

On 11 Aug 2021, at 10:00, Bean, John wrote:

I refer to the above application and under Section 104 (2) of the Licensing Act 2003 give objection on behalf of Dorset Police to the notice.

The premise are licensed through WDPL0729 at 39 East Street and were previously known as Sins

This licence has a terminal hour of 02.00 and conditions under the operating schedule that uphold the licensing objectives.

The TEN sought is to a terminal hour matching the TEN (WDTE7169) for the weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Resulting from this TEN was a very serious assault on East Street after the premises licence terminal hour of 02.00hrs involving persons who had been customers at Neon.

Given the evidence that can be provided for this incident, there is no guarantee that the DPS will be able to prevent a similar occurrence and as such the licensing objectives of both the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety will not be upheld if the event notified is allowed to take place.

Regards

John Bean

Licensing Officer

Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Team

Prevention Department

Dorchester Police Station

Dorset Police

**From:** neon  
**Sent:** 11 August 2021 14:18  
**To:** Bean, John  
**Cc:** LicensingTeamB  
**Subject:** Re: Neon TEN 27th - 30th August 2021

Afternoon John,

This rejection is really really harsh taking into consideration the circumstances behind the assault.

This is an historical argument over a piece of land between the 2 parties. Ongoing for some time.

It is agreed that this could literally happened anywhere at anytime it just so happened that they where in ours on the same night.

I am not sure how much you know of the incident but I was taking xxxxx to the taxi rank at spar myself when we where ambushed. It was time for him to go home and I went above and beyond objectives by walking him to the taxi all he it we where ambushed before we got there.

If you speak to Pc Paul Miners and CID David Pearce I know that they will tell you I have gone above and beyond with regards to statements and cctv footage. I have literally spent over 30 hrs of my time compiling evidence. My staff and door staff have all also been 100% proactive.

No premises will ever be able to say this would not happen at theirs but lots would have lost the cctv due to party involved.

Please speak to the officers mentioned and please do not punish us for doing the right thing.

This incident is nothing to do with us or licensed trade as a whole.

Kind regards

Mike Long

Sent from my iPhone

On Wed, 11 Aug 2021 at 15:11, Gosling, Gareth wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr Long,

Thank you for your email to my Licensing Officer, John Bean. I note your comments regarding your actions on the evening of the Temporary Event Notice in July.

I am pleased that you have supported my colleagues in CID, upholding the Licensing Objectives in doing so. Failure to have done so would almost certainly have led to action being taken against your premises given the severity of the incident and the injuries sustained. Those premises that do elect to dispose of evidence, including CCTV, do so with the risk of action being taken by my team in relation to their Premises Licence. Your support in the investigation is what I consistently expect from all licence holders and premises supervisors.

Whilst I accept that there is always a reason for disorder between parties, I remain concerned that the disorder was linked to persons associated to your premises.

Allowing Temporary Event Notices to operate at 'high risk' times is fraught with danger and we do so on the basis that the event will ensure that there will be no disorder. Unfortunately the event in July was associated with a serious assault and I cannot risk a repeat of similar disorder at a time when Police resources will likely be under significant pressure with increased demand due to the holiday weekend.

The objection will remain and I will be asking the Dorset Council Licensing Sub-Committee to issue a Counter Notice in respect of this TEN. In the event that you wish to make any further comments or observations in advance of the hearing I would be grateful if you could direct them to me as I will be representing Dorset Police at the forthcoming Sub-Committee hearing.

Regards,

**Gareth Gosling 2551**

Sergeant

Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Team

Territorial Policing Prevention Department | Bournemouth Police Station, Dorset Police



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**From:** neon  
**Sent:** 11 August 2021 16:49  
**To:** Gosling, Gareth  
**Subject:** Re: TEN - Neon TEN 27th - 30th August 2021

Hi Gareth.

Please could you give me a call regarding this matter.

This matter is no reflection on NEON or the way we operate and to penalise us is really unfair.

Kind regards

Mike Long

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Gosling, Gareth >  
**Sent:** 12 August 2021 09:38  
**To:** neon  
**Subject:** RE: TEN - Neon TEN 27th - 30th August 2021

Good Morning Mr Long,

At this stage in proceedings and given that there is no opportunity for conditions to be applied to a TEN, I would rather that we communicate via email. This will ensure a consistent audit trail of any information that is exchanged.

I will ensure that I provide you with any documentation that I intend to rely on during the hearing in advance of the Sub-Committee hearing.

Regards,

**Gareth Gosling 2551**

Sergeant

Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Team  
Territorial Policing Prevention Department | Bournemouth Police Station, Dorset Police



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**From:** neon  
**Sent:** 12 August 2021 17:06  
**To:** gareth.gosling  
**Cc:** Police - Police Licensing <licensing@dorset.pnn.police.uk>; LicensingTeamB <LicensingTeamB@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: TEN - Neon TEN 27th - 30th August 2021

Afternoon Gareth,

Understand the paper trail so wanting an email. If ANYONE has any ideas or suggestions how this incident could have been avoided, not with regards to us but in full, then I would love to hear them because I'm a switched on guy but I'm bloody struggling with this one.

Please see attached our letter of facts regarding our response to police objection.

Please note others will be open until 4 bank holiday weekend and please note others were open until 4 on the night of the incident. It was going to happen somewhere.

Thanks for reading

Mike

ATTACHED LETTER

NEON Bar and Grill  
39 East street  
Bridport  
Dorset  
DT6 3jx

Dear Gareth,

Thank you for your emails regarding our TEN application for August bank holiday weekend.

We do not understand how this TEN has been refused due to an incident we are all aware of in July.

This incident as stated in the emails, is a long running dispute between 2 parties over land between their properties. The dispute was unknown to us before this event otherwise we would never have allowed them access to our premise at the same time. The dispute has come to light during the extensive work I have undertaken regarding CCTV requested.

The TEN for July was granted with the following notes from John Bean Licensing officer,

that we stick to some conditions we set out ourselves when taking on NEON.

We have decided off of our own backs to appoint SIA doorstaff EVERY Friday and Saturday night, this is NOT a licensing condition it is deemed good practice from our point of view.

We have installed a further 5 cctv cameras so as to increase security and we will adopt a no nonsense policy and support Dorset Police 100% if the need arises.

We will not allow entry after 1am, we are not having people getting drunk elsewhere and then coming to us when the other places shut. Our exception to this is going to be emergency services, armed forces or bar staff that have proof of job and have finished late shift.

All customers will be offered chupa chup lollies when leaving in hope of reducing noise. This worked a treat at our late night bar back in Essex.

All of these points were adhered to on the night in question, as where our obligations to licensing objectives.

There is no way that we can be held responsible for this type of thuggery, which has led to personal issues available to you on PNC and can be backed up by CID David Pearce and others relating to myself.

I have been a West Dorset licensee for 20 years and proactive with Pubwatch, police and licensing throughout. We in Bridport do not have incidents like this, the last one

similar being 15+ years ago at the Beach and Barnicott between the local travellers and Bridport rugby club. 2 serious incidents in 20 years relating to licensed premises, whilst 0 would be better I am sure all forces around the country would settle for 2 in 20 years.

This incident was going to happen, we all know that for a fact based on evidence compiled. If we were not open that night it would have been no10 or Beach and Barnicott. Both parties were out for a drink, late, on the same night. It really is unfair that we are punished having as licensees or licensed premise, not actually done anything wrong ourselves.

How many licensees would just ask someone to leave when the time was right? Ourselves I personally accompanied victim to a taxi, well towards it anyway, before we were literally ambushed by thugs. I then witnessed every sickening blow and am left feeling guilty, guilty for doing the right thing and trying to get a customer home safely, I know I shouldn't but that's how we are at NEON.

To then punish us by not allowing us the opportunity to extend our hours on occasions is in our opinion very unfair. Our TEN in June went off ok no issues.

We met all licensing objectives. We met all points requested as stated above, we will ALWAYS do the right thing by our staff, customers, police and licensing. We appreciate the police are under staffed but we can not be punished for that. There will be other bars open until 4am bank holiday weekend. A couple that do not need TENS as they have 24/7 licenses and a couple who have or will be having TENS so closing or refusing us will not take the problem away.

No one regrets this incident more than ourselves but honestly, in the cold light of day, we really did nothing wrong and we feel we should be allowed to carry on with our business and extensions requested until such times as we fail to meet all that is expected of us and we can honestly say hand on heart we DO NOT believe this will ever happen.

My record with police and licensing authorities is exemplary and above and beyond what is requested of us. This is the way it will remain. When we refuse entry or service we contact all the local bars off of our own backs to let them know who and why in the hope of keeping crime down in the pubs and keeping the risk of calling police to a minimum. We currently do this on our own phones but I am sure John Bean will tell you that we have spoken regarding town centre radios to help make Bridport a safer place, instigated by ourselves here at NEON.

I hope this paints a clearer picture of myself, NEON and the awful incident. There really was no way of predicting or indeed preventing what happened that night.

Should there be a hearing, please may I attend to put our point across.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter. Thank you all for your continued hard work. We at NEON are right behind you.

Best Wishes

Mike Long