LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE AGENDA



Wednesday 25th January 2006

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room "B"

MEMBERS: LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE:

Councillors Cambridge, Cook, Flintoff, Griffin, Hall, Jackson, Kaiser, Lilley, Morris, Rayner, Richardson, Rogan, Tumilty, Wallace and Worthy

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS
- 3. MINUTES
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2005 (attached).
- 4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
 - 4.1 Matters Arising Following Implementation of Licensing Act 2003 Head of Public Protection and Housing
 - 4.2 Night Time in Hartlepool Town Centre Citizen's Panel Results Assistant Chief Executive
 - 4.3 Research into Night-time Economy in Hartlepool Head of Public Protection and Housing
- 5. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

LICENSING ACT COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

12th October 2005

Present:

Councillor Stan Kaiser (In the Chair)

Councillors: John Cambridge, Rob Cook, Bob Flintoff, Sheila Griffin, Gerard

Hall, Geoff Lilley, George Morris, Pat Rayner, Vic Tumilty and

Gladys Worthy

Officers: Ralph Harrison, Head of Public Protection and Housing

Sylvia Pinkney, Consumer Services Manager Ian Harrison, Principal Licensing Officer

Richard Teece, Development Control Manager

Paul Burgon, Development Control Enforcement Officer

Tony Macnab, Solicitor

David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Jo Wilson, Democratic Services Officer

Also present: Acting Inspector Tony Green and Police Constable Paul Hanson

30. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carl Richardson and Trevor Rogan

31. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

32. Minutes of meeting held on 27th July 2005.

Confirmed.

33. Review of Implementation of Licensing Act 2003

(Head of Public Protection and Housing)

The Head of Public Protection and Housing reported on the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 and stated that in the six month period during which applications could be made, 602 applications had been received, 53 of these applications had subsequently required a sub-committee hearing

before the license could be determined. Brief details of the applications considered by the Sub Committees and an outline of the decision in each case was set out in an appendix to the report.

The Head of Public Protection and Housing went on to pay tribute to the officers in his Division for the considerable work undertaken behind the scenes. Mr Harrison indicated that he was proposing to hold a round-table discussion between Councillors, members of the public and statutory bodies to look at any possible changes which could be made to the procedure in the future. Members raised the following points/issues in relation to their experience of the sub committee hearings: -

- The non-attendance of the applicant at hearings Members considered it gave the impression that they had assumed the hearing was a formality. Members were informed that there was no requirement for the applicant or their representative to be present at the hearing.
- The agreements made between applicants and objectors in advance of meetings – Members felt this made the meeting a pointless "rubberstamping" exercise which gave them no real powers. Officers explained that in many cases these decisions were made at the "eleventh hour", often within minutes of the start of the meeting. Legally, once a official notice of a meeting had been given it had to take place
- The extent the general public had been made aware of licensing applications— Members felt the level of objections from the public would have been higher if they had been better informed about the applications. Notices posted at the venues and in the Hartlepool Mail were felt to be inadequate despite meeting statutory guidelines. Other suggestions included informing Ward Councillors of applications and organising a letter drop in the immediate vicinity
- The formal aspect of meetings Several members felt it was unnecessary for those present at the hearing to stand when the sub-Committee members entered and exited the room. However other members felt it was a way to formalise and add significance to the hearings.
- Members questioned what the cost had been to the Council and what fees had been received from applicants. The Head of Public Protection and Housing said he was unable to give an estimate of the overall cost and that the income from the fees paid by applicants had not been calculated. Council had approved an additional sum of £57,000 to meet the increased staffing implications in the Licensing section.

The Chairman and members thanked officers for doing an exceptional job in very difficult circumstances. The implementation of this legislation had been proved to have a steep learning curve for all involved. While there had been some initial teething problems, these were overcome. The Chair thanked the Chairs of the sub-committees on "doing a magnificent job".

Police Constable Paul Hanson explained that the Police had been bound by rules of evidence and in many cases they had not been represented at meetings because agreements had already been reached prior to the hearing. PC Hanson indicated there had been much work behind the scenes, some of which might be revealed in future months if the agreed conditions were not adhered to by licensees. The Chair asked why any previous agreements were not detailed on members' papers but the solicitor explained that it had not been the sub-committee's role to determine agreements which had already been made. With reference to public objectors, PC Hanson explained that members of the public could have called the police as witnesses and the Head of Public Protection and Housing confirmed that the public had been made aware of this in correspondence from the Licensing Department. Acting Inspector Tony Green applauded PC Hanson's efforts given the volume of work there had been.

Members asked how blame could be attributed to individual premises when anti-social behaviour took place away from those premises. Acting Inspector Green said the police would, in appropriate occasions, provide the necessary evidence and it would be up to the sub-committees to make the decision. Acting Inspector Green stated that telephone calls from the public and licensees could be used to provide specific evidence of where the trouble started but that the increased use of doormen and CCTV should result in less crime and disorder. It was also highlighted that just because premises had been given leave to open until 4.00am, did not mean they actually would.

The Principal Democratic Services Officer thanked the members for their positive comments with regards to officers. Members were thanked for their involvement in the sub committee meetings; there had been very few problems with the hearings themselves. Members were informed that the number of new applications was now expected to reduce significantly. The Sub Committees were more likely to be utilised after 24 November for the other important element of their role; the reviewing of licences. The Committee was requested to maintain the establishment of the five sub committees as it would assist in maintaining transparency during reviews.

The Principal Licensing Officer praised the hard work of the Licensing Department. All applications received by the Authority had been processed within the two-month deadline, something that had not happened in other Authorities.

The Consumer Services Manager informed members that five applicants had so far appealed the ruling delivered by the Licensing Act Sub-Committee on their premises, with two listed for a full hearing at the Magistrates Court. Mrs Pinkney agreed to feedback any information received from these hearings to the Committee at a future date. The Development Control Enforcement Officer said the process had been a steep learning curve and had involved a lot of work for the Planning Department. Officers acknowledged member comments that the planning objections had not been detailed enough.

The Head of Public Protection and Housing said he would present a report at the next meeting on future issues which would face members. including

- Increased public awareness of applications and hearings
- Reviews of previous decisions and how these would be carried out
- Potential ways of resolving the conflicts between the Planning and Licensing regulations

The Chair ended the meeting by thanking all the officers and interested bodies for the work they had done. Councillor Kaiser congratulated the licensees for their co-operation and approach to the new legislation. The first stage of the process was over and the second would be more interesting and important as it would help Councillors regain control of the town.

Decision

- (i) That the Head of Public Protection and Housing submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee detailing issues surrounding the hearings.
- (ii) That the Head of Public Protection and Housing invite the Chair and Vice-Chair to a round-table meeting to discuss issues arising from the implementation of the Licensing Act.
- (iii) That the formal procedure continue at all Sub Committee hearings
- (iv) That the current membership of the sub-committees remain the same

STAN KAISER

CHAIRMAN

Report of: HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION AND HOUSING

Subject: Matters arising following implementation of Licensing

Act 2003

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To provide Members with the opportunity to discuss issues that may have arisen following the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As Members are aware, the Licensing Act 2003 took full effect on 24th November 2005.
- 2.2 The new Act provides licensees with the opportunity to apply for longer opening hours with increased flexibility to offer entertainment such as music, singing and dancing.
- 2.3 The Act also provides local authorities and the Police with additional powers to control those premises that are not contributing to the Act's four licensing objectives.
- 2.4 The licensing objectives are: -
 - Prevention of crime and disorder;
 - Public Safety;
 - Prevention of public nuisance; and
 - Protection of children from harm
- 2.5 A verbal update on issues raised with the Council's Licensing Team will be given at the meeting.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Members are invited to discuss any matters that may have arisen following the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003.

Report of: Assistant Chief Executive

Subject: NIGHT TIME IN HARTLEPOOL TOWN

CENTRE - CITIZEN'S PANEL RESULTS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Portfolio Holder of the results of some consultation carried out relating to night time economy in Hartlepool town centre and extended opening hours, through a 'Special' phase of Viewpoint, Hartlepool Borough Council's Citizen's Panel. This phase was distributed in July 2005.

2. BACKGROUND

- Viewpoint, Hartlepool Borough Council's Citizen's Panel, is one of the ways that the Council consults and involves local people in the governance of Hartlepool. It is a statistically balanced panel of local people who receive questionnaires at regular intervals throughout the year, asking for their views on a variety of local issues facing the Council and Hartlepool as a whole.
- 2.2 The aim of Viewpoint is to ensure that the Council listens to the community and involves local people in the Council's decision making. There are often important issues on which the Council needs to consult with the local population and discover what the community's priorities are for the future.
- 2.3 Each phase of Viewpoint covers various topics and within this phase there were questions on:
 - Recycling
 - Night Time in Hartlepool Town Centre
- 2.4 These were two issues for which information was urgently needed in order to help plan the development of services and set priorities. For this reason it was decided to do an additional phase of Viewpoint.
- 2.5 The results have been reported back to the relevant departments within the council and have been reported back to Viewpoint members via a regular Viewpoint newsletter. Copies of the overall report have also been placed in the members library, in all public libraries across the Borough for public access, and will be placed on the Council's website.
- 2.6 This report has also been reported to the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Performance Management who requested that it be presented to the Licensing Committee for their information. It was also requested

that this report be circulated to Community Safety, and the Police, and therefore has been passed onto Alison Mawson and Superintendent Ashman.

2.7 This report includes a summary of the main results and, attached as appendix A, is the full result report.

SUMMARY OF MAIN RESULTS FROM THE LATEST PHASE OF VIEWPOINT

- 2.1. The latest survey was carried out in July 2005, using a self-completion questionnaire returned via the Royal Mail postal system. Panel members had four weeks to complete the questionnaire and return it in the post paid envelope provided. A reminder letter was sent out to those who had not returned their questionnaire after a set period of time.
- 2.2. A questionnaire was sent out to all active members of the panel, which in this instance equated to 1180 individuals. A response rate of 64.2 per cent was achieved with 752 questionnaires being returned.
- 2.3. A small number of cases (8) was excluded from the sample because they were ineligible, due to either the panel member having moved house or having died. A further group indicated that they no longer wished to participate in the Viewpoint initiative, often due to ill health.

Night Time in Hartlepool Town Centre

- 2.4. This topic looked at how Viewpoint members use Hartlepool town centre late at night, and how safe they felt the town centre is at this time. These questions were included to help monitor the effects of the changes in alcohol licensing regulations. For the purposes of these questions, we defined the town centre area as the York Road, Victoria Road, and Church Street areas of Hartlepool.
- 2.5. Participants were asked, on average, how often they are in Hartlepool town centre during the night time (after 9pm). A third said they are never in the town centre after 9pm, and a further third said they are in the town centre during the night time one or two nights a month or more often.
- 2.6. Participants were asked why they don't go into Hartlepool town centre after 9pm. Three quarters of respondents said they preferred to do other things with their time, or had no reason to go into town. A third said they did not feel safe in the town centre late at night, and a quarter said they prefer to be home before 9pm.
- 2.7. Participants were asked to think back to the last time they were in Hartlepool town centre after 9pm, and to recall what the purpose of their visit was. Just over half of participants said they were in the town

- centre after 9pm to go to a restaurant (54%) or to go to a pub (51%). One in ten participants said to go to a takeaway (12%), to go to a night club (12%), or to visit friends or family (9%).
- 2.8. Viewpoint members were then asked how they felt about the number of amenities located in Hartlepool town centre. Members felt there were too many pubs/bars (61%) and too many takeaways (45%) in Hartlepool town centre, and too few public toilets (79%). Members felt the number of restaurants in the town centre was about right.
- 2.9. The next set of questions wanted to find out how safe people felt when in the town centre. Participants were asked how safe they felt when walking around Hartlepool town centre during the day. Seven out of ten participants said they felt either safe or very safe when walking around Hartlepool town centre during the day.
- 2.10. Participants were then asked how safe they felt walking around Hartlepool town centre after dark. Sixteen per cent said they felt either very safe or safe, a third said they neither safe nor unsafe, and over half (52%) said they felt either unsafe or very unsafe.
- 2.11. The next two questions asked about how safe people felt while waiting for public transport or taxis either in the day or at night. When asked how safe they felt waiting during the day, the majority of respondents said they felt either safe or very safe. A quarter said they felt neither safe nor unsafe, and only six per cent said they felt either unsafe or very unsafe.
- 2.12. When looking at how safe people felt when waiting for public transport after dark, seventeen per cent said they felt either very safe or safe. A third of respondents said they felt neither safe nor unsafe, and just under half (49%) said they felt either unsafe or very unsafe.
- 2.13. Participants were then asked what measures they thought would be helpful in reducing problems related to evening or late night activities. Overall, participants felt that less alcohol served to people already drunk; and more public toilets would be very helpful in reducing problems related to night time activities. People also felt that longer opening hours and more pubs/clubs would not be helpful at all in reducing these problems.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. It is recommended that the Committee note the results.

CORPORATE STRATEGY



Special Edition Viewpoint Survey Results Night Time in Hartlepool Town Centre Report

Lisa Anderson November 2005

4.2 APPENDIX A

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1. INTRODUCTION

Background

- 1.1 Viewpoint, Hartlepool Borough Council's Citizens' Panel, is one of the ways that the Council consults and involves local people in the governance of Hartlepool. It is a statistically balanced panel of local people who receive questionnaires at regular intervals throughout the year, asking for their views on a variety of local issues facing the Council and Hartlepool as a whole.
- 1.2 The panel was refreshed in 2003 with two thirds of the panel being replaced to ensure that each member only serves for a limited period of time. The refreshment was done by sending out a recruitment questionnaire to a number of Hartlepool residents who were selected at random from the electoral roll. From the returns approximately 1200 local residents, with characteristics matching the profile of the local population, were selected for Viewpoint. The panel members are kept informed of the findings of the Viewpoint project, and what the Council is doing in response, via a regular newsletter. A section of the panel is refreshed on a regular basis to ensure that each member serves for a limited time.
- 1.3 This report details the results from the latest questionnaire, which was distributed in June 2005.

Aims of Viewpoint

- 1.4 The aims of the survey are:
 - To listen to the community
 - To involve local people in the Council's decisions and in its policy planning and reviews
 - To consult the panel regularly on important local issues
 - To discover what are the community priorities for future Council activities
 - The specific areas covered in this phase of Viewpoint included:
 - Recycling
 - Night Time in Hartlepool Town Centre

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2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 Viewpoint was launched in August 1999 with a recruitment campaign under the original name of Viewpoint 1000. A random sample of 10,000 residents was selected from the electoral register and each resident was sent the self-completion recruitment questionnaire. The recruitment questionnaire was developed to capture all the necessary background information needed to obtain a representative sample of the total population.
- Just under 2,500 people from the 10,000 sample volunteered to take part in Viewpoint 1000 and from this group, the panel of 1,000 was selected to mirror the Hartlepool community as closely as possible. A range of variables was used to produce a balanced sample including gender, age and geographical location.
- 2.3 The panel is refreshed at regular intervals and at the beginning of 2003 a major recruitment exercise took place. Several different methods were used to recruit new members which included asking people who were recruited from the original recruitment questionnaire whether they still wanted to take part. Secondly, when the BVPI survey was completed in 2003, respondents were asked if they would be interested in taking part in the Viewpoint panel and during this recruitment exercise they were invited to join the refreshed panel. We also sent out just over 10,000 recruitment questionnaires to a random selection of people from the edited electoral register from which we received a substantial number of returns. Finally, as there was a shortage of young males, on-street interviewing was used to boost these numbers and enable the panel to be balanced. This re-recruitment process helps avoid the problems of drop-out, consultation fatigue and respondents becoming local government "experts".
- 2.4 The decision was also taken to increase the size of the panel to make it more statistically sound when looking at the results. The panel currently stands at 1180 members. This resulted in a slight name change to Viewpoint instead of Viewpoint 1000.
- 2.5 The setting up of this type of panel gives the authority the advantage of access to a large group of people from across the community who have agreed to be involved in consultation exercises several times a year. The disadvantage that this type of consultation brings is that, because all panel members are volunteers, there is a possibility that they may not be typical of the community as a whole. However, every effort has been made to ensure that the panel members represent the demographic make up of the area and to include all sectors of the community.
- 2.6 In practice most surveys are weighted as it is rare to achieve samples of population that are perfectly representative of a community. It was therefore decided that the data would be weighted for analysis purposes. The main potential weakness of the survey is the differential responses because although the full panel is statistically balanced not all Viewpoint members return the questionnaire at each phase. There is a tendency for certain groups to be less likely to respond than other e.g. young male respondents. Therefore to achieve a better representative result the data was weighted slightly by age, gender and

APPENDIX A

- geographical location. However when the weighted and unweighted results were compared there was very little difference in the overall results and the weighting did not come into effect until small minority groups were examined.
- 2.7 In June 2005, the latest survey was carried out using a self-completion questionnaire returned via the postal system. Panel members had three weeks to complete the questionnaire and return it in the post paid envelope provided. A reminder letter was sent out to those who had not returned the questionnaire after a set period of time.

The Sample

2.8 A questionnaire was sent out to all active members of the panel, which equated to 1180 individuals.

Response Rates

A response rate of 64.2% per cent was achieved. A small number of cases were excluded from the sample because they were ineligible, due to either the panel member having moved house or having died. A further group indicated that they no longer wished to participate in the Viewpoint initiative, often due to ill health. These exclusions resulted in a possible sample of 1172 with a total of 752 questionnaires being returned.

Table 2.1Response Rates

	Number of Cases
Total Sample	1180
Unsuitable/Ineligible Cases	8
Total Possible Sample	1172
Completed Questionnaires	752
No Response	420
Response Rate	64.2%

The Report

2.10 All percentages in all tables are rounded to the nearest whole number. In some tables the total number of respondents may be less than the total number of returned questionnaires. This is because some respondents may choose not to answer a particular question. In some instances the number of responses is greater than 100 per cent due to the fact that respondents have been asked to choose multiple answers.

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3. NIGHT TIME IN HARTLEPOOL TOWN CENTRE

KEY FINDINGS

- A third of participants are never in Hartlepool Town Centre during the night time (after 9pm)
- Three quarters of respondents said they never or rarely go out into Hartlepool town centre because they prefer to do other things with their time, or have no reason to go there.
- Participants were most likely to be in Hartlepool town centre during the night time (after 9pm) to go to a restaurant or pub.
- Viewpoint members felt there were too many pubs/bars and takeaways in Hartlepool town centre, and too few public toilets. Members felt the number of restaurants in the town centre was about right.
- 3.1 The next topic covered in the questionnaire wanted to find out more information about how Viewpoint members use Hartlepool town centre late at night, and how safe they felt the town centre was at this time. For the purposes of these questions, we defined the town centre area as York Road, Victoria Road, and Church street areas of Hartlepool.

How Often Viewpoint Members Visit Hartlepool Town Centre

- 3.2 First of all, participants were asked, on average, how often they are in Hartlepool town centre during the night time (after 9pm). A third (32%) of participants said they are never in the town centre after 9pm, and a fifth (20%) said they are in the town centre during the night time one or two nights a month. Full results can be seen in Table 3.1.
- 3.3 The detailed results show that people aged between seventeen and twenty-four are more likely to be in the town centre after 9pm one or two nights a week (37%), compared to people from other age ranges. Similarly, seven out of ten participants aged sixty-five years and over said they would never be in the town centre after 9pm.
- People in full time education were also more likely to say they would be in Hartlepool town centre after 9pm one to two nights a week (41%).

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Table 3.1 On average, how often are you in the Hartlepool town centre during the night time (after 9pm)?

	%	No.)
3 or more nights a week	2%	(22)
1 – 2 nights a week	11%	(129)
1 – 2 nights a month	20%	(241)
At least once every six months	17%	(200)
At least once a year	9%	(106)
Less than once a year	9%	(103)
Never	32%	(382)
Don't know	1%	(16)
No answer	Less than 1%	(3)
(N=1202)		

Why Members Do Not Visit the Town Centre at Night

- 3.5 Participants were asked why they don't go into Hartlepool town centre after 9pm. Three quarters of respondents (75%) said they preferred to do other things with their time, or had no reason to go into town. A third (33%) said they did not feel safe in the town centre late at night, and a quarter (24%) said they prefer to be home before 9pm.
- 3.6 When looking at the detailed results, women were more likely than men to say they prefer to be home before 9pm (27% and 20% respectively). Also, women were more likely to say they don't feel safe in the town centre late at night (35%, compared to 29% for men). Full results can be seen in table 3.2.
- 3.7 Some people identified additional reasons why they never or rarely go out in Hartlepool town centre after 9pm. Fourteen people said their age, poor health, or disability was a factor and six panel members said there were too many drunks around.

Table 3.2 If you never or rarely go out in Hartlepool town centre during the night time (after 9pm), why is this?

	%	(No.)
I prefer to do other things with my time/have no reason to go there	75	(603)
I don't feel safe in Hartlepool town centre late at night	33	(262)
I prefer to be home from the town centre before 9pm	24	(194)
There's not enough to do after 9pm in the town centre area	8	(61)
There's not enough public transport / taxis	3	(26)
Don't know	2	(13)
No answer	1	(10)
(N=1169)		

Reason for Visiting Hartlepool Town Centre

- 3.8 Participants were asked to think back to the last time they were in Hartlepool town centre after 9pm, and to recall what the purpose of their visit was. Just over half of participants said they were in the town centre after 9pm to go to a restaurant (54%) or to go to a pub (51%). One in ten participants said to go to a takeaway (12%), to go to a nightclub (12%), or to visit friends or family (9%).
- 3.9 Members aged between seventeen and twenty-four were more likely to be in the town centre after 9pm to go to a pub (78%) or a nightclub (41%). Similarly, this age group was most likely to go to a takeaway after 9pm than other age groups. Also, people aged sixty-five years and over were most likely to be in the town centre after 9pm to go to a restaurant (69%).

Table 3.3 Thinking back to the last time you were in Hartle pool town centre during the night time (after 9pm), what was the purpose of your visit?

	%	(No.)
To go to a restaurant	54	(535)
To go to a pub	51	(510)
To go to takeaway	12	(123)
To go to a nightclub	12	(122)
To visit friends / family	9	(89)
To go to work	5	(50)
To go to the bingo	4	(41)
(N=1200)		

Amenities in Hartlepool Town Centre

3.10 Viewpoint members were then asked how they felt about the number of amenities located in Hartlepool town centre. Viewpoint members felt there were too many pubs/bars and takeaways in Hartlepool town centre, and too few public toilets. Members felt the number of restaurants in the town centre was about right.

Restaurants

3.11 Three quarters (77%) of participants felt that the number of restaurants in the town centre was about right, however one fifth (18%) felt there were too few restaurants. There were no difference in the different demographic groups.

Too many
 About right
 Too few
 5 per cent (57 respondents)
 77 per cent (829 respondents)
 18 per cent (192 respondents)

Pubs/bars

- 3.12 Two thirds of respondents felt there were too many pubs and bars in Hartlepool town centre, and a third felt the number was about right. Only one per cent of participants felt there were too few pubs and bars.
- 3.13 When looking at the detailed results, what can be seen is that the older population were most likely to think there were too many pubs and clubs in the town centre. Nine out of ten (91%) respondents aged sixty-five years and older felt this, compared to three out of ten (30%) seventeen to twenty-four year olds. People aged between seventeen and forty-four were most likely to say that the number of pubs and clubs was about right.

Too many
About right
Too few
66 per cent (735 respondents)
33 per cent (374 respondents)
1 per cent (12 respondents)

Takeaways

Just over half (55%) of participants felt that there were too many takeaways in Hartlepool town centre, and just under half (45%) felt the number was about right. Only five people said there were too few takeaways. Women were more likely to think there were too many takeaways (60%) compared to men (49%).

Too many
 About right
 Too few
 Too few
 Too few
 55 per cent (543 respondents)
 45 per cent (449 respondents)
 1 per cent (5 respondents)

Nightclubs

- 3.15 When participants were asked what they thought of the number of nightclubs in Hartlepool town centre, views were split with forty-six per cent saying there were too many and forty-five per cent saying the number was about right. One in twelve people (8%) said there were too few nightclubs in Hartlepool town centre.
- 3.16 Again, there appears to be a difference of opinion between the age groups. The majority of people from the older age groups feel there are too many nightclubs in the town centre (87% of 65 year olds and over, compared to 22% for 17 24 year olds). Also, a third of people (36%) aged between seventeen and twenty-four felt there were too few nightclubs.

Too many
 About right
 Too few
 46 per cent (462 respondents)
 45 per cent (451 respondents)
 8 per cent (82 respondents)

Public Toilets

3.17 Nine out of ten participants felt there were too few public toilets in Hartlepool town centre. One in ten felt the number was about right, and nine people felt there were too many public toilets.

Too many
 About right
 Too few
 Too few
 I per cent (9 respondents)
 9 per cent (90 respondents)
 91 per cent (947 respondents)

Problems in Hartlepool Town Centre

- 3.18 Viewpoint members were presented with a list of issues and asked to identify how much of a problem they thought they were in Hartlepool town centre after 9pm due to pub or club activity. Participants were also asked whether they thought these problems had improved or got worse over the past twelve months.
- 3.19 Overall, Viewpoint members indicated that they thought rubbish or litter lying around, people using or dealing drugs, and people urinating or vomiting in public places is a very big problem or fairly big problem in Hartlepool town centre due to pub / club activity after 9pm. Full results can be seen in Appendix 2.
- 3.20 Viewpoint members were most likely to think that rubbish or litter lying around, people using or dealing drugs, and rowdiness or fighting in the streets has got worse over the past twelve months.

Noise from local pubs / clubs

3.21 When asked how much of a problem they thought noise from local pubs or clubs was, responses were split, with just over half (53%) saying it was a problem, and just under half (47%) saying it was not a problem. Women were more likely to think that noise from local pubs and clubs is a problem (59%) compared to men (47%).

A very big problem
 A fairly big problem
 Not a very big problem
 Not a problem at all
 18 per cent (172 respondents)
 35 per cent (322 respondents)
 40 per cent (375 respondents)
 7 per cent (65 respondents)

4.23 Eight out of ten panel members thought this problem had remained the same over the past year, and fifteen per cent felt that it had got worse. People who lived in Central Hartlepool were more likely to think that noise from local pubs and clubs had got worse over the past twelve months (16%), compared to people living in South or North areas of Hartlepool (13% and 15% respectively).

Improved - 5 per cent (34 respondents)
 Got worse - 15 per cent (107 respondents)
 Remained the same - 81 per cent (596 respondents)

Noise from people leaving pubs / clubs

4.24 When asked how much of a problem they thought noise from people leaving pubs or clubs was, responses were varied. People aged sixty-five years and over were more likely to think this is a problem (94%) compared to people aged seventeen to twenty-four (57%). Also women were more likely to find this a problem compared to men (75% and 69% respectively).

A very big problem
 A fairly big problem
 Not a very big problem
 Not a problem at all
 30 per cent (284 respondents)
 42 per cent (404 respondents)
 25 per cent (237 respondents)
 4 per cent (65 respondents)

4.25 Three quarters of respondents thought that the level of noise from people leaving pubs and clubs had remained the same over the past twelve months. One in five respondents (22%) felt the level of noise had increased.

Improved - 3 per cent (24 respondents)
 Got worse - 22 per cent (165 respondents)
 Remained the same - 75 per cent (553 respondents)

Rubbish or litter lying around (e.g. takeaways and bottles)

4.26 Over nine out of ten (94%) respondents felt that rubbish or litter lying around was a problem in Hartlepool town centre.

A very big problem
 A fairly big problem
 Not a very big problem
 Not a problem at all
 56 per cent (627 respondents)
 38 per cent (419 respondents)
 5 per cent (58 respondents)
 1 per cent (7 respondents)

4.27 Two out of five people felt that this issue had got worse over the year, and just over half of respondents felt the problem had remained the same. People living in Central Hartlepool were more likely to think this problem had got worse (44%) compared to people living in South (41%) or North (39%) areas of Hartlepool.

Improved - 6 per cent (54 respondents)
 Got worse - 41 per cent (373 respondents)
 Remained the same - 53 per cent (476 respondents)

Vandalism, graffiti or damage to property

4.28 Three quarters (77%) of participants felt that vandalism, graffiti or damage to property was a problem in Hartlepool town centre after 9pm. People aged sixty-five years and over were most likely to think this was a problem (92%).

A very big problem
 A fairly big problem
 Not a very big problem
 Not a problem at all
 39 per cent (396 respondents)
 38 per cent (387 respondents)
 22 per cent (222 respondents)
 1 per cent (12 respondents)

4.29 A quarter of participants felt that vandalism, graffiti or damage to property has got worse over the past twelve months. People living in the South areas of Hartlepool were more likely to say this has got worse (29%) compared to people living in Central (25%) or North (24%) areas of Hartlepool.

Improved - 7 per cent (57 respondents)
 Got worse - 26 per cent (208 respondents)
 Remained the same - 67 per cent (542 respondents)

People using or dealing drugs

4.30 Nine out of ten (88%) Viewpoint members felt that people using or dealing drugs was a problem in Hartlepool town centre after 9pm due to pub and club activity. People aged over sixty-five years of age were more likely to think this was a problem (97%) compared to people aged seventeen to twenty-four (80%).

A very big problem A fairly big problem Not a very big problem 12 per cent (499 respondents)
 12 per cent (110 respondents)

• Not a problem at all - **Less than 1 per cent** (3 respondents)

APPENDIX A

4.31 Half of respondents felt that people using or dealing drugs in the town centre at night had got worse over the past year, and just under half of respondents felt it had remained the same. People who had children aged under eighteen years in their household were more likely to think that the problem had got worse (57%) compared to people who did not have children in their household (46%).

Improved - 4 per cent (28 respondents)
 Got worse - 50 per cent (353 respondents)
 Remained the same - 46 per cent (322 respondents)

People urinating or vomiting in public places

4.32 Eighty-six per cent of Viewpoint respondents felt that people urinating or vomiting in public places was a problem.

A very big problem
 A fairly big problem
 Not a very big problem
 Tespondents
 45 per cent (456 respondents)
 41 per cent (411 respondents)
 14 per cent (144 respondents)

• Not a problem at all - **Less than 1 per cent** (3 respondents)

4.33 Two thirds of respondents felt that this problem has remained the same over the past twelve months. A third felt that the problem had got worse. People living in South Hartlepool were more likely to think this problem has got worse (40%) compared to people living in Central (26%) or North (33%) areas of Hartlepool.

Improved - 4 per cent (29 respondents)
 Got worse - 32 per cent (256 respondents)
 Remained the same - 64 per cent (504 respondents)

Town centre feeling threatening or unsafe

4.34 Three quarters of participants said that they thought the town centre felt threatening or unsafe. People aged sixty-five years and over were more likely to think this was a problem (88%) compared to members from other age groups.

A very big problem
 A fairly big problem
 Not a very big problem
 Not a problem at all
 38 per cent (383 respondents)
 36 per cent (363 respondents)
 23 per cent (229 respondents)
 4 per cent (44 respondents)

4.35 Two thirds of participants felt that this problem had remained the same over the past 12 months, and a third felt that the problem had got worse. Three quarters (77%) of people of non-white ethnic origin felt that this problem had got worse over the past year compared to a third (33%) of people of white ethnic origin. Also, over half (51%) of sick or disabled Viewpoint members felt this issue had got worse over the past year.

Improved - 3 per cent (27 respondents)
 Got worse - 33 per cent (266 respondents)
 Remained the same - 63 per cent (508 respondents)

Rowdiness or fighting in the streets

4.36 Over eight out of ten (84%) Viewpoint members felt that rowdiness or fighting in the street was a problem in Hartlepool town centre. People from the North areas of Hartlepool were more likely to think this (90%) than people living in Central (80%) or South (82%) areas of Hartlepool.

A very big problem - 44 per cent (439 respondents)
 A fairly big problem - 40 per cent (407 respondents)
 Not a very big problem - 16 per cent (162 respondents)

• Not a problem at all - **Less than 1 per cent** (3 respondents)

4.37 Over two in five people felt this problem has got worse over the past twelve months, and over half said the problem has remained the same. Again, Viewpoint members who identified themselves as having a disability were more most likely to think this problem had got worse (52%).

Improved - 4 per cent (32 respondents)
 Got worse - 42 per cent (332 respondents
 Remained the same - 55 per cent (437 respondents)

Experiencing These Problems in Hartlepool Town Centre

4.38 Participants were then asked whether they had observed or experienced any of the above issues in the town centre after 9pm. Seventy-eight per cent of members said they had observed rubbish or litter lying around. Three out of five (57%) respondents said they observed noise from people leaving pubs and clubs, and just under half (49%) said they observed noise from pubs and clubs (see table 3.4).

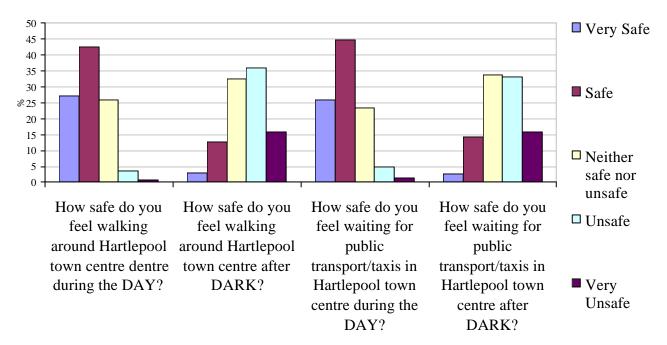
Table 3.4 On your last visit to Hartlepool town centre in the evening (after 9pm), did you experience or observe any of the following?

	%	(No.)
Rubbish or litter lying around	78	(793)
Noise from people leaving pubs / clubs	57	(577)
Noise from local pubs / clubs	49	(503)
Rowdiness / fighting in the streets	43	(437)
People urinating or vomiting in public places	42	(430)
Feeling threatened or unsafe in the town centre	36	(371)
Vandalism, graffiti or damage to property	24	(240)
People using or dealing drugs	20	(201)
None of the above	11	(108)
(N=1200)		

Feeling Safe in Hartlepool Town Centre

- 4.39 The next set of questions wanted to find out how safe people felt when in the town centre. First of all, participants were asked how safe they felt when walking around Hartlepool town centre during the day. As expected, seven out of ten (70%) participants said they felt either safe or very safe when walking around Hartlepool town centre during the day. When looking at the detailed results, members who are sick or disabled were least likely to say they felt safe in the town centre during the day (51%).
- 4.40 Participants were then asked how safe they felt walking around Hartlepool town centre after dark. Sixteen per cent of respondents said they felt either very safe or safe, a third (33%) said they neither safe nor unsafe, and over half (52%) said they felt either unsafe or very unsafe. Men were more likely to say they felt safe or very safe in the town centre at night (23%) than women (9%). Also seventy-one per cent of people aged sixty-five and over said they felt unsafe, compared to fifty per cent of people aged between seventeen and twenty-four.
- 4.41 The next two questions wanted to find out if people felt unsafe while waiting for public transport or taxis either in the day or at night. When asked how safe they felt waiting during the day, the majority of respondents (71%) said they felt either safe or very safe. A quarter (23%) said they felt neither safe nor unsafe, and only six per cent said they felt either unsafe or very unsafe.
- 4.42 When looking at how safe people felt when waiting for public transport after dark, seventeen per cent said they felt either very safe or safe. A third of respondents (34%) said they felt neither safe nor unsafe, and just under half (49%) said they felt either unsafe or very unsafe. Women were more likely to feel unsafe (56%) than men (42%) as were people who are sick or disabled (64%) or retired (64%).

Figure 4.1 Questions 22 – 25: How safe participants feel in Hartlepool



Reducing Problems Related to Late Night Activities

4.43 Participants were then asked what measures they thought would be helpful in reducing problems related to evening or late night activities. Overall, participants felt that less alcohol served to people already drunk and more public toilets would be very helpful in reducing problems related to night time activities. People also felt that longer opening hours and more pubs/clubs would not be helpful at all in reducing these problems.

Careful planning of pub/club closing hours

4.44 Seven out of ten participants felt that the careful planning of pub and club hours would be either very or fairly helpful in reducing problems related to evening or late night activities.

Very helpful - 36 per cent (398 respondents)
 Fairly helpful - 33 per cent (367 respondents)
 Not helpful at all - 19 per cent (214 respondents)
 Not sure - 12 per cent (131 respondents)

Longer opening hours

4.45 Only one in five participants thought that longer opening hours would help reduce problems associated with late night activities. Men were more likely to think this would help (25%) than women (15%). The majority of respondents felt that this method would not be helpful at reducing these problems.

Very helpful - 6 per cent (63 respondents)
 Fairly helpful - 14 per cent (141 respondents)
 Not helpful at all - 63 per cent (654 respondents)
 Not sure - 17 per cent (179 respondents)

Shorter opening hours

4.46 Opinions on 'shorter opening hours' as a method to reduce the problems associated with night time activities were mixed. Forty-four per cent thought this would be either very or fairly helpful, and a third of respondents thought it would not be helpful at all. Women were more likely to think this method would be helpful than men (48% and 39% respectively). Similarly, respondents with a disability were more likely to think this is a suitable method (59%) compared to people with no disability (41%).

Very helpful - 20 per cent (63 respondents)
 Fairly helpful - 24 per cent (141 respondents)
 Not helpful at all - 35 per cent (654 respondents)
 Not sure - 21 per cent (179 respondents)

More door staff in pubs/clubs

4.47 Over two thirds of respondents thought that more door staff in pubs and clubs would help reduce the problems associated with late night activities. Again, women were more likely than men to think this would be a good method for reducing such problems (72% and 63% respectively).

Very helpful - 23 per cent (237 respondents)
 Fairly helpful - 45 per cent (474 respondents)
 Not helpful at all - 17 per cent (174 respondents)
 Not sure - 16 per cent (163 respondents)

Less alcohol served to people already drunk

4.48 The majority (95%) of respondents felt that less alcohol served to people who were already drunk would be a helpful measure in reducing problems related to late night activities.

Very helpful - 76 per cent (871 respondents)
 Fairly helpful - 19 per cent (217 respondents)
 Not helpful at all - 3 per cent (31 respondents)
 Not sure - 3 per cent (34 respondents)

Fewer pubs/clubs

4.49 Three out of five Viewpoint members thought that fewer pubs and clubs would be helpful in reducing problems relating to late night activities. A quarter of respondents thought that this measure would not be helpful at all. People living in Central Hartlepool were most likely to think that this measure would be helpful in reducing problems related to evening or late night activities (64%) compared to people living in South (59%) or North (56%) areas of Hartlepool.

Very helpful - 39 per cent (425 respondents)
 Fairly helpful - 21 per cent (231 respondents)
 Not helpful at all - 26 per cent (291 respondents)
 Not sure - 14 per cent (156 respondents)

More pubs/clubs

4.50 Only one in ten people thought that the introduction of more pubs and clubs would be helpful in reducing the problems associated with late night activities. Three quarters of respondents did not think this method would be helpful.

Very helpful - 3 per cent (28 respondents)
 Fairly helpful - 7 per cent (66 respondents)
 Not helpful at all - 73 per cent (738 respondents)
 Not sure - 17 per cent (174 respondents)

More alternative late night activities

4.51 Seven out of ten Viewpoint members thought that more alternative late night activities would be helpful in reducing problems associated with current late night activities.

Very helpful - 33 per cent (358 respondents)
 Fairly helpful - 38 per cent (409 respondents)
 Not helpful at all - 16 per cent (170 respondents)
 Not sure - 14 per cent (153 respondents)

Better street cleaning initiatives

4.52 The majority (84%) of participants felt that better street cleaning initiatives would be a helpful measure. People living in Central Hartlepool were slightly more likely to think this would be helpful (86%) than people living in the South (82%) and the North (84%) parts of Hartlepool.

Very helpful - 41 per cent (451 respondents)
Fairly helpful - 43 per cent (468 respondents)
Not helpful at all - 8 per cent (82 respondents)
Not sure - 8 per cent (92 respondents)

Better public transport / taxi services

4.53 The majority of members thought that better public transport or taxi services would be helpful in reducing problems related to late night activities. Women were more likely to think this measure would be helpful (86%) than men (81%).

Very helpful - 44 per cent (475 respondents)
 Fairly helpful - 40 per cent (429 respondents)
 Not helpful at all - 6 per cent (67 respondents)
 Not sure - 10 per cent (113 respondents)

More public toilets

4.54 Half of Viewpoint members thought that more public toilets would be very helpful in reducing the problems associated with late night actives. People aged sixty-five years and over were ore likely to think this measure would be very helpful (61%) compared to any other age group (38% of 17 – 24 year olds.)

Very helpful - 50 per cent (560 respondents)
 Fairly helpful - 34 per cent (378 respondents)
 Not helpful at all - 7 per cent (76 respondents)
 Not sure - 10 per cent (106 respondents)

4.55 Participants provided some additional comments for measures which may be helpful in reducing problems related to evening or late night activities. Three per cent of participants suggested more police on patrol, and one per cent said to reduce underage drinking.

APPENDIX 1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON RESPONDENTS

Table A1 Age of respondent

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	%	(No.)	%	(No)
17 to 24	12	(139)	6	(45)
25 to 34	16	(196)	12	(91)
35 to 44	20	(237)	18	(132)
45 to 54	17	(209)	20	(148)
55 to 64	14	(165)	18	(137)
65 to 74	12	(146)	18	(135)
75+	9	(108)	8	(63)
No answer	-	-	Less than	(1)
Total	100	(1200)	100	(752)

 Table A2
 Sex of respondent

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	%	(No.)	%	(No)
Female	53	(633)	55	(415)
Male	47	(567)	45	(337)
Total	100	(1200)	100	(752)

APPENDIX A

Table A3 Location of respondent

	Weighted		Unweighte	
	%	(No.)	%	(No)
North	34	(408)	32	(244)
Central	39	(463)	39	(291)
South	27	(329)	29	(217)
Total	100	(1200)	100	(752)

Table A4 Economic activity of respondent

	Weighted Unweigh		ighted	
	%	(No.)	%	(No)
Employed full-time	40	(486)	37	(280)
Employed part-time	9	(111)	9	(69)
Unemployed	3	(38)	3	(20)
Retired	25	(298)	30	(229)
Full-time student	5	(63)	3	(24)
Self employed	4	(48)	4	(30)
Permanently sick or disabled	6	(70)	6	(46)
Other (inc. housewife/husband)	7	(86)	7	(53)
No answer	-	-	Less than	(1)
Total	100	(1200)	100	(752)

Table A5 Car ownership of respondent

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	%	(No.)	%	(No)
One car	56	(673)	59	(445)
Two or more cars	21	(258)	23	(170)
No car	22	(265)	17	(131)
No answer	Less than	(4)	1	(6)
Total	100	(1200)	100	(752)

Table A6 Disability of respondent

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	%	(No.)	%	(No)
Yes – disabled	17	(204)	19	(141)
No – not disabled	82	(984)	80	(602)
No answer	1	(12)	1	(9)
Total	100	(1200)	100	(752)

Table A8 Socio Economic Group of respondent

	Weighted		Unweighted	
	%	(No.)	%	(No)
AB	22	(266)	22	(168)
C1	22	(265)	23	(173)
C2	24	(294)	24	(182)
DE	23	(272)	22	(167)
Don't Know	9	(103)	8	(62)
Total	100	(1200)	100	(752)

Social Group Definitions:

Soci	al group	Occupation of Chief wage earner
A	Upper middle class	Higher managerial, administrative or professional
В	Middle class	Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional
C1	Lower middle class	Intermediate or clerical and junior managerial,
		administrative or professional
C2	Skilled working class	Skilled manual workers
D	Working class	Semi and unskilled manual workers
Е	Those at the lowest	Long term unemployed (6+ months), State pensioners, etc.
	levels of subsistence	with no earnings, Casual workers and those without a
		regular income





Viewpoint Your Views are Important

This latest Viewpoint questionnaire seeks your views on a variety of local issues. It aims to find out what you and others from across the community think about these matters so that we can take your views into account when making decisions that affect your daily life. The questionnaire should only take about 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Within this latest round, the issues covered include:

Recycling Night Time in Hartlepool Town Centre

There are no right or wrong answers to any of the questions; we just want to find out what you think of our services and other important issues that affect your daily lives. If you can't complete a question or feel you don't want to answer a particular question, don't worry, just leave it blank and move on to the next one.

When you have completed the questionnaire please return it to us in the enclosed reply paid envelope, no stamp required, by **22**nd **July 2005**

We will look at what the Viewpoint members say and the Council's response in the next Viewpoint Newsletter, which you receive with your next Viewpoint questionnaire.

All the information you provide is confidential and we will never pass your name or address to any other organisation. What's more, if at any time you wish to leave Viewpoint, for whatever reason, simply let us know.

If you require any further information, need a large print questionnaire or any help filling it in then please contact Lisa Anderson

at

Hartlepool Borough Council Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY Telephone: (direct line) 01429 523584



Recycling

Hartlepool Council is responsible for providing a range of recycling services, including kerbside collection and recycling centres across the town. Currently, Hartlepool residents recycle 19% of their waste, which needs to be increased to 30% by 2010. In order to meet this target the Council is looking at various ways of promoting and improving the recycling service it provides. The Council would like to know what Viewpoint members think of the local recycling service so that they can improve facilities to make it easier for people to recycle and to increase the amount of waste recycled.

If you would like any further information on this topic please contact Clare Scott on (01429) 523829 or via e-mail clare.scott@hartlepool.gov.uk

1. How important is it to recycle the rubbish that households produce? (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY)

Very important	73.4%
Fairly important	21.8%
Not very important	2.6%
Not at all important	-
Don't know	0.7%
No answer	1.5%

2. Which of these statements best describes your attitude to recycling? (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY)

I do not recycle	5.8%
I recycle if it does not require additional effort	27.7%
I recycle even if it requires additional effort	61.7%
Don't know	3.1%
No answer	1.7%

3. Please think about how convenient it is for you personally to recycle your household waste. Would you say it is ... (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY)

Very convenient	17.7%
Fairly convenient	54.6%
Not very convenient	18.9%
Not at all convenient	5.6%
Don't know	1.5%
No answer	1.8%

Viewpoint

4. a)	How would you rate your knowledge of <u>how to recycle</u> on a scale of 1 to 5, where '5' is know a lot and '1' is know nothing? Write in number 1-5 (%) $1 = 1.9$, $2 = 7.3$, $3 = 33.1$, $4 = 30.9$, $5 = 23.5$, no answer = 3.3	Mean Score 3.69
4. b)	How would you rate your knowledge of what happens to items sent for recycling on a scale of 1 to 5, where '5' is know a lot and '1' is know nothing? Write in number 1-5 (%) 1 = 19.9, 2 = 28.9, 3 = 30.6, 4 = 12.1, 5 = 6, no answer = 2.5	Mean Score 2.54
4. c)	How would you rate your knowledge of the range of recycled products available to buy on a scale of 1 to 5, where '5' is know a lot and '1' is know nothing? Write in number 1-5 (%) 1 = 19.6, 2 = 34.4, 3 = 27.8, 4 = 10.4, 5 = 4.6, no answer = 3.1	Mean Score 2.44
5.	Which of these statements best describes how much you recycle? (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY)	
	I do not recycle I recycle sometimes I recycle a lot but not everything that can be recycled I recycle everything that can be recycled Don't know No answer	6% 24.7% 49.1% 18.5% 0.1% 1.6%
6. a)	Which of those recycling convices are provided in view area? (DLE)	
	Which of these recycling services are <u>provided</u> in your area? (PLEA THAT APPLY)	SE TICK ALL
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	14.2% 81.3% 1.9% 55.4% 46.4% 0.9% 4% 1.3%
6. b)	THAT APPLY) Doorstep/kerbside recycling collection of 1 material only Doorstep/kerbside recycling collection of more than 1 material Flats/communal recycling facility Public recycling bank (e.g. supermarket bottle bank) Recycling centre at household waste site ("tip") None of the above Don't know	14.2% 81.3% 1.9% 55.4% 46.4% 0.9% 4% 1.3%

1.6%

No answer

Viewpoint

7. To the best of your knowledge, which of these household items can be recycled in your area? (PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

Paper (e.g. newspapers/ magazines)	94.8%
Card/cardboard (e.g. cereal boxes)	51.9%
Glass (e.g. bottles and jars)	91.6%
Food and drink cans/tins	81.2%
Plastic containers (e.g. drinks bottles)	43.3%
Textiles (e.g. clothing)	49.3%
Food waste for compost	27.3%
Garden waste for compost	47.7%
None of the above	0.5%
Don't know	1.7%
No answer	1.4%

8. When you dispose of the following household items, how often do you recycle them? (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE)

	Every time	Most times	Some- times	Never	No answer
Paper (e.g. newspapers/magazines)	60.7%	14.1%	14.5%	9.1%	1.6%
Card/cardboard (e.g. cereal boxes)	19.1%	12.5%	19.4%	30.6%	18.4%
Glass (e.g. bottles and jars)	54.2%	12.5%	12.6%	15.7%	4.9%
Food and drink cans/tins	42.8%	10.8%	10.6%	25.1%	10.6%
Plastic containers (e.g. drinks bottles)	17.3%	7.3%	9.1%	43.5%	22.8%
Textiles (e.g. clothing)	17.2%	12.6%	19.8%	25.2%	25.2%
Food waste for compost	11.3%	5.2%	7.3%	47.7%	28.5%
Garden waste for compost	21.4%	11.7%	9.7%	36%	21.2%

9. What, if anything, motivates you to recycle? (PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

Reduces amount of rubbish being disposed to landfill/incineration	69.2%
Saves space in my waste bin	39.1%
Good for the environment/saves resources	79.5%
Reduces pollution	51.7%
Good for the economy	44.7%
Good for future generations/children	56.7%
Feel guilty if don't/feel better if I do	37%
Its easy/does not require extra effort	29.7%
None of the above	3.4%
Don't know	3.1%
Other (please specify) 0.7%
No answer	2.2%

Viewpoint

10. Have you seen or heard any advertising and/or promotion about recycling in the last 6 months? (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY)

Yes	81.5%	Go to question	11
No	16.4%	Go to question	12

No answer 2.1%

11. Where did you see or hear the advertising or promotion? (PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

Television	42.1%
National newspaper	27.7%
Local newspaper	60.3%
Magazine	17.4%
Local radio	18.3%
National radio	3.7%
Website	4.4%
Poster on the side of the road	14.6%
Poster in railway/underground stations	1.3%
Local supermarket	15.3%
Leaflet /letter delivered to your home	52.3%
None of the above	0.3%
Don't know	0.4%
Other (please specify)	0.5%
No answer	0.3%
Stickers on the bin	1.1%
Hartbeat	0.7%
In schools	0.5%
On a bus	0.5%

12. Have you seen any of the following recycling characters? (PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

Bag It = 44.1% Box It = 45.7%

Bank It = 32.2% Compost It = 31.4%

= 50.9% = 54.1%

None / No answer = 18.1%

Viewpoint

13.	What, if anything, discourages you from recycling? (PLEASE TICK ALL THAT.			
	Don't know what or how to recycle Can't remember when my kerbside collection is The Council keeps missing my collection	6.7% 12.3% 6.4%		
	I no longer have a blue box or blue bag for kerbside collection It costs the Council too much money to collect and dispose of recycled materials There are no environmental benefits to recycling No benefit to me	16.6% 3.1% 0.4% 2.5%		
	It takes too much time and effort to recycle I can't be bothered to recycle No particular reason, I just don't recycle	8.4% 1.9% 3.8%		
	Don't know Other (please specify) No answer	3.4% 2.5% 48.5%		
	Lack of space Don't get own bin/box back Don't collect other items	4.2% 1.7% 1.2%		
	Age, poor health, disability Unhygenic Leads to crime, people know when you are not in No kerbside collection available	0.9% 0.7% 0.5% 0.5%		
14.	Don't produce enough to recycle What, if anything would encourage you to recycle more? (PLEASE TICK ALL THAT	0.5%		
	- VIIAL II AUVUIIIIU WOUIU EUCOUIAUE VOILIOTELVUIETIIUTE CIELEAGE TIUK ALLIUPAL			
		•		
	If it was made easier for me to recycle	40.9%		
	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection	40.9% 46.1%		
	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks)	40.9% 46.1% 14.6%		
171	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks) Recycling facilities at the household waste recycling centre (e.g. Burn Road)	40.9% 46.1% 14.6% 8.6%		
	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks) Recycling facilities at the household waste recycling centre (e.g. Burn Road) More information about how and what to recycle	40.9% 46.1% 14.6% 8.6% 35.3%		
	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks) Recycling facilities at the household waste recycling centre (e.g. Burn Road) More information about how and what to recycle Better information about the benefits of recycling	40.9% 46.1% 14.6% 8.6% 35.3% 22.7%		
	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks) Recycling facilities at the household waste recycling centre (e.g. Burn Road) More information about how and what to recycle	40.9% 46.1% 14.6% 8.6% 35.3%		
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	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks) Recycling facilities at the household waste recycling centre (e.g. Burn Road) More information about how and what to recycle Better information about the benefits of recycling Information about what happens to recycled materials If there was a charge for producing too much waste (e.g. charge for extra/larger refuse bins) If I was paid to recycle (e.g. cash for recycled material) Nothing could encourage me to recycle more	40.9% 46.1% 14.6% 8.6% 35.3% 22.7% 29.7% 8.6% 22.3% 1.3%		
	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks) Recycling facilities at the household waste recycling centre (e.g. Burn Road) More information about how and what to recycle Better information about the benefits of recycling Information about what happens to recycled materials If there was a charge for producing too much waste (e.g. charge for extra/larger refuse bins) If I was paid to recycle (e.g. cash for recycled material) Nothing could encourage me to recycle more I already recycle as much as I can Don't know Other (please specify	40.9% 46.1% 14.6% 8.6% 35.3% 22.7% 29.7% 8.6% 22.3% 1.3% 27.9% 2.5% 2.2%		
	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks) Recycling facilities at the household waste recycling centre (e.g. Burn Road) More information about how and what to recycle Better information about the benefits of recycling Information about what happens to recycled materials If there was a charge for producing too much waste (e.g. charge for extra/larger refuse bins) If I was paid to recycle (e.g. cash for recycled material) Nothing could encourage me to recycle more I already recycle as much as I can Don't know Other (please specify) No answer	40.9% 46.1% 14.6% 8.6% 35.3% 22.7% 29.7% 8.6% 22.3% 1.3% 27.9% 2.5% 2.2% 5.2%		
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	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks) Recycling facilities at the household waste recycling centre (e.g. Burn Road) More information about how and what to recycle Better information about the benefits of recycling Information about what happens to recycled materials If there was a charge for producing too much waste (e.g. charge for extra/larger refuse bins) If I was paid to recycle (e.g. cash for recycled material) Nothing could encourage me to recycle more I already recycle as much as I can Don't know Other (please specify) No answer More collections/more regular collections Provide better containers	40.9% 46.1% 14.6% 8.6% 35.3% 22.7% 29.7% 8.6% 22.3% 1.3% 27.9% 2.5% 2.2% 5.2% 0.7% 1.3%		
	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks) Recycling facilities at the household waste recycling centre (e.g. Burn Road) More information about how and what to recycle Better information about the benefits of recycling Information about what happens to recycled materials If there was a charge for producing too much waste (e.g. charge for extra/larger refuse bins) If I was paid to recycle (e.g. cash for recycled material) Nothing could encourage me to recycle more I already recycle as much as I can Don't know Other (please specify) No answer More collections/more regular collections Provide better containers If own box/bin was returned	40.9% 46.1% 14.6% 8.6% 35.3% 22.7% 29.7% 8.6% 22.3% 1.3% 27.9% 2.5% 2.2% 5.2% 0.7% 1.3% 0.6%		
	If it was made easier for me to recycle Improved doorstep collection Better or new communal recycling facilities (e.g. at supermarkets or car parks) Recycling facilities at the household waste recycling centre (e.g. Burn Road) More information about how and what to recycle Better information about the benefits of recycling Information about what happens to recycled materials If there was a charge for producing too much waste (e.g. charge for extra/larger refuse bins) If I was paid to recycle (e.g. cash for recycled material) Nothing could encourage me to recycle more I already recycle as much as I can Don't know Other (please specify) No answer More collections/more regular collections Provide better containers	40.9% 46.1% 14.6% 8.6% 35.3% 22.7% 29.7% 8.6% 22.3% 1.3% 27.9% 2.5% 2.2% 5.2% 0.7% 1.3%		



Night Time in Hartlepool Town Centre

The Council would like to understand more about how often you use the town centre late at night. The Council would also like to know your views and opinions on how safe you find the town centre at this time. Your responses will help the Council to assess the impact of the changes in alcohol licensing regulations that will come into effect later this year. When we refer to Hartlepool town centre what we mean is the York Road, Victoria Road and Church Street areas.

If you would like any further information on this topic please contact Ian Harrison on (01429) 523349 or via e-mail ian.harrison@hartlepool.gov.uk

15. On average, how often are you in the Hartlepool town centre during the night time (after 9pm)? (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY)

3 or more nights a week	1.8%	GOTO Q17
1-2 nights a week	10.7%	GOTO Q17
1-2 nights a month	20.1%	GOTO Q17
At least once every six months	16.6%	GOTO Q16
At least once a year	8.8%	GOTO Q16
Less than once a year	8.6%	GOTO Q16
Never	31.8%	GOTO Q16
Don't know	1.4%	GOTO Q16
No answer	0.3%	

16. If you never or rarely go out in Hartlepool town centre during the night time (after 9pm), why is this? (PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

There's not enough to do after 9pm in the town centre area	7.5%
There's not enough public transport / taxis	3.2%
I don't feel safe in Hartlepool town centre late at night	32.5%
I prefer to be home from the town centre before 9pm	24.1%
I prefer to do other things with my time/have no reason to go there	74.8%
Don't know	1.7%
Other (please specify)	1.1%
No answer	1.3%
Age/poor health/disability	1.7%
Too many drunks around	0.8%

Viewpoint

17. Thinking back to the last time you were in Hartlepool town centre during the night time (after 9pm), what was the purpose of your visit? (PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY)

To go to a restaurant	44.7%
To go to a pub	42.6%
To go to a takeaway	10.3%
To go to a night-club	10.2%
To go to the bingo	3.4%
To visit friends / family	7.4%
To go to work	4.2%
Can't remember	7.8%
Other (please specify)	1.4%
No answer	9.3%
To pick someone up/wait to get collected	1.5%
Theatre	0.9%
Concert/music event	0.9%
Cinema	0.5%
To attend a club/group meeting	0.5%

18. How do you feel about the number of the following amenities located in Hartlepool town centre? (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE)

	Too many	About right	Too few	Don't know	No answer	
Restaurants	4.7%	69.1%	16%	5.3%	4.9%	
Pubs/bars	61.2%	31.2%	1%	3.5%	3.1%	
Takeaways	45.3%	37.4%	0.5%	9%	7.8%	
Night clubs	38.5%	37.6%	6.8%	11.6%	5.5%	
Public Toilets	0.8%	7.5%	78.9%	9%	3.9%	

Viewpoint

19. To what extent do you think the following issues are a problem in the Hartlepool Town Centre due to pub / club activity after 9pm. (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE)

_,	A very big problem	A fairly big problem	Not a very big problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know	No answer
Noise from local pubs / clubs	14.4%	26.8%	31.2%	5.4%	14.8%	7.4%
Noise from people leaving pubs/clubs	23.7%	33.6%	19.7%	2.9%	13.6%	6.5%
Rubbish or litter lying around (e.g. takeaways and bottles)	52.2%	34.9%	4.9%	0.6%	4%	3.5%
Vandalism, graffiti or damage to property	33%	32.3%	18.5%	1%	9.6%	5.6%
People using or dealing drugs	41.6%	25.3%	9.2%	0.2%	19.1%	4.6%
People urinating or vomiting in public places	38%	34.3%	12%	0.3%	11%	4.5%
Town centre feels threatening or unsafe	31.9%	30.2%	19.1%	3.7%	11.2%	3.8%
Rowdiness or fighting in the streets Other (please specify Don't know/no answer	36.6%	33.9%	13.5%	0.2%	11.4%)	4.4% 1.9% 96.7%
Increase in young people drinking Lack of police Abusive language						0.5% 0.5% 0.5%

20. Over the last 12 months, would you say that these problems have improved, got worse, or remained the same in the Hartlepool Town Centre area during the evenings (after 9pm) (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE)

	Improved	Got worse	Remained the same	Don't know	No answer
Noise from local pubs / clubs	2.8%	8.9%	49.7%	31.8%	6.8%
Noise from people leaving pubs / clubs	2%	13.7%	46.1%	31.3%	6.9%
Rubbish or litter lying around (e.g.					
takeaways and bottles)	4.5%	31.1%	39.7%	19.1%	5.6%
Vandalism, graffiti or damage to property	4.7%	17.3%	45.2%	25%	7.8%
People using or dealing drugs	2.3%	29.4%	26.9%	35.1%	6.3%
People urinating or vomiting in public places	2.4%	21.3%	42%	27.9%	6.4%
Town centre feeling threatening or unsafe	2.3%	22.1%	42.3%	25.9%	7.4%
Rowdiness or fighting in the streets	2.6%	27.7%	36.4%	26.9%	6.4%
Other (please specify)	0.2%	
Don't know/no answer	99.3%				
Lack of police	0.2%				
Increase in young people drinking	0.2%				



Very safe

Neither safe nor unsafe

Safe

Unsafe

Very unsafe Don't know

No answer

21.	On your last visit to Hartlepool town centre in the evening (after 9pm experience or observe any of the following? (PLEASE TICK ALL THAT A	•
	Noise from local pubs / clubs	41.9%
	Noise from people leaving pubs / clubs	48.%
	Rubbish or litter lying around (e.g. takeaways and bottles)	66.1%
	Vandalism, graffiti or damage to property	20%
	People using or dealing drugs	16.7%
	People urinating or vomiting in public places	35.8%
	Feeling threatened or unsafe in the town centre	30.9%
	Rowdiness / fighting in the streets	36.4%
	None of the above	9%
	Other (please specify)	0.9%
	No answer	14.2%
22.	How safe do you feel walking around Hartlepool town centre during (PLEASE TICK <u>ONE</u> BOX ONLY)	the DAY?
	Very safe	26.8%
	Safe	42%
	Neither safe nor unsafe	25.5%
	Unsafe	3.7%
	Very unsafe	0.7%
	Don't know	0.3%
	No answer	1%
23.	How safe do you feel walking around Hartlepool town centre after DAR (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY)	K?
	Very safe	2.4%
	Safe	11.1%
	Neither safe nor unsafe	28.2%
	Unsafe	31.1%
	Very unsafe	13.9%
	Don't know	10.1%
	No answer	3.2%
24.	How safe do you feel waiting for public transport/taxis in Hartlepool tow during the DAY? (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY)	vn centre

4.2% 1.2% 10.3% 2.8%

22.4%

38.8%

20.2%

Viewpoint

25. How safe do you feel waiting for public transport/taxis in Hartlepool town centre after DARK? (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY)

Very safe	2.1%
Safe	11.2%
Neither safe nor unsafe	26.5%
Unsafe	26.2%
Very unsafe	12.6%
Don't know	16.5%
No answer	4.8%

26. How helpful do you think the following measures would be in reducing problems related to evening/late night activities? (PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ON EACH LINE)

	Very helpful	Fairly helpful	Not helpful at all	Not Sure	No answer
Careful planning of pub/club closing hours so people don't all leave at the same time	33.2%	30.6%	17.8%	10.9%	7.5%
Longer opening hours	5.2%	11.8%	54.5%	14.9%	13.6%
Shorter opening hours	17.6%	21.3%	30.9%	18.5%	11.7%
More door staff in pubs/clubs	19.8%	39.5%	14.5%	13.6%	12.6%
Less alcohol served to people already drunk	72.6%	18.1%	2.6%	2.9%	3.9%
Fewer pubs/clubs	35.5%	19.2%	24.2%	13%	8.1%
More pubs/clubs	2.3%	5.5%	61.5%	14.5%	16.1%
More alternative late night activities	29.8%	34.1%	14.2%	12.8%	9.2%
Better street cleaning initiatives	37.6%	39%	6.8%	7.6%	9%
Better public transport / taxi services	39.6%	35.8%	5.6%	9.4%	9.7%
More public toilets	46.6%	31.5%	6.4%	8.8%	6.7%
Other (please specify)	1.3%	
More police on patrol	3.1%				
Reduce underage drinking	0.8%				
Don't know/no answer	95%				

Thank you for completing this round of Viewpoint please return the questionnaire in the post-paid envelope by 22nd July 2005

Viewpoint



CORPORATE STRATEGY HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL Civic Centre

Hartlepool TS24 8AY

Report of: HEAD OF PUBLIC PROTECTION AND HOUSING

Subject: Research into Night-time Economy in Hartlepool

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To advise Members of the outcome of a research project recently carried out examining the night-time economy in Hartlepool.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 16th December 2004 Council resolved that research should commence examining the late night town centre activities in Hartlepool. The project was to be funded through the Community Safety Strategy Officer.
- 2.2 The purpose of the research was to provide a benchmark against which the effects of the Licensing Act 2003 could be measured.
- 2.3 A research consultant was appointed in January 2005.
- 2.4 The project included an analysis of crime and disorder statistics for the town centre area, observation of the drinking circuit, traffic usage and traffic flow, interviews with licensees, a postal questionnaire to 1000 town centre homes and data received through a special Viewpoint survey.
- 2.5 The project report was completed in November 2005 and its results are attached as Appendix I.
- 2.6 The author of the report, Dr Rick Brown, will be available to present a summary of the report to Members and will also be making a presentation to the Safer Hartlepool Partnership's Violence in Town Centre Task Group on 26th January 2006.

3. ISSUES

- 3.1 The research project was intended to provide the Council with an overview of the night time economy before the new Licensing Act 2003 took effect.
- 3.2 The results of the research will be used by the Council to help evaluate whether the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003 has had a positive or negative effect on actual and perceived crime and disorder in the town centre area.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.1 That Members note and comment on the contents of this report and presentation.



4.3 APPENDIX 1

Examination of the Night-Time Economy In Hartlepool Town Centre

November 2005

Rick Brown Amanda Cannings Sian Payne

Executive Summary

Introduction

This report provides a profile of Hartlepool's night-time economy, with a particular focus on its licensing arrangements and how these impact on the town centre. This research was commissioned specifically to assist with the development of a strategy for the management of the Licensing Act 2003.

Methodology

The issues outlined above were addressed by employing a range of methodologies, including:

- ∠ Desk research

- Analysis of crime and disorder obtained from Cleveland Police for the 12 months from April 2004 to March 2005.

Description of Hartlepool's night-time economy infrastructure

It is clear that much has been done to create a night-time economy infrastructure in Hartlepool, with a large number of bars, clubs, restaurants and take-aways being located within a short walking distance of each other. These are centred around Victoria Road and Church Street. However, there would appear to be a lack of some 'end-of-evening' facilities, such as public toilets and public transport.

Usage of Hartlepool's night-time economy infrastructure

The Hartlepool 'Drinking Circuit'

There is a well-defined 'drinking circuit' in the town centre. This circuit was also recognised by licensee's and managers of licensed premises when they were interviewed, and some even referred to themselves as 'early doors' venues. This involves a large number of people starting their evening in the Victoria Road area, before moving on to later closing clubs – both around Victoria Road and on Church Street. Once the clubs have closed, many of the crowd move back towards the Victoria Road area, on their way home and frequent the late night take away establishments on York Road.

It is clear that there is a similar pattern of usage on both Friday and Saturday nights. The number of people present on Church Street grows steadily throughout the evening, peaking around 11pm-midnight. This followed by a steady decline, followed by a sharp increase again at 2pm, which disperses from the area quickly.

There is also a similar pattern on Victoria Road on Friday and Saturday nights. This area is initially busier than Church Street, until about 10pm. At this point, the numbers on Victoria Road decline, reaching a low at about 1am. This is followed by an increase through to 2.30am.

Use of take-away establishments

There are a number of take-away establishments on both Church Street and York Road. On Church Street, the popular take-aways tend to be those that are closest to the Hillcarter Hotel. These seem to be busy from about midnight onwards.



On York Road, the take-aways would particularly appear to be busy after 2pm, when the clubs close. These receive custom directly from those leaving local clubs, such as Bogarts / 42^{nd} Street and also from people returning home from the Church Street area. On the first two weekends observation (in January and May) we observed that music levels from the take-aways on York Road rose when the clubs closed. This encouraged large crowds of people to eat their food either inside the establishment (sitting on the floor / window ledges), or directly outside. On subsequent weekends, this behaviour was not observed with music not being turned up later in the evening.

Use of taxis

Systematic observation of taxi movements was undertaken on one evening – Saturday 14th May – on Church Street. There was found to be a steady turnover of cabs throughout the evening from 10pm onwards, with a spike at around 11pm (coinciding with the closure of some bars in the area and people being dropped off for clubs). However, there was no increase in activity after 2am when there is the large increase in people on the streets. This is likely to reflect the static supply of taxis during a Saturday night being unable to respond to the short term increases in demand.

Consequences for Hartlepool town centre

There were a number of negative consequences for the town centre, resulting from the night-time economy. These included:

- ∠ Litter
- ∠ Noise
- ∠ Public urination
- ∠ Vomiting

Public perception among those living in the area highlighted concern about litter and discarded bottles / cans. Over three quarters had also experienced noise and disturbance from drunks in the last year.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This study has examined what is undoubtedly a thriving night-time economy in Hartlepool town centre. There is a clear drinking circuit that starts in the Victoria Road area, moves on to the Church Street area and then shifts back towards Victoria Road. While most of those participating in this drinking circuit are law abiding and simply out to have a good time, there are still a number of problems that emerge from this activity.

Recommendations

The recommendations made here have been divided into three main categories, relating to those associated with the environment, with the facilities available and with the licensing arrangements.

Environment

Hartlepool town centre would benefit from a number of environmental improvements, that would foster the night-time economy:

Fix street lighting on Church Street. There are currently a number of broken street lamps on Church Street that create a dark environment – especially close to the Lighthouse, which is one of the violence hotspots.



- Cut back trees on Church Street. Trees on Church Street should be pruned in order to allow the available light on the north side of the street to reach ground level.
- Remove brick planters on Church Street. The brick planters on Church Street may provide a degree of natural foliage on the street, but they also provide a place for throwing litter, for being sick into and for urinating. They can also make it difficult to hail a taxi as one cannot easily be seen from the pavement and result in people walking in the street in order to stop a cab.
- Prevent glasses and bottles from leaving pubs and clubs. Many of the glass items that are subsequently smashed are coming from the local pubs and clubs. This is an area that should be more tightly regulated to prevent the amount of broken glass found on the streets.
- Consider late night street cleaning. If the problem of broken glass were to continue, consideration should be given to late night street cleaning of the pavements to clear them of glass and other litter. Ideally this would be around 1am, which is a relatively quiet period, prior to the 2am exodus from local clubs.

Facilities

Hartlepool would benefit from a number of enhanced facilities, including the following:

- Introduce public toilets. There are currently no public toilets in the town centre and this no doubt contributes greatly to the estimated 1,000 public urinations that occur on weekend evenings over the course of a year.
- Increase the number of taxis available. The current level of taxi provision does not match the peaks and troughs in demand over the course of the evening especially when clubs close. Consideration should be given to finding ways to increase the availability of taxis at peak times.

Licensing

Where licensing arrangements are concerned, we would recommend encouraging the use of Church Street as a late night venue, primarily because of the lack of resident population to be annoyed by the noise and rowdiness caused by the night time economy.



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3	Usage of Hartlepool's night-time economy infrastructure	12
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1. Introduction

Introduction

This report provides a profile of Hartlepool's night-time economy, with a particular focus on its licensing arrangements and how these impact on the town centre. This research was commissioned specifically to assist with the development of a strategy for the management of the Licensing Act 2003.

The research set out to investigate a number of issues associated with the night-time economy, including the following:

- The interaction between the various premises found in the area
- outside the new designated area and those within
- The behavioural characteristics of those people enjoying the Town Centre nightlife
- An estimate of the real and perceived benefits and disadvantages of an increase in late night use activities
- trade development in the area.

Methodology

The issues outlined above were addressed by employing a wide range of methodologies. These are each discussed in turn here.

Desk research

A range of documents were gathered as part of the background to the research, including Hartlepool Borough Council's Licensing Policy, details of locations of licensed premises and bus and train timetables

Community Survey

A postal survey was undertaken, targeted at residents living in the town centre area. This involved a sample of 1,004 households in the area. A response rate of 2631 (26%) was received and these were subsequently statistically weighted by age and sex to ensure the responses were representative of the population of the area as a whole.

Street observation

Observation of how people engage with the town centre nightlife was undertaken on four weekends between January and August 2005. These included:

- Friday 28th Saturday 29th January

 Saturday 14th Sunday 15th May

 Friday 29th Saturday 30th July

 Saturday 27th Sunday 28th August

On each of the eight nights, two teams of two researchers were deployed for observation in the town centre. One team observed activity in Church Street, while the other observed in Victoria Road and York Road.

¹ This sample had a sampling error of +/- 5.2%. this means that if 50% of the sample answered in a certain way to a question, you could be sure that the true answer was between 45% and 55% in the population as a whole.



Observation consisted of recording the number of incidents observed on a walk through the area every half an hour. Annex A provides the checklist used for this exercise. Observation was conducted between 8pm and 2.30am.

Interviews with licensees and managers

Nine interviews were conducted with the owners / managers of licensed premises to gain an understanding of their views of the night-time economy and how the changes in the licensing laws may affect this.

Analysis of crime and disorder

Police crime and incident data were obtained from Cleveland Police for the 12 months from April 2004 to March 2005. These data concentrated on incidents occurring in the town centre beat area (see Annex B), which was of particular concern for this research.

Outline of the report

The remainder of this report is divided into four sections:

- Section 2 examines the wider environment and infrastructure in which the night-time economy is located.
- Section 3 examines the way in which the town centre is used by those participating in the night-time economy.
- Section 4 examines the consequences of the night-time economy for the town centre.
- ✓ Section 5 provides a discussion on the issues that have been raised by the research.
- Section 6 provides conclusions and recommendations from the study.



2. Description of Hartlepool's night-time economy infrastructure

Introduction

This section starts with an overall description of Hartlepool and its location in the North East, before moving on to examine features of the night-time economy and its infrastructure.

Description of Hartlepool

Hartlepool is a town with a North Sea port located approximately 13 miles north of Middlesbrough and 20 miles south of Sunderland in the North East of England. It was formerly a major centre of heavy industry, which experienced severe economic hardship during the 1980's.

During the 1990's the town was revived with a series of major investment projects, including the building of a new marina area and the modernisation of the Middleton Grange Shopping Centre. The town remains relatively deprived compared to the national average and is ranked the 14th most deprived local authority (out of 354 local authorities) in England, according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Compared to the national average, Hartlepool has much higher rates of unemployment, households on low incomes and lone parents.

Hartlepool town centre

Hartlepool town centre is located close to the original port area and hosts a number of retail developments, including an indoor shopping centre and a retail park in the marina area to the north of the town centre. The town centre also has a number of large supermarkets, including Asda and Morrisons.

There are two wards that cover this area – Stranton and Grange – which have a combined population of almost 11,000. This area is more deprived than the town as a whole, with higher proportions of lone parents, unemployment and households without a car. Levels of violent crime are higher in Stranton than for Hartlepool as a whole, while both wards have higher levels of burglary and vehicle crime.

The night-time economy in Hartlepool town centre

The night-time economy in the town centre is located predominantly around two streets — Victoria Road and Church Street. These two streets are separated by Stockton Street, which runs north-south through the town centre. Figure 2.1 shows the location of these two streets. The two streets have very different profiles. Victoria Road is located to the West of Stockton Street and consists of a mix of commercial and residential properties. The Middleton Grange Shopping Centre and the Hartlepool Borough Council Offices both face on to Victoria Road. There are many residential properties in the area compromising largely of Victorian terraced properties. Church Street lies to the east of Stockton Street and is close to Hartlepool old town. It also borders the marina area, which includes a new development of houses and apartments. This area is sparsely populated and consists of a mix of commercial units and some housing.

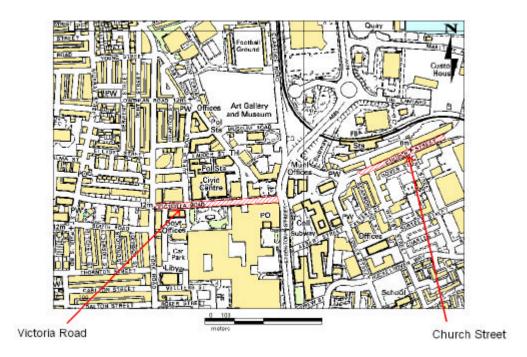
Table 2.1 shows the public perception of amenities that are currently available in Hartlepool town centre². As can be seen, those that responded considered there to be too many pubs, takeaways and nightclubs (62.7% and 52.5% respectively) in Hartlepool, but not enough public toilets (86%).

It is felt that there are the right number of restaurants (72.3%). Responses were quite evenly split between believing there are too few, and about the right number of cinemas (46.7% and 49.1% respectively), and too many and about the right number of Nightclubs (42.7% and 39% respectively).



² Obtained through a targeted questionnaire distributed to 1,004 residents in the Stranton and Grange wards.

Figure 2.1: Locations of Victoria Road and Church Street



Furthermore, 39 people identified other amenities that they felt were over / under represented in Hartlepool town centre. These included the lack of amenities for young people, the lack of other types of entertainment venues, the lack of police officers on the streets, and a need for more litter bins throughout the town centre.

Table 2.1: Local residents opinions on the availability of local amenities in Hartlepool town centre

	Too Many	Too Few	About Right	Missing
Restaurants	8.1%	14.3%	72.3%	5.2%
	(20)	(36)	(181)	(13)
Pubs	62.7%	0.9%	33.2%	3.2%
	(157)	(2)	(83)	(8)
Takeaways	52.5%	1.2%	42.5%	3.8%
, i	(131)	(3)	(106)	(10)
Nightclubs	42.7%	12.9%	39.0%	5.4%
	(107)	(32)	(97)	(13)
Cinemas	0%	46.7%	49.1%	4.2%
	(0)	(117)	(123)	(10)
Public Toilets	0%	86.0%	8.2%	5.6%
	(0)	(215)	(21)	(14)

(n=250 weighted sample)

A survey was also carried out by Hartlepool Borough Council using ViewPoint, their own citizens panel drawn from the whole Hartlepool area population. The questions mirrored the targeted questionnaire, although 'cinemas' was not included as an amenity.

The responses mirrored the targeted questionnaire with respondents feeling that there were too many pubs / bars and takeaways (61.2% and 45.3% respectively), about the right number of restaurants (69.1%) and too few public toilets (78.9%). There was again a split between respondents feeling there were too many and about the right number of nightclubs (38.5% and 37.6% respectively).



Licensed premises on Victoria Road

According to information supplied by Hartlepool Borough Council, there are seven licensed premises on Victoria Road (Cactus Jacks, Wesley Nightclub, The Emporium, The Corner House, Yates Wine Lodge, Bar Paris and Loons). Victoria Road is quite short and five of the eight are located next to, or opposite, each other.

There are also a further seven bars and clubs located in the streets immediately adjacent to Victoria Road (these streets include Avenue Road, Lucan Street, South Road and York Road). In addition, there are five take-away establishments located on York Road close to the junction with Victoria Road. There are also two restaurants close to Victoria Road, on York Road.

Licensed premises on Church Street

Church Street is of a similar length to Victoria Road and consists mainly of licensed premises. There are 11 bars and clubs on Church Street. While these run the length of the street, there is a greater clustering of these establishments around the area closer to Whitby Street.

There are a further 12 bars and clubs located nearby in Church Square, Tower Street, Whitby Street and Scarborough Street. In addition, there are 13 restaurants, cafes and take-aways in the immediate vicinity.

Taken together, Victoria Road and Church Street form the focal point for the night-time economy, with 38 bars and clubs located within approximately 800 metres of each other.

Times of licensed premises

As part of the observation exercise, a survey was undertaken of closing times of bars and clubs on Victoria Road and Church Street. This showed a clear pattern, with bars on Victoria Road mainly closing around midnight, although Cactus Jacks closed at 11pm. There were two clubs (Bogarts / 42nd Street and Wesleys) that closed at 2am.

On Church Street, there was a greater mix of closing times, with different bars closing at 11pm, 12pm and 1am. There were also four clubs open until 2am (The New Shades, Lexus, Midnights and The Lighthouse).

Changes to times of licensed premises

During 2005, licensed premises were planning for the introduction of new regulations under the Licensing Act (2003), which were due to come in to force in November 2005. Under this Act, all licensed premises were required to submit an application to the Local Authority Licensing Committee for a new license to sell alcohol. The act also allowed for the extension of licensing hours with the potential for 24 hour drinking. As part of the research, an attempt was made to gauge the likely changes in opening times on Victoria Road and Church Street.

From interviews with nine licensees in Hartlepool town centre, four venues applied to open earlier, with three opting for opening an hour earlier and one two hours earlier – meaning a 9.00am start (the other venues applied for 10.00am or 11.00am opening). Eight venues applied to remain open for longer hours³, but only five showed a desire to remain open more than one hour beyond their current closing time. Of these, only one was looking to significantly change their business, staying open much longer hours.

Three venues that applied for closing times over two hours later than already in place were chain pubs, and as such changes were being made at a regional or national level. The final venue applying for these longer hours stated that although they were being applied for, it was

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³ The licensee at one of the premises was uncertain what hours had been applied for as the process had been carried out centrally.

unlikely they would be utilised all the time. It was more the case that the hours would be there if required, meaning special events could be catered for.

Two venues that applied for more than two hours to be added to their closing times only applied for these on Friday and Saturday nights. Three of the venues applied for the changes to be valid seven days a week.

Those venues that have applied for longer hours indicated no inclination at the current time to apply for longer hours, although some reserved comment and stated that it was unlikely, but that they would have to see what happened. It was recognised generally that "there is a time to close", and that limitations existed for their business to open much longer.

Transport infrastructure

Where public transport is concerned, Hartlepool town centre is served by both bus and rail services. Where buses are concerned, Figure 2.2 shows the number of buses departing from Victoria Road and Church Street during the course of an evening⁴.

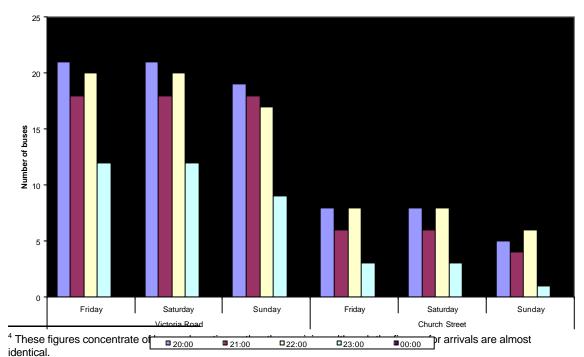
This shows that the number of buses available declines during the course of the evening. By 11pm, there are half the number of buses that were available at 8pm. The bus services finish before midnight, which coincides with the first major pub closing time.

Where trains are concerned, there is one departure from 8-9pm and one from 9-10pm on Friday and Saturday nights. These two departures also go in opposite directions (one heading to Newcastle and the other to Middlesbrough). On Sunday night, there is just one departure (between 8pm and 9pm), which heads towards Newcastle.

Where taxis are concerned, the town would appear to be well served by Hackney Carriages, which are easy to identify in a bright yellow livery. There are numerous taxi ranks located in the two streets. The use of taxis is explored in more detail in Section 3.

This analysis suggests there are just three primary modes of transport available to individuals participating in the town centre night-time economy – walking, driving or taxi. Observation of the area suggested that all three methods were well used.

Figure 2.2: Number of buses departing per hour from Victoria Road and Church Street on Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings



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Public toilets

At the start of the fieldwork for this research, there were public toilets open 24 hours a day located between Church Street and Victoria Road. These were located in the underpass beneath Stockton Street. However, as far as we are aware, these toilets were little used. During the course of the fieldwork, the opening hours of these toilets were changed, with closure at 7pm each evening. This meant that, as far as we are aware, there were no longer any public toilets within the vicinity of Church Street / Victoria Road⁵. Those which were available were in semi-private spaces, such as in the shopping centre and in pubs and clubs. Once these places closed (which coincided with large numbers of people on the streets who had consumed large quantities of liquid), there were no toilets available.

Street lighting

There were some areas of Church Street / Victoria Road that were noted to be missing street lights, or had broken street lights, making them very dark at night. On the first three weekends, the alley between Lucan Street and Victoria Road was noted to be dark. On the August weekend, it was noted that the alley was now lit. However, it should be noted that Lucan Street in general is poorly lit, especially in comparison to York Road and Avenue Road.

On Church Street, it was noted that nine street lamps outside of the Lighthouse nightclub were not working. When added to the overgrown trees in this area, it created a dark area in this location.

Summing up the night time economy infrastructure

It is clear that much has been done to create a night time economy infrastructure in Hartlepool, with a large number of bars, clubs, restaurants and take-aways being located within a short walking distance of each other. However, there would appear to be a lack of some 'end-of-evening' facilities, such as public toilets and public transport.



⁵ This was an issue noted personally by all the fieldworkers!

3. Usage of Hartlepool's night-time economy infrastructure

Introduction

This section looks specifically at how the night-time economy infrastructure is used by people frequenting Hartlepool town centre. This focuses particularly on the way in which people move from one drinking establishment to another. It also examines people's use of other facilities in this area, such as use of take-aways and taxis.

The Hartlepool 'Drinking Circuit'

From our early discussions with the Hartlepool Borough Council Principal Licensing Officer and from our observation work, it became clear that there is a well-defined 'drinking circuit' in the town centre. This circuit was also recognised by licensee's and managers of licensed premises when they were interviewed, and some even referred to themselves as 'early doors' venues. This involves a large number of people starting their evening in the Victoria Road area, before moving on to later closing clubs – both around Victoria Road and on Church Street. Once the clubs have closed, many of the crowd move back towards the Victoria Road area, on their way home and frequent the late night take away establishments on York Road. The following pages analyse this drinking circuit in more detail.

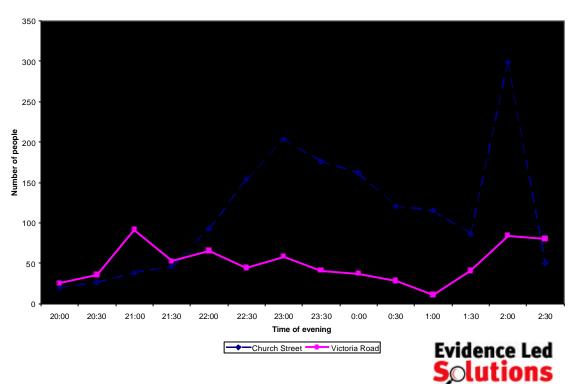
Number of people over the course of an evening

The observation work undertaken on Victoria Road and Church Street identified the number of people on the street every half an hour. This does not take account of the number of people that were in the bars and clubs at those times – merely those walking on the street – usually between bars. As such, the following analysis describes the points at which there are high and low numbers of people on the streets, rather than providing an accurate assessment of the number of people frequenting the area. The following analysis examines Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights in turn.

Friday nights

Figure 3.1 shows the results of the observation on two Friday nights, with the mean number of people observed every half an hour shown for the two nights.

Figure 3.1: Average number of people observed on Victoria Road and Church Street each half an hour on two Friday nights



As Figure 3.1 shows, there are initially more people in the Victoria Road area on a Friday night, peaking around 9pm. This conforms to our understanding of the drinking circuit in which Victoria Road is recognised as an earlier drinking location than Church Street. The numbers then drop steadily over the course of the evening, with an average of just 11 people observed at 1am

Church Street shows a different pattern, with initially low numbers, followed by a rapid increase from 10pm onwards, peaking at 11pm. This coincides with the closure of some pubs in Church Street, Whitby Street and Scarborough Street. The number observed on the street then gradually declines, to a new low at 1.30am. This is followed by a steep increase (with a trebling of the numbers) again at 2am when the clubs on Church Street close. It is important to note that the 2am increase is short-lived. By 2.30, the crowds leaving the clubs have dispersed.

Further analysis was undertaken of the gender distribution per hour. Figure 3.2 shows the number of males and females in the town centre during the Friday evenings.

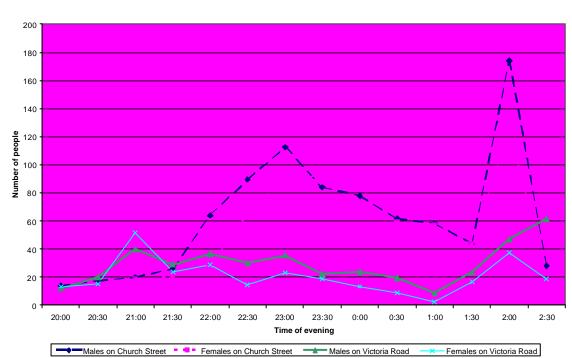


Figure 3.2: Average number of men and women observed on Victoria Road and Church Street each half an hour on two Friday nights

As Figure 3.2 illustrates, there are initially more women around in the Victoria Road area, although this declines so that after 10pm there are more men on the streets than women. There is also a sharp rise in men after 2pm, which suggests they disperse more slowly from the Victoria Road area than women after the closure of the clubs.

In the Church Street area, the number of men on the streets rises more rapidly than women up to 11pm, before falling to a period of equilibrium between 11.30pm and 1.30am. When the clubs close at 2pm, there is a large rise in both genders, although there are 30% more men around than women. Both genders disperse quickly from the Church Street.

Figure 3.3 shows the proportion of men to women over time for the two areas as a whole. This shows that there are fairly even proportions of men and women on the streets, with an increase in the proportion of men at 10pm (coinciding with the rise on Church Street) and an increase in the proportion of men at the end of the evening, peaking at 68% by 2.30am.



80% Proportion of males to females 60% 40% 20% 20:00 20:30 21:00 21:30 22:00 22:30 23:00 23:30 0:00 1:30 2:00 2:30 Time of evening Females

Figure 3.3: Proportion of males to females for each half hour on two Friday nights: Victoria Road and Church Street combined

Saturday nights

Saturday nights are much busier than Friday nights, with approximately twice as many people out. Figure 3.4 shows the patterns of people in Victoria Road and Church Street on Saturday nights. This shows more clearly that Victoria Road is the preferred location until about 10pm. After that time the numbers on Church Street rise sharply, peaking at around midnight, which coincides with the closure of the pubs on Victoria Road. The numbers of people observed in both Church Street and Victoria Road then decline until 1.30am.

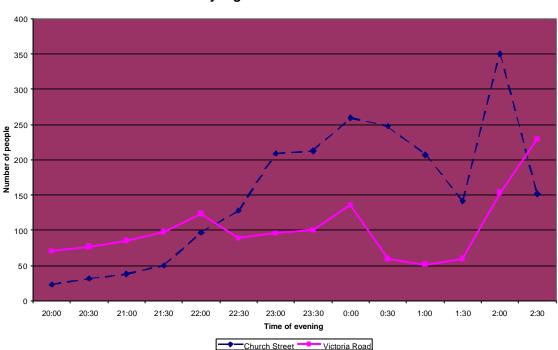


Figure 3.4: Average number of people observed on Victoria Road and Church Street each half an hour on three Saturday nights



The closure of the clubs on both Church Street and Victoria Road coincides with a sharp increase in the number of people on the streets. While these disperse quickly on Church Street, they continue to rise on Victoria Road. This reflects the movement of people back towards Victoria Road on their way home.

Comparing Figure 3.1 with 3.4 it is clear that there is a similar pattern on both Friday and Saturday nights. The number of people present on Church Street grows steadily throughout the evening, peaking around 11pm-midnight. This followed by a steady decline, followed by a sharp increase again at 2pm, which disperses from the area quickly.

There is also a similar pattern on Victoria Road on Friday and Saturday nights. This area is initially busier than Church Street, until about 10pm. At this point, the numbers on Victoria Road decline, reaching a low at about 1am. This is followed by an increase through to 2.30am.

Figure 3.5 shows the gender patterns over the course of the evening. This shows that at the start of the evening there are more women than men on Victoria Road. This reverses after 10pm and then reaches a gender equilibrium after midnight. However, after 2pm there are more men around Victoria Road than women.

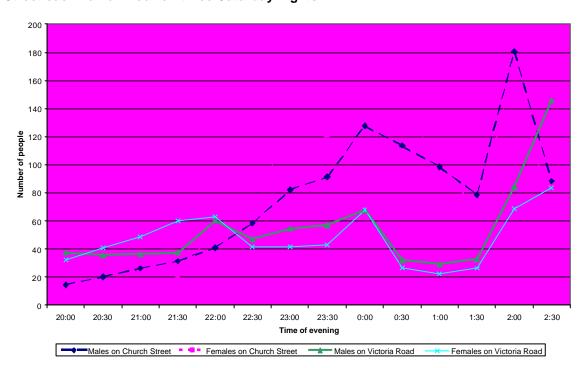


Figure 3.5: Average number of men and women observed on Victoria Road and Church Street each half an hour on three Saturday nights

On Church Street, there are initially more men than women. However, from 10pm to 1am there are consistently more women on Church Street. When the clubs close at 2pm, there are a similar number of men and women, although it would appear that women leave the area quicker than men.

Figure 3.6 shows the overall distribution of men and women in the Church Street / Victoria Road area combined. This shows that there is a relatively equal distribution between men and women throughout the evening, although the proportion of men is slightly higher at the start and at the end of the evening.



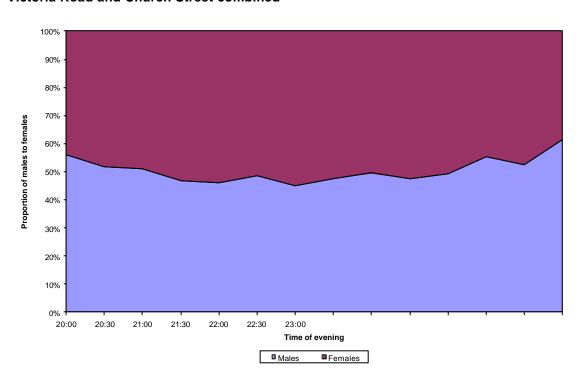


Figure 3.6: Proportion of males to females for each half hour on three Saturday nights: Victoria Road and Church Street combined

Sunday Nights

Sunday nights are much quieter than either Fridays or Saturdays. Analysis was undertaken of one Sunday on which observation occurred. Figure 3.7 shows that there were between 22 and 58 people observed in Victoria Road every half hour. This is much lower than the results presented in Figures 3.1 and 3.4 for Friday and Saturday nights. Church Street shows a steady decline over the course of an evening, from 27 at 9pm to just 2 by 1am. A decision was made to halt the observation at 1am on this evening because of the lack of activity.

Figure 3.7 shows that Victoria Road is busier than Church Street on a Sunday night. This is a reversal of the patterns observed on Friday and Saturday nights. These patterns suggest that there is clearly a drinking circuit that exists in Hartlepool, but that this is confined to Friday and Saturday nights. It does not appear to operate on Sundays, with Victoria Road being the focal point on Sundays.

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⁶ Observation was conducted on a second Sunday but this was on the August bank holiday and is treated separately in this report.

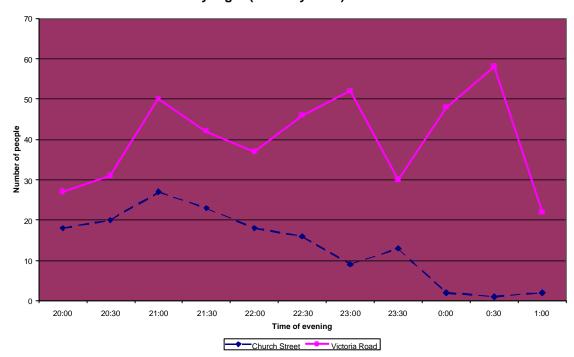


Figure 3.7: Average number of people observed on Victoria Road and Church Street each half an hour on one Sunday night (15th May 2005)

August Bank Holiday Weekend

Observation was undertaken on the Saturday and Sunday nights preceding the August bank holiday Monday. This is treated separately due to the different patterns observed – especially on Sunday night. Figure 3.8 shows that Saturday night followed the characteristic pattern observed on other Saturday nights. Victoria Road was busier until around 10pm, followed by a steady decline until 1am. Church Street witnessed a steady increase, peaking around 11pm, before declining steadily until 1.30am. This was followed by the characteristic 'spike' of people leaving clubs, which disperses from Church Street relatively quickly. This coincides with a rise in the number of people around Victoria Road too.

Sunday night showed a different pattern to that observed on the previous Sunday night in May. As with the previous Sunday night, Victoria Road was much busier than Church Street. However, the pattern of movements on Victoria Road were much more similar to the patterns observed on a typical Friday / Saturday night on Church Street than they were of the previous Sunday night on Victoria Road. Indeed, the volume of people on Victoria Road on Sunday night was also similar to the Saturday night on Church Street. This suggests that those frequenting Victoria Road on the bank holiday Sunday were likely to have been a similar crowd to those present on Saturday night and were simply transferring their typical Saturday activity to a different time (Saturday night) and place (Victoria Road).



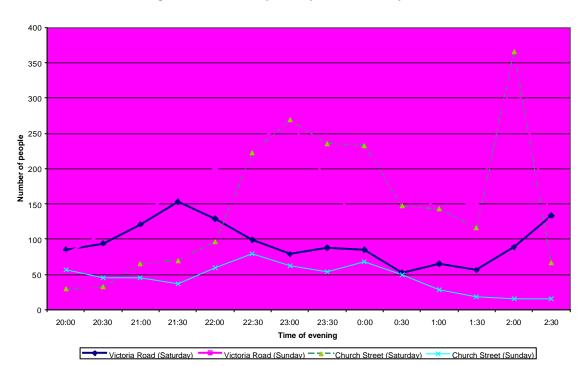


Figure 3.8: Average number of people observed on Victoria Road and Church Street each half an hour on August Bank Holiday Friday and Saturday

Use of take-away establishments

There are a number of take-way establishments on both Church Street and York Road. On Church Street, the popular take-aways tend to be those that are closest to the Hillcarter Hotel. These seem to be busy from about midnight onwards.

On York Road, the take-aways would particularly appear to be busy after 2pm, when the clubs close. These receive custom directly from those leaving local clubs, such as Bogarts / 42^{nd} Street and also from people returning home from the Church Street area. On the first two weekends observation (in January and May) we observed that music levels from the take-aways on York Road rose when the clubs closed. This encouraged large crowds of people to eat their food either inside the establishment (sitting on the floor / window ledges), or directly outside. On subsequent weekends, this behaviour was not observed with music not being turned up later in the evening.

Use of taxis

There would appear to be an abundance of taxis in the area generally. There are numerous taxi ranks in the area, sited along Church Street and Victoria Road. In addition (especially towards the end of the evening) cabs are also flagged down regularly by those leaving pubs and clubs.

Systematic observation of taxi movements was undertaken on one evening – Saturday 14th May – on Church Street. Figure 3.9 shows the frequency with which taxis picked up / dropped off customers in Church Street. There was a steady turnover of cabs throughout the evening from 10pm onwards, with a spike at around 11pm (coinciding with the closure of some bars in the area and people being dropped off for clubs).

It is interesting to note that there was no increase in activity after 2am when there is the large increase in people on the streets. This is likely to reflect the static supply of taxis during a Saturday night being unable to respond to the short term increases in demand.



Figure 3.9: Number of taxis observed picking up / dropping off customers every 30 minutes on Church Street: Saturday 14th May 2005

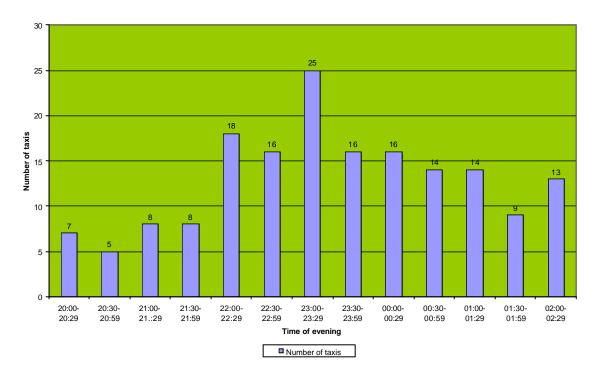


Figure 3.10: Number of people observed being picked up / dropped off every 30 minutes on Church Street: Saturday $14^{\rm th}$ May 2005

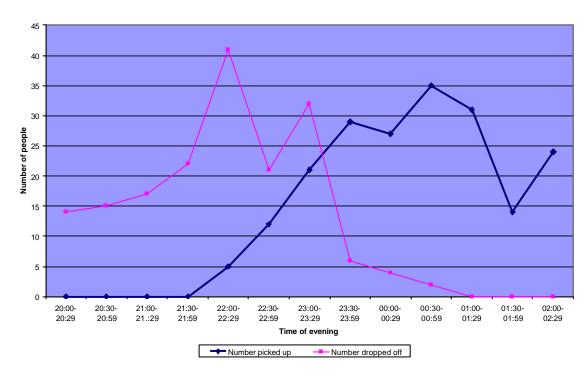


Figure 3.10 shows the patterns in the number of people being picked up and dropped off on a Saturday night. This shows that for the first half of the evening (until 11.29pm) more people arrive in the area than leave. The number of people leaving the area by taxi peaks just before 1am, before declining. The increase at 2am is disproportionately small compared to the increase in people on the streets. These figures suggest that only one in 14 people leaving



the clubs in Church Street at 2am on a Saturday evening catches a taxi on Church Street. This suggests a shortage of supply at this time and may partly explain the migration of people towards Victoria Street, who have either decided to walk or to seek a taxi in that area.

During the observation period, there were numerous examples of people attempting to hail taxis on Church Street, often with little success, although this was often due to the amount of alcohol consumed, as the examples in Box 1 show.

Box 1: Examples of people attempting to hail taxis

In one case we watched as two women attempted to hail every car they saw as a taxi, regardless of whether it was a taxi or not. This process involved stepping out in front of cars with their hand raised as the cars sped down Church Street. On two occasions, cars had to swerve to avoid hitting the two women. After several failed attempts, the women finally managed to stop a vacant taxi.

In a second example, a woman was seen to hail a taxi in the early hours. A taxi stopped and she turned to pick-up another woman (who was very drunk and slumped against the side of New Shades). As she pulled her friend up, the taxi pulled away. She dropped her friend, yelled at the taxi and started to hail another. This happened at least three times before a taxi stopped. In this last instance she got in the taxi – left the door open and another man carried the 'drunk' woman into the taxi.

These examples also raise the fact that, although there are taxi ranks on Church Street, these are not used at the busy peaks as most taxis are hailed down in the street before they reach the taxi ranks. This has the benefit of avoiding conflict at taxi ranks but means that taxi drivers can be more selective in who they take, resulting in some being unable to get a taxi.

Summing up the use of Hartlepool's night time economy

There is a clear drinking circuit that operates in Hartlepool town centre. This generally involves starting the evening around the bars in Victoria Road, before moving on to clubs in Victoria Road and Church Street. At the end of the evening many people migrate from Church Street, back to the Victoria Road area, frequenting the nearby take away outlets as they go. This migration would partly appear to be due to a decision to walk home or to seek a taxi elsewhere in the absence of taxis around Church Street.



4. Consequences for Hartlepool town centre

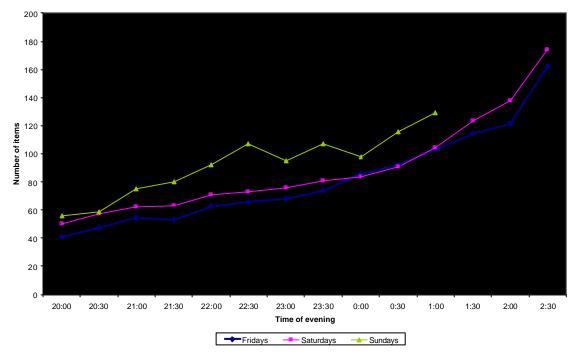
Introduction

So far we have examined the facilities that are available in Hartlepool town centre and how these are used by those that frequent the area at night. There are, however, many negative consequences that arise from the facilities and the way they are used. This section outlines those consequences for the town centre.

Litter on the streets

As part of the observation work, the number of items of take-away related litter were counted every half an hour. This showed a steady increase over the course of a typical evening. All three nights follow a similar trajectory, with a slight increase in the number of items of litter counted from about midnight onwards. On Friday and Saturday evenings, there was also a large increase after 2am, coinciding with the greater use of the take away establishments.

Figure 4.1: Cumulative number of items of take away and other food related rubbish on Victoria Road and Church Street on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights⁷



Alcohol related litter

Analysis was also undertaken of the amount of alcohol related litter observed. This included glasses, bottles and cans that had been discarded. Figure 4.2 shows that there were significant amounts of alcohol related litter on Saturday and Sunday nights, although fewer items were observed on the Sunday night.

The dips in the figures observed towards the end of Saturday and Sunday night was partly due to the collection of bottles and glasses by staff from some establishments. This was, however, rarely observed by the researchers. A more likely explanation was that the glasses and bottles were smashed on the streets, which meant it was no longer possible to count accurately how many were involved. This seldom appeared to have been a malicious act. In most cases, drinkers would leave a bar / club with a glass or bottle and then place it by a wall

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⁷ Figures for Fridays are based on an average over two evenings, Saturdays on an average over three evenings and Sundays on one weekend.

when finished. Another person would later come along and accidentally kickand break the glass item. On some of the evenings, this process resulted in the pavements being awash with broken glass. When the clubs closed, many women were observed to remove shoes (their feet presumably aching from dancing) and walk in bare feet along the pavements that were now covered in glass.

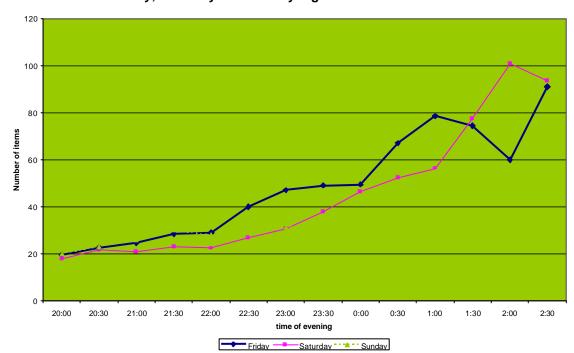


Figure 4.2: Cumulative number of items of alcohol related litter on Victoria Road and Church Street on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights

Noise

While we were unable to measure the level of noise in the areas observed, it was clear that the noise levels rose steadily during the course of the evening. In both Victoria Road and Church Street, the music from many of the bars was clearly audible some distance from the premises and at times it was difficult to work out which bar was playing which music, as it created a general noise on the streets. This obviously quietened as the various clubs and bars closed during the course of the evening.

In addition to the music emanating from licensed premises, the general noise levels of people on the streets also seemed to increase as more alcohol was consumed. This was particularly an issue on Church Street, rather than on Victoria Road. By 2am when the clubs closed, the noise levels were high, although this dissipated quickly as the crowds left. The general impression of the crowd moving through Victoria Road after leaving Church Street was that they were not particularly loud, although this was probably due to people drifting through the area in small groups, rather than as a large crowd.

Public urination

During the course of the eight evenings of observation, public urination was observed on 66 occasions, averaging eight times per evening. All 66 urinations were by men. These figures disguise large differences between evenings, with an average of 12 public urinations per night observed on Saturdays, compared to six on Friday nights and three on Sunday nights. Assuming these figures are representative of a typical weekend, this would suggest that there are in the region of 1,092 public urinations around Church Street and Victoria Road per year.



There was a fairly even distribution between Victoria Road and Church Street, with 36 on Church Street and 30 on Victoria Road. There were a number of 'hot-spot' areas where urination tended to be more common. For example, the brick planters on Church Street provided a natural public convenience. The shade created by the brick planters also meant that people were more obscured from view while they urinated, which meant the side of the street with the planters was more likely to experience men urinating against buildings than the opposite side of the street. In addition, this side of the street was also the more popular side for people to walk along when going to and from the Church Street area. On Victoria Road, the alley beside Loons was a popular location for public urination, aided by the lack of street lighting for much of the observation period.

Box 2 provides a number of examples of public urination that were observed.

Box 2: Examples of public urination

A man was observed to urinate against the door of a flat in the east end of Church Street. This urination would appear to have included the door handle. Later on in the evening, the residents of the flat were seen to return home, using the door handle, unaware of its earlier watering.

While several police officers attended an incident outside the Lighthouse on Church Street, a man decided to urinate against the wall in front of the police officers. He was subsequently arrested and taken away in a police van.

A member of staff from a public house on Victoria Road was observed to urinate against a wall in the car park to the rear of the bar, after emptying bottles into the trade bin.

Vomit

During the course of the eight evenings, 53 incidents of vomit were recorded on the streets, averaging approximately seven per evening. This was more common on Friday nights, with an average of 10 per night, compared to seven per night on Saturdays and three per night on Sundays. Assuming these figures are representative of a typical weekend, this would suggest that there are in the region of 1,040 instances of vomiting around Church Street and Victoria Road per year.

There were more incidents on Church Street (33) than on Victoria Road (20). Box 3 provides three examples of cases that were observed.

Box 3: Examples of vomiting

As a group of five men walked down Church Street, one was seen to be sick into one of the brick planters before quickly catching up with his friends and carrying on his way.

A man was observed to stagger up the road from Lloyds bar and enter a kebab shop on Church Street. He was later seen staggering up the road eating the kebab. On the next round of observation (half an hour later), a kebab was seen spilled all over the pavement and a pile of vomit (looking similar to the kebab) was seen a few feet on!

As the fieldworkers passed one of the bars on Victoria Road, a woman leaned out of an open window and was sick on the pavement outside.



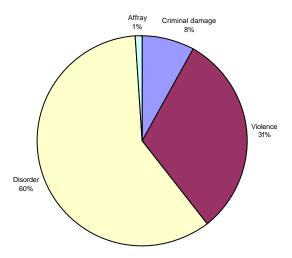
Incidents of crime and disorder in Hartlepool town centre

Data were obtained from Cleveland Police for the period January 2004 – August 2005. These data were for selected crime and disorder incidents *recorded* by the police. This does not take account of *unreported* incidents, or of *unrecorded* incidents, such as when the police intervene in an incident during the routine policing of the night-time economy that are not subsequently recorded by the control room. From the original data, a twelve-month period was selected (recording year April 2004 – March 2005) so that trends and patterns in crime and disorder during the night-time economy in Hartlepool town centre area could be identified. Offence and disorder incidents were selected according to their suitability to the research questions, with data protection issues being recognised and taken into account.

Overall crime and disorder trends¹⁰

During the period examined (April 2004 – March 2005), a total of 1,253 offences of violence, affray, criminal damage and disorder incidents were recorded in the town centre area of Hartlepool. Figure 4.3 shows how this was broken down by incident type.

Figure 4.3 Break down of four offence types in Hartlepool town centre: April 2004 to March 2005.



Disorder incidents make up the majority of all incident types, accounting for almost three quarters of incidents. Violent offences account for almost one third of all incident types, and criminal damage for less than 10%. Affray accounts for only 1% of the offences examined.

Figure 4.4 shows the number of offences broken down by type and month. There is a clear peak period for all offences in October, November and December, when 31% (387) of all offences took place. This is partially mirrored by each offence individually, with violence peaking in October and November (22% of all violence, 85 incidents), disorder in October and December (23% of all disorder, 173 incidents) and criminal damage in November and December (24% of all criminal damage, 26 incidents). Affray peaked in February, with four offences being committed.

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⁸ Annex B shows a map representing the Hartlepool town centre area as defined by Cleveland Police analysts.
⁹ Annex C shows the criteria used by Cleveland Police to identify relevant incidents, developed in consultation with the police analyst covering the Hartlepool town centre area, and with reference to prior research studies (Town Centres Ltd Consultancy, 2001, 'The West End Entertainment Impact Study';

www.westminster.gov.uk/business/businessandstreettradinglicenses/upload/23563_1.pdf).

10 All data is based on **recorded** incidents, that is, all incidents recorded by the police under the Crime Recording Standards 2002. This means that there might be more than one incident recorded at the same time and place if multiple victims/suspects/offences were involved.

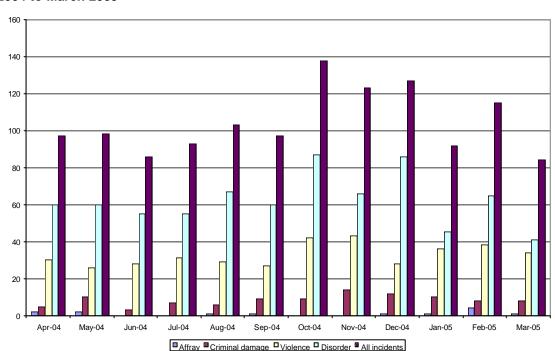
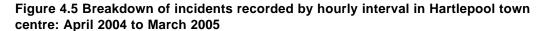
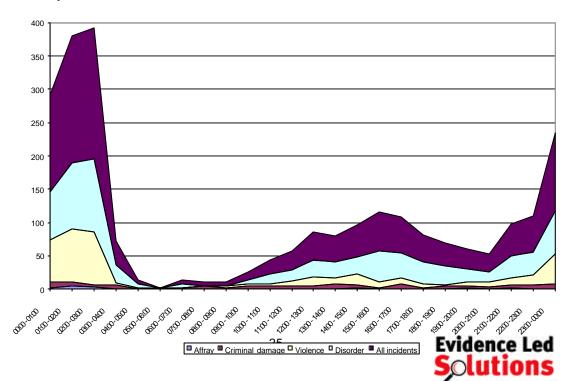


Figure 4.4 Breakdown of incidents recorded by month in Hartlepool town centre: April 2004 to March 2005

The incident data can also be broken down by hourly intervals. That is, every incident recorded in each hour over the whole twelve-month recording period. Figure 4.5 shows a clear peak in all incident types between midnight and 3.00am. Indeed, 42% (532) of all incidents occurred within this time period. The number of incidents then drops off sharply. Indeed, after 3pm instances of the four types of offence examined almost stop completely. The number of incidence then begin to rise gradually from about 9.00am until 8.00pm. After this time, the numbers rise sharply. The three hours from 9.00pm account for a further 18% (221) of all incidents. This means that 60% (753) of all incidents occur between 9.00pm and 3.00am.





This pattern is mirrored in the figures for disorder (55% of all incidents occurring between 9.00pm and 3.00am, a total of 414 disorder incidents), and magnified by the figures for violence, with 74% (292) of incidents occurring between 9.00pm and 3.00am. Criminal damage and affray figures are too low to carry out any meaningful analysis. Figure 4.6 shows that, when split into time periods of 6 hours over the 24-hour period, 9.00pm-3.00am is the period with by far the most incidents recorded.

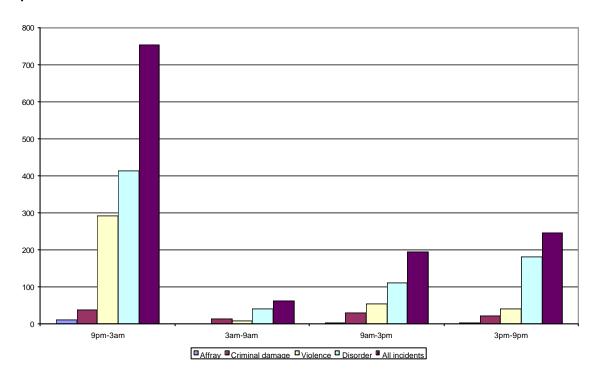


Figure 4.6: Breakdown of incidents in Hartlepool town centre into six-hour time blocks: April 2004 to March 2005

Location of incidents

It is also possible to identify specific licensed premises and takeaway premises where incidents have been located ¹¹. In Figure 4.7, premises with 10 or more incidents have been identified. All other premises where incidents occurred have been classified under 'Other'. Overall, 83% (511) of all incidents examined took place in the named premises, with an average of 27 incidents per premises in the 12-month period, equivalent to 2.3 incidents per premises per month. There were 39 'other locations', with an average of 3 incidents per location over the course of the 12-month analysed.

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¹¹ It should be noted that recording practices for locations do not appear to be consistent. Some are listed at a certain location if it occurred outside of that location. There is also a field that can be marked to indicate that the incident took place at a licensed premises, but again completion of this was incomplete. As such, figures are based on named licensed premises, and are very much dependent on individual recording practices.

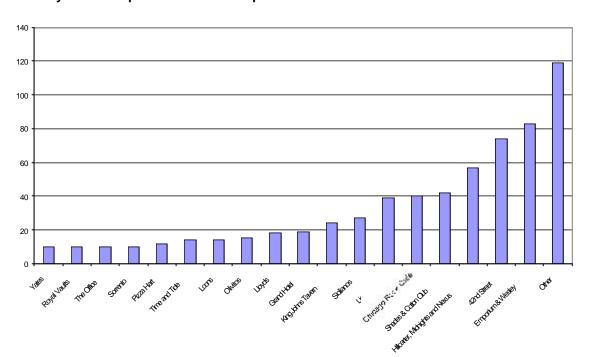


Figure 4.7 Incidents recorded as being in the vicinity¹² of licensed premises and food takeaways in Hartlepool town centre: April 2004 to March 2005

Violent Incidents

In addition to the patterns of overall incidents that have been identified above, more detailed information was available on violent incidents. Given that these were the most serious of the incidents examined, further analysis was undertaken.

Temporal patterns of violent incidents

Previous analysis (highlighted above) has shown that violence peaks in October to December and that the peak time of day is between (9pm and 3am, when 74% of violent incidents occur. Analysis was also undertaken on the day of the week on which such incidents occur. As can be seen from Figure 4.8, there are clear peaks in incidents on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with violence being most prevalent on Saturday and Sunday. It should be noted that any offence occurring after 12.00 midnight on Friday will be recorded as an incident occurring on Saturday, as will all those offences occurring before 12.00 midnight Saturday. Any offence recorded after 12.00 midnight on Saturday will be recorded as an incident occurring on Sunday. This explains the high figure on Sunday, which relates to incidents occurring between midnight and 3am on Sunday morning.

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¹² Incidents do not necessarily involve customers or staff of the named premises. Premises may be identified merely due to their proximity to the incident.

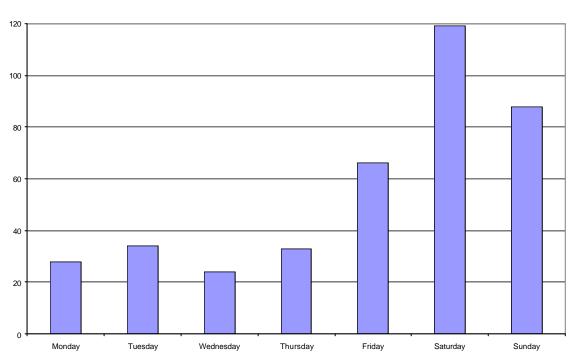


Figure 4.8 Number of violent incidents per day of the week in Hartlepool town centre: April 2004 to March 2005

The high weekend figures for violent incidents accord with the observation undertaken on Victoria Road and Church Street. During the eight days of observation, the police recorded 21 incidents of violence between 8pm and 3am (seven on Friday night / Saturday morning, eight on Saturday night / Sunday morning and six on Sunday night / Monday morning). Box 4 provides examples of some of the incidence of violence observed during this time. However, it should be noted that many of the incidents appeared to start inside pubs and clubs and then 'spill-out' on to the streets when those involved were ejected from the premises.

Box 4: Examples of violence

A fight broke out between a group of people on Victoria Road. Two women were seen to kick a man who was lying on the pavement. Several other men also joined in, kicking and punching. Eventually, the man was dragged away by 'friends'. During this incident door staff from a nearby bar stood and watched and were heard discussing the fight but did not intervene.

A man who was being verbally abusive to police officers resisted arrest and started to punch a police officer. The police officer used his extendable baton a number of times before other officers joined in to restrain the man.

A man was seen to hit a woman on Lucan Street. The woman who was covered in blood was taken away in an ambulance, while the man was arrested by the police and taken away in a police van.

At midnight, a man was seen to leave the New Shades club with a bloodied face and a torn shirt. Two hours later, a fight occurred at the same club to which police were called. Blood was later seen on the pavement outside the club.



Specific locations of violent incidents

Figures 4.9 and 4.10 display violent incidents by location type and specific location. As Figure 4.9 shows, 40% (156) of all incidents were recorded as occurring in a nightclub or pub/bar and 3% (11) in a food takeaway. However, when address information is examined, 61% (239) of all offences are recorded with a licensed premises or a food takeaway as the incident address.

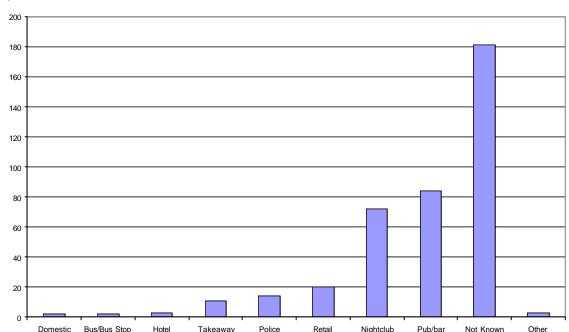


Figure 4.9: Type of location in which violent incidents occur in Hartlepool town centre: April 2004 to March 2005

Figure 4.10 shows the specific premises where incidents occur¹³. As can be seen, ten premises account for 77% (185) of all violent incidents, with an average of 19 incidents per premises. The remaining 54 incidents occurred in 26 locations, an average of two incidents per premises over the twelve-month time period.

Premesis

¹³ As Cleveland Police could only provide sanitised data, due to the Data Protection Act, incidents flagged with a 'Domestic situation' marker have been removed. However, this referred to only 21 incidents out of 603 for the period January 2004 – June 2005.

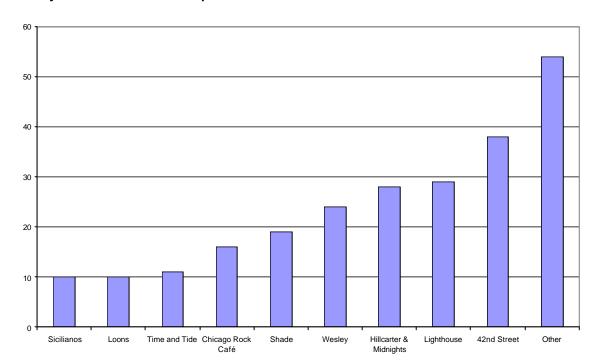


Figure 4.10: 'Top 10' list of establishments in Hartlepool town centre that were in the vicinity of violent incidents: April 2004 to March 2005

Gender of victim and perpetrator of violent incidents

Analysis was undertaken of the victim and perpetrator gender involved in violent incidents. Unfortunately, the gender of the perpetrator was only recorded in 188 (15%) of the 1,253 cases of violence and the victim was recorded in only 301 (24%) of cases. This suggests that caution should be taken in interpreting these results.

Where the perpetrators were concerned, 49 (26%) were female and 139 (74%) were male. Of all victims, 104 (35%) were female and 197 (65%) male. The details of the victim and perpetrator were able to be linked together in 67 cases, as shown in Figure 4.11. This shows that there were 36 (54%) incidents involving at least one male perpetrator on a male victim. There were also 18 (27%) incidents involving at least one female perpetrator on a female victim. In addition, there were 12 (18%) incidents that involved at least one male perpetrator on a female victim. While the majority of incidents involved male on male encounters, the fact that, in this sample, over a quarter involved female on female incidents is an interesting finding, although this could be a function of the low level of recording, rather than true patterns on incidents.



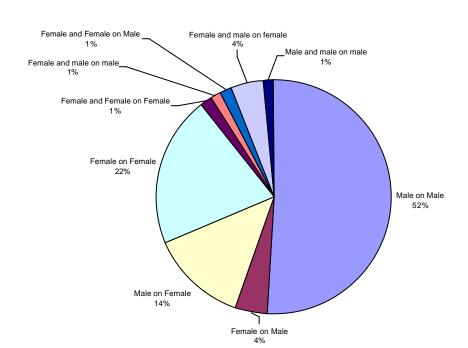


Figure 4.11: Gender victims and perpetrators involved in violent incidents in Hartlepool town centre: April 2004 to March 2005

Public perceptions

Public perceptions were gathered using two methodologies. Firstly, Hartlepool Borough Council's 'Viewpoint' citizens' panel was used to obtain public opinions on the Hartlepool town centre night-time economy. This included a sample of 752 residents from across the entire Hartlepool Borough. Secondly, a questionnaire was distributed to a targeted sample of 1,004 residents in the Stranton and Grange wards, the areas located the closest to the town centre. A 26% response rate was received, which reduced to 25% after statistical weighting. This gave a sample of 263 town centre residents for further analysis.

Those who lived in the town centre were asked to indicate how safe they felt walking around their local area and while in their own homes during the day and after dark. This was used to obtain a general picture of how safe Hartlepool town centre residents feel. Table 4.1 below shows that generally, town centre residents feel much safer during the day than they do after dark, and safer in their own home than walking around the local area. Almost two thirds (63%) of town centre residents stated that they felt 'fairly' or 'very unsafe' walking around their local area (i.e. the town centre) after dark. The Viewpoint survey found that only 45% of people felt 'unsafe' or 'very unsafe' walking around Hartlepool town centre at night¹⁴. This suggests that local residents in the town centre are more concerned about walking around the town centre after dark than are those who live in other parts of Hartlepool.

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¹⁴ It must be recognised that the targeted questionnaire refers to the respondents 'local area' whereas the Viewpoint survey asks about Hartlepool town centre, specifically Church Street, Victoria Road and York Road. The targeted questionnaire was, however, distributed in the town centre wards of Stranton and Grange.

Table 4.1: How safe town centre residents feel walking around their local area and in their own home

	Very	Fairly	Neither Safe	Fairly	Very	Missing
	Safe	Safe	nor Unsafe	unsafe	unsafe	_
Walking in the local area	14.9%	61.8%	14.3%	5.0%	1.5%	2.5%
during the day	(37)	(154)	(36)	(13)	(4)	(6)
Walking in the local area	3.0%	15.3%	15.7%)	37.0%	26.2%	2.9%
after dark	(7)	(38)	(39)	(92)	(65)	(7)
At home during the day	51.8%	34.6%	5.6%	4.2%	1.6%	2.2%
	(129)	(86)	(14)	(11)	(4)	(5)
At home after dark	32.2%	38.7%	8.9%	10.0%	8.2%	2.0%
	(80)	(97)	(22)	(25)	(20)	(5)

(n=250 weighted sample)

Perceived problems in Hartlepool Town Centre

Town centre residents were also asked whether they agreed or disagreed that certain issues were a problem in Hartlepool town centre. Table 4.2 below displays the ranked order of the responses, where 5 indicates the respondent strongly agreed the issue was a problem and 1 indicated that they strongly disagreed. A score of 3 showed that they neither agreed nor disagreed.

As can be seen, the issues that people were most likely to strongly agree with as being problems in Hartlepool town centre involved the visual issues of rubbish and alcohol related rubbish. The other two issues directly related to alcohol and the night-time economy, noise or disturbance by drunks and noise from pubs / clubs were ranked fourth and ninth out of ten respectively. Rowdiness / fighting in the streets was the only issue where residents disagreed that a problem existed in Hartlepool town centre.

Other issues identified by town centre residents included gangs on the streets, taxi cars using their horns late at night, and lack of CCTV.

Table 4.2: Issues that are seen as a problem in Hartlepool town centre by town centre residents: Mean scores of responses

Type of problem	Mean Score among town centre residents	Rank position among town centre residents	Rank position among Hartlepool borough residents (based on Viewpoint)
Rubbish / litter in streets / gardens	4.41	1 st	1 st
Cans / bottles in streets / gardens	4.37	2 nd	1 st
People using / dealing drugs	4.33	3 rd	2 nd
Noise or disturbance by drunks	4.26	4 th	7 th
People being verbally abusive or threatening	4.22	5 th	- ,
Vomit or urine in street / pavement / doorways	4.19	6 th	3 rd
Vandalism / graffiti	4.09	7 th	5 th
Area feeing threatening / unsafe	4.08	8 th	6 th
Noise from pubs / clubs	3.90	9 th	8 th
Rowdiness / fighting in the streets	1.82	10 th	4 th

(n=250 weighted sample)



Table 4.2 also shows the rank ordering of the issues according to Hartlepool Borough residents contacted through the Viewpoint survey ¹⁵. This shows that the top concerns are related to litter in the town centre ¹⁶. Drug use / dealing is also viewed as a significant problem for both groups. Interestingly, the presence of vomit / urine in the town centre is more of a concern for Hartlepool Borough residents than it is for town centre residents.

Table 4.3 shows whether town centre residents felt that the issues featured in Table 4.2 had improved, got worse or remained the same over the past 12 months. As can be seen, people generally felt that the issues had remained the same, although a larger percentage thought that rubbish / litter and cans / bottles in streets / gardens, and people using / dealing in drugs, had got worse. These were considered the top three issues in Hartlepool town centre in Table 4.2.

Table 4.3: Analysis of whether town centre residents feel problems in Hartlepool Town Centre have improved, got worse or remained the same over the last year

Problem	Improved	Got Worse	Remained the same
Noise from pubs / clubs	8.9%	31.5%	59.7%
	(21)	(75)	(141)
Noise or disturbance by drunks	3.8%	44.9%	51.3%
	(9)	(106)	(121)
People being verbally abusive or	2.8%	45.6%	51.5%
threatening	(7)	(105)	(119)
Rubbish / litter in streets / gardens	8.5%	47.1%	44.4%
•	(20)	(114)	(107)
Cans / bottles in streets / gardens	7.4%	47.6%	45.1%
	(18)	(113)	(107)
Vandalism / graffiti	10.8%	31.5%	57.7%
	(25)	(72)	(132)
People using / dealing drugs	3.1%	53.9%	43%
	(7)	(122)	(97)
Vomit or urine in street / pavement /	6.1%	35.8%	58.1%
doorways	(14)	(82)	(134)
Area feeing threatening / unsafe	5.1%	41.2%	53.7%
•	(12)	(97)	(127)
Rowdiness / fighting in the streets	3.3%	44.3%	52.5%
	(8)	(103)	(122)

(n=250 weighted sample)

In the Viewpoint survey, respondents from the wider Hartlepool area also felt that issues in Hartlepool town centre had generally remained the same.

Experience of problems in Hartlepool Town Centre

Town centre residents were asked to indicate all of the issues that they had personally experienced (actually seen or heard) after 9pm during the last 12 months. As can be seen in Table 4.4, 196 respondents, (almost 80%) had experienced noise or disturbance by drunks, followed by rubbish and litter and cans and bottles. Rowdiness / fighting in the streets were experienced by almost two thirds of all residents.

The fewest number of number of town centre residents had seen or heard people using / dealing drugs, although this was *perceived* to be one of the biggest concerns among respondents.

into one questions.

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¹⁵ The rank position only has been shown for respondents in the Viewpoint survey because this questionnaire used a different response format, with a scale from one to four, rather than the five point scale used with town centre residents. This means that actual scores are not comparable, but the relative position of each item is comparable.

¹⁶ There are two 1st positions for the Viewpoint survey because the questioning merged rubbish and bottles / cans

Table 4.4: Number of town centre residents experiencing issues in Hartlepool town centre in the last year

Problem	Number	Percentage
Noise or disturbance by drunks	196	78
Rubbish / litter in streets / gardens	195	78
Cans / bottles in streets / gardens	171	68
Rowdiness / fighting in the streets	163	65
People being verbally abusive or threatening	155	62
Vomit or urine in street / pavement / doorways	153	61
Noise from pubs / clubs	150	60
Vandalism / graffiti	123	49
People using / dealing drugs	114	46
Area feeing threatening / unsafe	114	46

The Viewpoint survey also identified rubbish and noise from people leaving clubs as the two top most experienced incidents.

Possible future measures

Finally, town centre residents were asked how helpful they felt certain measures, if introduced, would be in reducing problems relating to evening / late night activities. Table 4.5 shows that residents felt less alcohol being served to people who are already drunk (79%) and more police out at night (78%) would be the two most helpful measures. More pubs / clubs (81%) and longer opening hours for pubs / clubs (75%) were viewed as not being helpful at all.

Table 4.5: Town centre residents' views on measures to help reduce problems related to evening / late night activities

	Very helpful	Fairly helpful	Not helpful at all	Not sure
More Police out at night	78.1%	16.4%	3.1%	2.4%
	(184)	(39)	(7)	(6)
Longer opening hours for pubs	5.3%	12.4%	74.7%	7.6%
and clubs	(13)	(30)	(179)	(18)
More pubs / clubs	1.5%	6.8%	80.8	10.9
	(3)	(16)	(188)	(25)
Better transport / taxi service	45.9%	33.5%	8.1%	12.4%
	(107)	(78)	(19)	(29)
More door staff in pubs / clubs	37.7%	36%	11.7%	14.5%
	(86)	(83)	(27)	(33)
Less alcohol served to people	79%	9.9%	7.7%	3.4%
already drunk	(190)	(24)	(18)	(8)
Fewer pubs / clubs	53.4%	14.9%	15.8%	15.5%
	(127)	(36)	(38)	(37)

(n=250 weighted sample)

The Viewpoint survey also found that, in the wider Hartlepool population, people felt that less alcohol being served to people already drunk would be the most helpful measure to reduce problems related to evening / late night activities.

Summing up the consequences for Hartlepool town centre

Hartlepool has a well-established 'drinking circuit' that is focused around Victoria Road and Church Street. While this no doubt brings economic benefits to the town centre, it also brings its share of problems. Common problems noted during this research included litter and alcohol related rubbish on the streets, broken glass on the pavements, public urination and



vomiting. More seriously, there was also a significant number of violence and disorder related incidents that escalated during the course of an evening.

From the perspective of the local community, there would appear to be particular concern about the low level problems, such as litter and noise.



5. Discussion

This section provides a discussion on the findings of this research and places them in the context of expected changes in pub / club opening hours in the town centre.

Changes to opening hours

The impact of changes on opening hours is as yet difficult to predict. We understand from the Principal Licensing Officer that a number of establishments on Victoria Road (that previously closed at midnight) have successfully obtained new licenses that allow them to stay open until 4am. By contrast, a popular club on Church Street will continue to be open until 2am. This would appear to change the balance between the early evening character of Victoria Road and the later opening character of Church Street that currently exists.

While some pubs / clubs have already been granted longer opening hours, it is by no means certain that licensees will stay open to their latest possible times on a regular basis. Among the nine licensees interviewed for this research, a number admitted that they were unsure whether they would actually utilise the extended hours, even if they were successful in their application. They stated the only reason they had applied for the changes was because under the new legislation, you had to. It was generally believed that the changes would have very little impact on their own or other local businesses.

Effects of the drinking circuit

While the use of the new opening hours is not certain, it is likely that if it were applied, there could be a significant change to the 'drinking circuit' in Hartlepool town centre. The August Bank Holiday Sunday showed that there was little loyalty in which pubs / clubs are frequented. Indeed, as there was little open on Church Street, the same numbers of customers that usually visited Church Street on a Saturday night were present on a Sunday night in Victoria Road.

Given the fact that the exodus from Victoria Road occurs around closing time and the likely lack of loyalty among customers, it is possible that if pubs / clubs extend their hours on Victoria Road, fewer will drift down to the Church Street area. This in turn could have a number of ramifications. First, it could reduce the number of people that end their evening on Church Street. Second, it could increase the numbers around Victoria Road. This could prove to be problematic from the perspective of local residents. While the Church Street area has a very low resident population, there are many more living in the vicinity of Victoria Road. This could result in an increase in concern among residents about noise, litter and rowdiness resulting from the increased use of Victoria Road pubs and clubs.

Use of Church Street

From the observation work on Church Street and from the resident survey it is clear (as noted above) that there is a relatively small resident population that lives in the direct vicinity of Church Street. This means that, while many of the problems that occur on Church Street are more frequent than on Victoria Road, they directly affect fewer people in the local area. This suggests there would be merit in encouraging more people, rather than fewer, to end their evening in the Church Street area.

There are generally three reasons why people appear to drift from Church Street to Victoria Road at the end of an evening:

- People decide to walk home at the end of the evening and pass through Victoria Road



This suggests that if more take-aways were located in the Church Street area, or taxis were known to be available at the east end of Church Street, there may be fewer individuals that move back towards Victoria Road.

Effects of changes in licensing hours on crime and disorder

There are a number of possible effects that may result from extending licensing hours for pubs and clubs:

- 1. If pubs / clubs stagger their closing time, their could be fewer incidents because there are no longer large numbers of drunk and aggressive people on the streets at the same time. However, this ignores the fact that pubs / clubs themselves will be full of drunk and potentially aggressive people and that many incidents start inside licensed premises, before spilling outside. Furthermore, incidents that do occur, could be spread over a longer period of time (e.g. midnight until 5am, rather than the existing midnight until 3am), which in turn could stretch police resources.
- 2. If pubs / clubs close at similar times, but later in the evening (e.g. 4am) this could simply delay the peak time of incidents from its current 2-3am to 4-5am. A similar number of incidents would occur, but at a later time.

In our view, we suspect that the latter scenario is more likely. Few people are likely to leave the pubs / clubs before closing time – even if that closing time is extended by two hours and this is likely to create later problems.

It is important to note, however, that the effects of changes in licensing hours are by no means certain and could result in more, less or no change in the number of incidents associated with the night time economy.



6. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

This study has examined what is undoubtedly a thriving night-time economy in Hartlepool town centre. There is a clear drinking circuit that starts in the Victoria Road area, moves on to the Church Street area and then shifts back towards Victoria Road. While most of those participating in this drinking circuit are law abiding and simply out to have a good time, there are still a number of problems that emerge from this activity. This includes problems such as, litter, public urination, vomiting, excessive noise, violence and disorder. It is currently unclear how the changes in licensing laws are going to influence these problems, although it would seem that the most likely scenario is that the problem remains of a similar magnitude but shifts to a later time in the evening.

There are a number of recommendations that can be made to improve the night time economy in Hartlepool town centre, as described in the following section.

Recommendations

The recommendations made here have been divided into three main categories, relating to those associated with the environment, with the facilities available and with the licensing arrangements.

Environment

Hartlepool town centre would benefit from a number of environmental improvements, that would foster the night-time economy:

- Fix street lighting on Church Street. There are currently a number of broken street lamps on Church Street that create a dark environment especially close to the Lighthouse, which is one of the violence hotspots.
- Cut back trees on Church Street. Trees on Church Street should be pruned in order to allow the available light on the north side of the street to reach ground level.
- Remove brick planters on Church Street. The brick planters on Church Street may provide a degree of natural foliage on the street, but they also provide a place for throwing litter, for being sick into and for urinating. They can also make it difficult to hail a taxi as one cannot easily be seen from the pavement and result in people walking in the street in order to stop a cab.
- Prevent glasses and bottles from leaving pubs and clubs. Many of the glass items that are subsequently smashed are coming from the local pubs and clubs. This is an area that should be more tightly regulated to prevent the amount of broken glass found on the streets.
- Consider late night street cleaning. If the problem of broken glass were to continue, consideration should be given to late night street cleaning of the pavements to clear them of glass and other litter. Ideally this would be around 1am, which is a relatively quiet period, prior to the 2am exodus from local clubs.



Facilities

Hartlepool would benefit from a number of enhanced facilities, including the following:

- Introduce public toilets. There are currently no public toilets open in the town centre during the evening and this no doubt contributes greatly to the estimated 1,000 public urinations that occur on weekend evenings over the course of a year. The introduction of public toilets could provide an alternative to public urination in the street by people who have spent the evening filling their bladders with liquid. These public toilets could be permanent, temporary 'portaloo' type ¹⁷, or the type that raise from the ground during the evening hours ¹⁸.
- Increase the number of taxis available. The current level of taxi provision does not match the peaks and troughs in demand over the course of the evening especially when clubs close. Consideration should be given to finding ways to increase the availability of taxis at peak times. This will become increasingly important with later opening, as there are likely to be fewer taxi drivers currently willing to stay working for another two hours on a Saturday and Sunday morning. Taxis should also be encouraged to pick up from the east end of Church Street, so as to avoid people moving back to Victoria Road.

Licensing

Where licensing arrangements are concerned, we would recommend encouraging the use of Church Street as a late night venue, primarily because of the lack of resident population to be annoyed by the noise and rowdiness caused by the night time economy.



¹⁷ As used in Great Yarmouth.

¹⁸ As used in Durham City

Annex A: Observation schedule

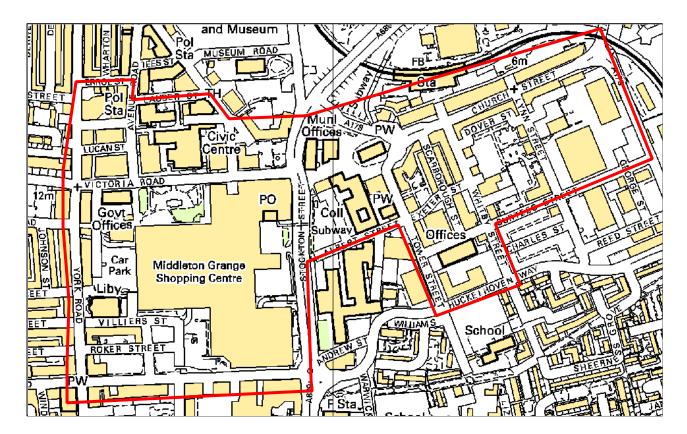
Date		İ
Location		l
	<u>_</u>	
Time Start	Time Finish	

	g 30		0	30
No. of females				
No. of males				
	in vehicle			
Visible authority presence inc. PCSO's, etc	on foot			
PCSO'S, etc	omoot			
Obvious signs of drunkenness e.g. staggering				
	incidents			
Verbal abuse, including shouting and swearing	no. of people involved			
	incidents			
Visible signs of violence	no. of people involved			
Can hear music from licensed premises				
Public urination				
Public vomiting				
Food and takeaway related rubbish on streets				
Alcohol related rubbish on streets				

rubbish on streets
Comments



Annex B: Hartlepool town centre boundary for crime data.





Annex C: All data provided by Cleveland Police.

EVIDENCE LED SOLUTIONS - CRITERIA

All data has been retrieved from the Solar data warehouse using Xanalys Watson.

The Town Centre area has been defined by the boundary shown at Appendix 'A'. In order to establish those crimes/incidents, which have occurred within the boundary, all have been mapped using the geo-codes and selected using Mapinfo.

All offences recorded under the umbrella of violence against the person have been researched. Offences relates to any crimes of violence, that have been added to the Cleveland Police Crime Recording system that have OCCURRED between the period 1 January 2004 and 30 June 2005 (this applies to all crime categories included as part of this research).

A total of 603 offences have been calculated as occurring within the boundary area defined.

21 of these offences have been flagged with the 'domestic situation' marker. After examining these offences it appears only one has occurred within a domestic premise. As such this particular crime has been removed from the spreadsheet. The victim details have also been removed from the victim spreadsheet.

The mo summary was then examined to ascertain those offences whereby personal details may be disclosed within the body of the text. A total of 116 (nearly 20%) of these offences were identified and it was then necessary to read through each summary and sanitise the text to exclude all personal information.

Additional data - Violence against the person

VICTIMS - In order to conduct any analysis on victims of violent offences, a spreadsheet containing victim details (age at time of offence, ethnicity, occupation and gender has been included). Each victim can then be cross-referenced to the crime report via the Frn (Force Reference Number), however, minimal detail, for ease of analysis, has been provided on the same spreadsheet.

SUSPECTS - In order to conduct any analysis on suspects of violent offences, a spreadsheet containing suspect details (age at time of offence, ethnicity, gender, Town of residence and whether they were charged, cautioned or reported) has been included. Similar to the victim spreadsheet, each suspect can be cross-referenced to the original crime report via the Frn. This spreadsheet includes only those offences which have been detected to date, and in some cases more than one suspect is detected to any one offence.

Note: Sexual offences and Robbery have not been included under the umbrella of Violence against the Person.

<u>Example 2</u> Public Order Offences (Solar 1 - Crime data)

As per the request from Evidence Led Solutions, codes 125/11, 125/12, and 8/32 are included within the Violence Section (as per our recording systems). No offences have been recorded under 125/9.

Additional offence codes which required researching included 66/1 - Affray and 66/22 Public Nuisance. No offences were recorded under 66/22 and a spreadsheet containing all 66/1 offences has been added to the data file. None of these offences were flagged with the 'domestic situation' marker, therefore all have been included and all offences have been sanitised in the same format as violent offences. Victim data has not been provided for offences of Affray.



Criminal Damage (Solar 1 - Crime data)

All offences under the umbrella of Criminal Damage have been researched.

A total of 160 offences have been calculated as occurring within the boundary area defined.

Two of these offences were flagged with the 'domestic situation' marker, however, one occurred within a licensed premise and has been included but sanitised to remove all personal details from the mo summary. The remaining offence occurred within a domestic premise and thus has been removed from the spreadsheet.

Following the same format, all mo summaries have then been sanitised to remove all personal information. Victim data has not been provided for offences of Criminal Damage.

∠ Disorder ('D' codes, Solar 2 - Incident data)

As per the original recommendations all codes under D1 - Disturbance (D10, D11, D12), D1 - Personal/Social/Community (D20, D21, D22, D23, D24, D25, D26) and D9 - Other Community Disorder (D99) were originally researched. All those under D3 - Public/Official and D4 - Telephone calls were omitted. Using this criteria a total of 1128 incidents were recorded between 1 January 2004 and 30 June 2005.

All D21 incidents have been removed from the spreadsheet as many had occurred in/around domestic premises and given that co-ordinates are being provided it was felt inappropriate to include this type of incident. Of note, 49 of the 1128 (4.3%) originally retrieved were classified as domestic disputes.

All text within the incident summary has been omitted because, unlike crime data, personal data is frequently held within this field and considering the large volume of incidents and amount of detail included within the summary field, it was not possible to sanitise in the same manner as crime.

