



Mr S GOACHER
Borough Solicitor and Secretary's
Department
Metropolitan Borough of Wirral
Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
Wirral
CH44 8ED

Our Ref. MB/10/06
Your Ref.
Date 31st July 2006

10/06/06

SG.

Dear Simon

Alcohol Free Zone – Birkenhead, Victoria Park-Mersey Park.

I write to request that consideration be given to an Alcohol Free Zone in the area in and Around Victoria Park and Mersey Park.

The Area in question would be bounded by the following roads. Bedford Avenue, Old Chester Road, Sydney Road, Allerton Road, Church Road, and Bebington Road (Please see map at **Appendix A** and a full list of roads that would be effected at **Appendix B.**)

The problem of Anti Social Behaviour in this area has been highlighted for some years and appears to be on the increase. One of the main issues raised is the drinking of alcohol in this area in particular by youths and that the unruly behaviour that follows includes violence, the discarded litter and the utilisation of discarded bottles, etc, as weapons.

The situation is now seriously affecting the quality of life of those that reside in the area. Residents at a public meeting held at the Rock Ferry Library 24th July 2006 raised concerns and the provision of an Alcohol Free Zone was discussed. Minutes of the meeting are attached at **Appendix C.**

Current Policing operations in the area continue to target the location and alcohol is seized on regular basis from youths congregating in the area on a nightly basis. Numerous fixed penalties have also been issued to people who are purchasing alcohol for underage drinkers. Operation Cougar is to be reinstated and will target incidents of ASB in this and other areas throughout the Wirral.

A gang culture has been created with in the parks and territories marked. These gangs have been given names that denote their individual territories. Congregations of more than 50 youths are a regular occurrence and the attraction is the wide-open spaces of the parks and hidden areas with in the same.

The local off licences have been targeted in a number of ways. Operation Marton has been used along with plain clothes patrols in order to target the sales of alcohol to minors with some success, however it does not seem to have halted the consumption of alcohol. Residents report seeing youths, both male and female, walking in the vicinity of the parks on a regular basis openly carrying bottles, cans and cases of beer into the park.

Examples of incidents that the police are called to deal with include the following.

- 2133 hours 02.06.06, 30- males and females all drinking carrying poles looking for trouble.
- 1915 hours 03.06.06, 20-30 youths all having alcohol with them in the park shouting abuse at passers by.
- 1417 hours 07.06.06, report of a 30 year old female found drunk having been there since 0930 hours lying on the grass with a bottle by her side.
- 2035 hours 10.06.06, 40 youths aged 15 gathering in Victoria park all drunk.
- 2040 hours 11.06.06, Youth shot at with a BB gun
- 2101 hours 16.06.06 Report of 10 youths drinking.
- 2114 hours 16.06.06 70-80 youths congregating inside Victoria Park carrying weapons.
- 0243 hours 17.06.06 Drunken youths throwing bottles shouting and swearing.

This is just a snapshot of incidents over a two week period the bulk of which progressed on to other incidents that spill onto the residential areas that are adjacent to the parks.

In addition to these incidents there are numerous incidents of violence including sexual offences. There have been reports of drunken females not being able to remember what has happened to them for several hours questioning if they had been subjected to a sexual assault. If these illegal activities continue to go unchecked then it can only escalate into a more serious incident involving serious violence or worse a fatality.

As you can see from these sample incidents the Anti Social Behaviour of those responsible is seriously affecting the quality of life for those law abiding citizens that reside in the area and it needs to be curtailed. I strongly believe that the provision of an Alcohol Free Zone as described would provide Police with a very useful tool that would be used with discretion for the benefit of those residents as described. It would assist in making the parks a safe place to enjoy and reduce the fear of those that live around and use the parks. It would also go on to support other multi agency initiatives and strategies that are planned for the location.

As the Neighbourhood Inspector for the area concerned it is my wish to make the location safe simultaneously re-establishing a level of reassurance for the community and a sense of security. I wish to make it safe and attractive for all those that use the parks and be able to participate in all activities in the knowledge that it is safe. I cannot emphasise to strongly my desire for a ban on the consumption of alcohol in public places in the area described.

This ban would have the full support of residents in the designated area and also has the full support of all six councillors that represent the area in question. Letters of support from all six are listed at **Appendix D**. I have not yet met one person who would NOT support this application

To legislate in favour of my proposal will continue to provide the police with a very useful and effective tool that would be used with discretion, to the benefit of the many thousands of residents , businesses and visitors to the Birkenhead area. It will be beneficial to good order and would support other multi agency initiatives and strategies and I ask that it be given favourable consideration.

A full list of Licensed premises are listed at **Appendix E**.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mick Blease', written in a cursive style.

Inspector Mick BLEASE
East Wirral Neighbourhood
Well Lane Police Station.

Inspector 7768 Mick BLEASE – Neighbourhood (A6)
Well Lane Police Station, Well Lane, Rock Ferry, Wirral CH42 4QG
Tel 0151 777 2343 Fax 0151 777 2334
Mobile No. 07802 948506 E-mail – Michael.Bleese@Merseyside.Police.uk

Appendix

A

Appendix

B

Street Index for Victoria Park Mersey Park

Alcohol Free Zone

Allerton Road
Sydney Road
Bedford Avenue
Solly Avenue
Fieldside Road
Albany Road
Southdale Road
St Pauls Close
Fairfield Road
Oriel Road
Mossley Road
Parkside Road
Park Road
Ivydale Road
Baytree Road
Linwood Road
Yelverton Road
Wel Lane
Fletcher Avenue
Lever Terrace
Meliden Gardens
Agnes road
Church Terrace.
Downham Road

Church Road
Old Chester Road
Bebington Road
Clarke Avenue
Moore Avenue
Inglemere Road
Westale Road
St Pauls Villas
Tudor Road
Crofton Road
Town Road
Moorland Road
Essamine Road
Rosedale Road
Grasville Road
Astonwood Road
Wycherly Road
Victoria Park Road
The Towers
Southwick Road
Hadlow Gardens
Allerton Grove
Bankville Road

Open Spaces

Victoria Park
Mersey Park.
Church Road Car Park
Old Chester Road Car Park.

Schools

Mersey Park Primary School
Wll Lane Primary School

Appendix

C

Youth disturbances and anti-social behaviour in and around Mersey Park and Victoria Park (Tranmere & Rock Ferry)

Notes of the public meeting held on 24th July 2006, at the Community Hall, Rock Ferry Library.

PLEASE CHECK & CORRECT ROAD NAMES PRIOR TO USE

In attendance: Cllrs Phil Davies (in the chair), Brian Kenny & Jean Stapleton (Birkenhead & Tranmere Ward)
Cllrs Moira McLaughlin, Chris Meaden & Bill Davies (Rock Ferry Ward)

Representatives from Wirral Council, Merseyside Police, Tranmere Alliance & Together NMP

Around 60 local residents (attendance list record available)

1. Purpose of the meeting

Cllr Phil Davies explained that the meeting had been called in response to a large number of complaints received by ward councillors about problems with youth disturbances and anti-social behaviour.

The meeting would allow residents to tell councillors and representatives from local agencies present about the problems they are experiencing. Hopefully, during at the end of the meeting residents will have had the opportunity to:

- 'Get things off their chest'
- Make suggestions about how the issues causing concern might be resolved
- Agree a list of actions to address these issues
- Be reassured that the problems have been recognised and that appropriate action would be taken.

Cllr Phil Davies advised residents that it was the councillors' intention to respond to the issues by the end of August, with a full report being provided at a follow-up public meeting.

2. Resident Reports, Experiences and Ideas

Residents were invited to report problems they were experienced from young people gathering in the area and to put forward their ideas for resolving these issues.

The information gathered from residents was to be used to compile a fuller picture of the problems residents were having and to inform any planned response.

Well Lane resident:

There are gangs of youths (male and female), 50-60 strong gathering, mostly on Friday evenings. They hurl bricks, bottle etc, and we have bullet holes in windows.

We have been keeping anti-social behaviour diaries, and have phoned the wardens, and have given 3 addresses in response to the local graffiti initiative...

Youths are being chased between the parks by the police.

Is it beyond the wit of the police to block access?

We are unhappy with the police response and their ability to prevent repeats

Graswell Road resident:

Our experience is the same...

The Police have shifted them (gangs of young people) over the last month. Moving them to Mersey Park just relocates the problem.

The (caged) football pitch (in Mersey Park) is being used by youths to 3 am. Young people are having sex in the hut, and there is glass and syringes left in the area.

The park bobbies have gone. The park no longer has railings. Youths have no respect.

Girls (under 18) with litre bottles of Lambrini are blatantly swanning along the roads between the two parks

Three residents have been assaulted by these kids (linked by residents to youths being challenged by local residents because of their behaviour).

These kids feel as though they are untouchable, and local children are intimidated.

Whitchley Road resident:

We don't have the same problem. Our problem is with the behaviour of other residents and general anti-social behaviour, fights and drunks

Adults are sitting on walls at 6 am drinking.

The whole area should be alcohol free

Town Road resident:

We have had 15 under-aged drinkers dropping bottles between midnight and 5am with mobiles.

The police were aware but never responded. The young people left only when it started to rain

Bamfull Road resident:

Where the police do respond we have 40-50 10 to 14 year olds being followed by a police van but not dispersed. Not one of the young people (were recognised as) lived in the immediate area, and they stayed until 1am.

Young people are simply running amok. I thought congregating in large groups and drinking was not allowed.

Anti-social behaviour is so out of control that decent people are now in the minority...they have taken the streets

You can't come out when young people are urinating on your car because of the intimidation

Inglemere Road/Old Chester Road resident:

The shop (off-license) sells drink under-age and to others (adults) going in (to purchase alcohol for minors)

Remove their licenses

18 year olds put beer into wheelie bins for the younger ones to collect

Inglemere resident:

When I chased two youths sitting on the wall (following incidents when a disabled resident has had their car vandalised) gangs were at either

end of the street. They were drinking beer (obtained) from the shop on the corner.

This is going on every Friday and Saturday night. It's (the road is) a thoroughfare between the shop and the park.

Parks should be out of bounds in the evening. There should be a ban on drinking.

Inglemere Road/Old Chester Road resident:

Gangs, mainly girls, are hanging around and drinking

Alleygates in Inglemere/Southgate, locks have been broken and replaced repeatedly. We have had a letter from the Council saying they can't afford any more repairs

Why don't we have signs saying "Residents will not tolerate anti-social behaviour and will act on it"

Wheelie bins left outside alleygates are used to jump the gates in gated areas

People are stashing alcohol in and around the playground in Victoria Park

Put on some activities in the park for young people (mainly in the day time)

Improve lighting in the park

Shouldn't parents be made responsible for what young people get up to?

3. Police Response

Neighbourhood Inspector Mick Blease was invited to respond to the points raised. He advised residents that:

- In the event of problems with the police service being experienced residents should contact him at Well Lane.
- The area is a difficult one to police
- Alcohol seizures (from minors) are high
- There is no law against gatherings unless a (Section 30) dispersal order is put in place
- Dispersal of large groups can cause further problems in surrounding areas (starburst effect)

- A recent operation (Cougar) had brought additional (police) officers into the area to tackle under-age drinking and had proved successful
- The police were working with councillors to ban drinking, bottles and glasses in parks
- Residents wishing to report anti-social behaviour can call "It's Your Call" call centre and Crime Stoppers

4. Resident suggestions:

- How about setting up mobile CCTV in the area
- Use the money for alleygates where they have not been put up (due to resident objections) to pay for CCTV cameras
- Back Byrne Avenue (Leisure Centre) bids for funding to put on activities for young people
- Youth Service and other agencies should work together to stop this
- Alleygates help solve and end problems, They are 110% successful. Everyone should have them and they stop anti-social behaviour in alleyways

5. Agency response

Cllr Phil Davies summed up the actions suggested and advised residents that councillors would be looking to work with the relevant agencies to implement a response. The actions were:

- a) Alcohol Free Zone
- b) Section 30 Dispersal Order
- c) Anti-Social behaviour Unit working with residents facing anti-social neighbours
- d) Clamping-down on the sale of alcohol to minors (and on behalf of minors)
 - Use of mobile CCTV
 - Installation of Anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated signs
 - Alleygated ungated streets
 - Enforcement action against resident and commercial dumping/fly-tipping
 - Youth Service outreach engagement with young people & gangs
- e) Improved lighting in the parks

- f) Increasing the height of fencing and use of lockable gates for caged football pitch
- g) Lobbying for more Police resources for the area
Contact list for residents of key agencies & individuals (phone no.s & e-mail addresses)

Residents to receive a Report Back by end August 2006

ACTION PLAN FOR TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN AREAS IN AND AROUND MERSEY PARK AND VICTORIA PARK

ACTION	LEAD
1. Obtain Section 30 Dispersal Order	Mick Blease to take forward; councillors to write letters of support
2. Designate area as Alcohol Free Zone	Mick Blease to take forward; councillors to write letters of support
3. Target Off Licenses which sell alcohol to minors	Constables, Wirral District Licensing; to target off licenses; & display warning posters in off licenses. Useful to find out how many fixed-penalty notices have been issued by time of next public meeting
4. Anti-social behaviour team to tackle nuisance neighbours	Jean Booth to work with residents and encourage completion of diary sheets etc.
5. Mobile CCTV to be used to help gather evidence	Mick Blease to take forward
6. Disturbance caused by footballs being kicked against metal fence around football pitch late at night (Mersey Park)	Jim Lester/Roger Calvert to look at this – one idea might be to raise height of fence and lock at night
7. Erect signs stating that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated	Fergus Adams to investigate practicalities and cost (Good early win!)
8. Relaxation of regulations for installing alleygates	Councillors to take forward: i) Wirral's policy needs to be changed; ii) gates need to be installed where a clear majority want them
9. Youth Service to engage young people	Pauline Miller to organise activities for young people in the parks and youth outreach workers to engage young people. Pauline to liaise with Tranmere Alliance.
10. Streetscene to prosecute people who dump rubbish where evidence exists	Fergus Adams and Neil Collins to work together. Letter to be sent to each household (Good early win!)
11. Installation of lighting in both parks	Neil Collins to take lead on this (multi-agency meeting to take place shortly)
12. MP to be asked to lobby govt for more resources for police	Councillors to speak to Frank Field
13. Contact details of key agencies to be circulated	Councillors to organise
14. Follow up meeting of councillors, police and agencies to review progress	2pm, Thursday 31 st August, Royal Standard House

Appendix

D

! Metropolitan Borough of Wirral

Councillor Mrs C M Meaden
19 Inglemere Road
Rock Ferry
Birkenhead
Wirral
Merseyside, CH42 4QL
Telephone: 0151-645 -1729
Fax: 0151-644-1655
email: chrismeaden@wirral.go.u

Inspector Mick Blease
Well Lane Police Station
Well Lane
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH42 4QG

27th July 2006

Dear Inspector Blease

I am writing on behalf of residents from the Rock Ferry area who are in support of an alcohol free zone which I am sure will help to resolve some of the major anti-social behaviour problems we have in this area.

After a well attended public meeting which myself and my other ward colleagues attended on Monday 24th July 2006 this issue was raised by many of the residents as being the major cause of the behaviour of the youth in the area.

Therefore I would please urge that you and your officers could do whatever is in your powers to ensure that an alcohol-free zone could be implemented as soon as possible.

If I can be of further assistance in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many Thanks

Yours sincerely

Christine Meaden

Christine Meaden
Rock Ferry Labour Councillor



"Stapleton, Jean V. \((Councillor)\)" <jeanstapleton@wirral.gov.uk> on
28/07/2006 11:55:34

To:

Dear Mick,

It has become evident that a lot of the anti-social behaviour that takes place in both Mersey and Victoria Parks, and in the streets between the Parks, is fuelled by young people drinking alcohol. Residents are calling for the whole area to become an alcohol free zone. I would very much support this and would be grateful if you could do everything possible to achieve the area being so designated and for the initiative to be enforced.

Yours sincerely

Jean Stapleton

Labour Councillor for Birkenhead & Tranmere

0151- 201-5057

<http://www.councillor.info/>

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"Kenny, Brian M. \(\Councillor\)" <briankenny@wirral.gov.uk> on 26/07/2006
22:14:59

To: "Inspector Mick Blease" cc: "Davies, Phil L. \(\Councillor\)", "Stapleton, Jean V. \(\Councillor\)", "Meaden, Ct

Dear Inspector Blease

Following on from the Public meeting which took place last Monday, 24th July, and, having listened carefully to the very strong views expressed by many people at the meeting, I am writing to confirm that I fully support making the area an alcohol-free zone, which I sincerely believe will go some way towards bringing about much-needed improvements, so far as the current problems of anti social behaviour are concerned. Certainly, this move was strongly supported by many people who spoke at the meeting this week.

I would be obliged if you could do whatever is in your powers to ensure that an alcohol-free zone is implemented, as soon as possible.

Many Thanks.

Brian Kenny
Labour Councillor for Birkenhead & Tranmere

0151 678 8344

07850 091517

briankenny@wirral.gov.uk

<http://www.councillor.info/wirral/bkenny/>

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www.clearswift.com



Please reply to:

Councillor Phillip L Davies
Deputy Leader of the Council

9 Hillfield Drive
Pensby
Wirral
Merseyside, CH61 5UH
Telephone: 0151-342-5046
Fax: 0151 342 8073
Email: phildavies@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.councillor.info/wirral/pdavies/>

FIRST CLASS
to Inspector Mick Blease
Well Lane Police Station
Well Lane
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH42 4QG

date 26 July 2006

your ref
my ref PLD/MM/060726/583

Dear Mick,

**ALCOHOL FREE ZONE – AREAS IN AND AROUND MERSEY PARK AND
VICTORIA PARK, TRANMERE/ROCK FERRY**

Further to the recent public meeting which took place on Monday, 24th July, and also in the light of many complaints I have received from residents regarding anti-social behaviour in the areas in and around Mersey Park and Victoria Park, I am writing to request that these areas be designated as an Alcohol Free Zone. Having heard numerous reports of offences committed by large gangs of youths who congregate regularly in these areas, it is clear that much of this is caused by the consumption of large quantities of alcohol, often by minors. The designation of these areas as an Alcohol Free Zone would, I believe, assist the police to crack down on the consumption of alcohol and thereby reduce the incidents of disorder which are making life unbearable for residents. I would ask that the Alcohol Free Zone be introduced as a matter of urgency.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Phil Davies





Please reply to:

Councillor Moira McLaughlin

15 Stoneleigh Grove
Rock Ferry
Birkenhead
Wirral
Merseyside, CH42 4NH
Telephone: 0151-644 8234
Fax: 0151 652 3248
Email: moiramclaughlin@wirral.gov.uk

to Inspector Mick Blease
Well Lane Police Station
Well Lane
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH42 4QG

date 26 July 2006

your ref
my ref MMcL/MM/060726/831

Dear Mick

Following the public meeting that we held on Monday, 24 July, with residents who live in the roads around Victoria and Mersey Park, when concerns were raised about the amount of alcohol being consumed in the roads and in the park itself, particularly by young people, I should be grateful if you would pursue a ban on alcohol in this area to help alleviate the problem.

Thank you very much for your help.

Yours sincerely

Moira

Councillor Moira McLaughlin



Please reply to:

Councillor William J Davies

4 St Hughes Close
Claughton
Wirral
Merseyside, CH43 4YS
Telephone: 0151-652 1199
Email: billdavies@wirral.gov.uk

to Inspector Mick Blease
Well Lane Police Station
Well Lane
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH42 4QG

date 26 July 2006

your ref
my ref WJD/MM/060726/159

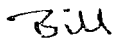
Dear Mick

**ALCOHOL FREE ZONE – MERSEY PARK AND VICTORIA PARK AREA
TRANMERE/ROCK FERRY**

Following the public meeting on 24 July 2006 called by Elected Members for Birkenhead & Tranmere and Rock Ferry Wards, to discuss complaints about anti-social behaviour in and around Mersey Park and Victoria Park, I fully support an alcohol ban in those areas.

Best wishes

Yours sincerely



Councillor Bill Davies



Appendix

E

Licensed premises in the proposed Alcohol Free Zone

Southdale Road. **Albany Bowling Club**
Downham Road **New South End social club**

Church Road
Beehive (80)
Black Horse
Dhillons newsagents (213)
Kerry's Stores (48)
Gladstone Liberal

Old Chester Road
Crooked Billet
Fairfield
Rock Villa (329)
'R' Late Stores (155)
PRM News & Wine (338)
Co-Op (229-231)

Bebington Road
Victoria Wines (8-10)
Seasons (18)

Victoria Park
Tranmere Victoria Cricket Club

Steve B