

## **Cumulative Impact Assessment 2023 (Licensing Act 2003)**

### **Summary of consultation responses**

#### **Responses to online and paper surveys**

##### **Responses from residents and businesses located in Wickersley**

47 responses were received from residents (42) and businesses (5) located in Wickersley, the responses are summarised below:

- Respondents were asked if, within the last 12 months, they had experienced any of issues related to licensed premises in Wickersley. The responses were as follows:
  - Noise disturbance 89% (42)
  - Littering / Dumping rubbish 89% (42)
  - Vandalism / Criminal Damage 85% (40)
  - Nuisance parking 64% (30)
  - Anti-social behaviour 85% (40)
- 89% (42) of respondents agreed / strongly agreed that the combined impact of the licensed premises in their area has an adverse impact on their quality of life. All of these responses were from residents.
- 89% (42) of respondents agreed / strongly agreed that the number and type of licensed premises in Wickersley has a negative impact on the area, including higher levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. All of these responses were from residents.
- 89% (42) of respondents agreed / strongly agreed that since its implementation in 2020, the Cumulative Impact Policy has achieved its intended effect. All of these responses were from residents.

##### **Additional questions for business owners and representatives in Wickersley only.**

5 of the 47 respondents in Wickersley identified themselves as a business owner (or a representative of a business owner). These responses are summarised below:

- 100% (5) of respondents disagreed that since its implementation in 2020, the Cumulative Impact Policy has had a positive impact on their business.
- 60% (3) of respondents agreed that the Cumulative Impact policy has not prevented them from carrying out their business activities / interests.

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### **Responses from residents and businesses located in parts of the Borough other than Wickersley.**

6 responses were received from residents and businesses located in parts of the Borough other than Wickersley, the responses are summarised below:

- Respondents were asked if, within the last 12 months, they had experienced any of issues related to licensed premises in the area where they lived. The responses were as follows:
  - Noise disturbance 83% (5)
  - Littering / Dumping rubbish 17% (1)
  - Vandalism / Criminal Damage 17% (1)
  - Nuisance parking 0
  - Anti-social behaviour 50% (3)
- 17% (1) of respondents agreed / strongly agreed that the combined impact of the licensed premises in their area has an adverse impact on their quality of life.
- 17% (1) of respondents agreed / strongly agreed that the number and type of licensed premises in their area had a negative impact on the area, including higher levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour.

### **Additional questions for business owners and representatives in parts of the Borough other than Wickersley.**

1 of the 6 respondents identified themselves as a business owner (or a representative of a business owner). These responses are summarised below:

- 100% (1) of respondents disagreed that the introduction of a Cumulative Impact policy in their area would have a positive impact on their business.
- 100% (1) of respondents agreed that the introduction of a Cumulative Impact policy in their area would prevent them from carrying out their business activities.

**Response on behalf of Wickersley North Ward Councillors**

*Good afternoon Alan,*

**Support for the continuation of the cumulative impact zone in Wickersley**

*The three Wickersley Ward Councillors are very aware of the need to balance the thriving night-time economy and the needs and wishes of residents of Wickersley. Since the CIZ was brought in we have had Covid pandemic, which led to the temporary shutting down of many business in Wickersley including bars and restaurants .It would appear that whilst there has been some recovery for restaurants, bars and clubs in Wickersley, it is not at the level that it once was- this may be due to the cost of living crisis and therefore as the economy recovers Wickersley will return to a vibrant, busy and noisy centre. It is therefore imperative that the CIZ is kept in place to endeavour to strike the proper balance between those who live in Wickersley centre and those who visit to socialise. It would appear that since the CIZ has been put into place there has been some good links and relationships have been established between the responsible authorities and the owners/ managers most of the licensing premises. We would not want to jeopardise this situation and therefore would like to maintain the status quo and the protection that the CIZ offers to the people of Wickersley. Therefore, Cllr Sue Ellis, Cllr Emma Hoddinott and Cllr Chris Read are in support of the continuation of the CIZ for Wickersley centre.*

*Since the CIZ was brought in, it has unfortunately not resulted in any applications for new licences being turned down, however the CIZ has enabled additional conditions to be attached to licensing which mitigate the negative impacts of an increasingly busy town centre.*

*Kind Regards*

*Cllr Sue Ellis (also on behalf of Cllr Chris Read and Cllr Emma Hoddinott)*

## **Response from Wickersley Parish Council**

*Rotherham Council introduced the Cumulative Impact Policy for Wickersley in 2020 in response to issues that were resulting from the large number of licensed premises within the village centre which were causing significant problems of noise, littering, crime and anti- social behaviour for the local residential population. This policy operates as a tool to limit the growth and impact of further licensed premises with no further licenses issued unless it can be demonstrated that it will not add to the impacts already experienced.*

*This policy was fully supported by Wickersley Parish Council as well as a large number of local residents who were particularly being affected by late night nuisance, particularly from pubs and bars.*

*The policy has also been effective in supporting a policy in the Wickersley Neighbourhood Plan which only allows further drinking establishments to be granted planning permission if it would not result in more than 5% of the total number of units in the District Centre being used for this purpose. This percentage has already been reached.*

*Wickersley Parish Council are of the view that the Cumulative Impact Policy has been effective in controlling the impact of licensed premises. It has not been an easy period to monitor the position due to the pandemic, which significantly reduced the number of customers visiting licensed premises for a two-year period. However, since business has returned to normal, the issues associated with licensed premises have not worsened and, if anything, have improved.*

*During the three-year period since the introduction of the policy, a number of applications for new or varied licenses have been sought. This included Seasons, The Garrison, W Italian and Fika Coffee Lounge. In all cases, the cumulative impact test has been applied and, in all cases, a licence has been granted but strict conditions have been imposed in each case. These have included:*

- *The premises only operating as a restaurant or cafe, not a bar.*
- *Alcohol only being served with or after a meal and to seated customers.*
- *The premises operating a table service only with no customer service from the bar.*
- *Limitation on hours of opening and reduced hours for external seating areas.*
- *No alcohol to be permitted to be taken away.*
- *Regular checks by the licence holder to ensure the area outside the premises is free from litter and nuisance behaviour.*
- *Strict control over private bookings with regard to service of alcohol.*
- *Strict conditions on the licence holder to ensure responsible operation of the premises and training of staff.*

*These strict conditions could only be imposed as a result of the CIZ policy and have been effective in preventing any of these new or existing premises operating solely or largely as a bar and ensured strict controls over the service of alcohol. The*

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*policy has therefore not prevented new or varied licenses from being granted but has achieved the valuable objective of preventing further harmful impact on the local community. It has also allowed Wickersley Parish Council to work constructively with the Licensing Authority and license holder to agree a set of conditions which are acceptable to all parties.*

*Wickersley Parish Council therefore strongly supports the continuation of the Cumulative Impact Policy on the grounds that it has been achieving its objectives without preventing existing and new businesses from providing an important food and drink offer. It therefore supports the evening economy but controls the excesses of late night alcohol consumption that has blighted Wickersley centre in the past. It sends a message to existing and new licence holders that they have to operate strict controls on how they operate their premises in the interest of the local community. If this policy were to be removed, then the Licensing Authority would find it difficult to prevent new or varied licenses being granted with these strict conditions and would also undermine the effectiveness of the planning policy introduced through the Neighbourhood Plan.*