this street which is approximately 1 mile in length.

The Community Centre is home to the local youth club and Village Hall, among other amenities, and the residents of the village travel to it

predominately by foot. What is evident is that when ASB is reported from residents of the High Street a pattern emerges as those responsible either travel to the Community Centre or are travelling back to Church End to go to their homes or the Train Station.

There is often evidence of alcohol consumption at the Community Centre and the playing fields behind them and the High Street itself has suffered the greatest reports of Criminal Damage and ASB.

Joining the High Street near to its centre are Lymans Road, Lynton Avenue and Gothic Way (another bubble of housing with a number of smaller cul-de-sacs as well as the three aforementioned roads). These areas already generate large numbers of calls regarding Criminal Damage and ASB as they are used as “short cuts” to the playing fields at the rear of the Community Centre, and escape routes as there is a network of alley ways and footpaths running through them.

It is my belief that if these areas are not included in the AFZ then they will suffer the greatest displacement from those areas that are included.

This is also the case for those other areas similar in makeup that adjoin the High Street, for example, Cricketers Road which includes the new housing development of St Johns Road.

The High Street is also home to two further Public Houses, The Working Mens’ Club and 1 further licensed shop.

Hitchin Road:

The issues with Hitchin Road are of a similar nature to the High Street. This is because the two roads lead into one another, meaning that those residents from the south of the village wishing to attend the Community Centre can only do so by travelling along Hitchin Road and into the High Street and vice versa when returning home.

Hitchin Road hosts the “retail centre” of the village as it is the location of the bulk of the retail premises. These include a number of fast food / take away outlets, another licensed shop, another Public House and a fully licensed sports club in the shape of Arlesey Town F.C.

Experiences here have seen alcohol related incidents at the fast food outlets from people of all ages not just those under the age of 18 years.

Completed / Ongoing Work:

A Policing plan is currently in operation for the Church End area because of the increased level of reported incidents, especially from the Churchyard where young people congregate. It currently forms the top Policing priority for the Arleseey SNT with the aim being to reduce criminal damage and ASB in this area of the village.

Church End has suffered from the displacement of ASB that was experienced at the Community Centre at the beginning of 2008. The Community Centre was the first Policing priority for SNT Arleseey and increased patrols and two successful prosecutions of a young adult who damaged windows at the location, whilst intoxicated, saw the activities move further up the village.

As you can see it is evident that the problem are not restricted to those persons under the age of 18 years. Adults are clearly responsible for their own share of the problems suffered by the village. The restrictions on consuming alcohol consumption in the areas listed is necessary to help in tackling the ever growing problems related to alcohol, and is proportionate to those problems. The human rights of those that maybe subject to any restrictions are taken into account.

This report is submitted to the District Council for their consideration.

PC 395 Steve Holbrook
Neighbourhood Police Officer
SNT Arleseey