



St John's Neighbourhood Watch
51, St John's South - Winchester - SO23 9LN



3 December 2010

Your ref: PREM 184/Review

Adjourned Licensed Premises Hearing re: Mikiki Lounge - December 10th, 2010
St John's Neighbourhood Watch - Representations.

I am the Coordinator for St John's Neighbourhood Watch comprising 70 properties situated in the City centre at St John's North, St John's South on each side of the Broadway and St Mary Magdalene's, in Colebrook Street, providing sheltered accommodation for older people.

Approximately three years ago, we were approached by the police with a request to establish a Neighbourhood Watch. This was in the light of increased incidents of anti-social behaviour and low level crime. As coordinator, I was asked to keep records of incidents in our neighbourhood reported by our residents and collated by myself. We are told that collaborative NHWs can have some influence over community safety priorities in our neighbourhood. We are asked to help identify what is important in our community. Safer Neighbourhoods teams actively seek our views which we are told will help prioritise the work that needs to be done to tackle the issues that are of greatest concern locally. To that end, our records are forwarded to the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, the Community Safety Partnership, local councillors et al.

We are confident that we can accurately point up the nature and extent of alcohol driven rowdy and disorderly behaviour in the City centre. Our greatest concern is the regular disturbances we experience, e.g., shouting, shrieking and other forms of drunken behaviour which clearly emanate from Mikiki Lounge customers, who upon leaving the bar, process in large groups along Bridge Street, High Street into the Broadway and Abbey Gardens. We have also established a pattern of behaviour when disturbances are at their greatest, i.e., Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from approx 2300 to 0230 to 3 a.m. Our records together with those of the Police and Community Safety Partnership will support this.

The Mikiki, (formerly Blonde Beer Café) is the only late night venue along Bridge Street attracting such large numbers, which increase during University term times. We are also certain that the Bishop on the Bridge pub opposite St John's South is not the source of these problem drinkers. We have excellent relations with the management of this pub, know their hours and programme which generally preclude the likelihood of their customers causing any disturbances. Indeed, the managers of this pub have also mentioned disturbances from Mikiki clubbers which awaken their young baby at times.

We understand that a spokesperson for the Mikiki has suggested that no records exist with the police or other source describing this loud, disruptive and inconsiderate behaviour. This is clearly not the case not just because of our own records, but reports by other residents living in that vicinity. The NHW liaises with the police via various meetings, home visits etc and are aware of their concerns regarding this problem. The negative effect of the so-called night time economy, with specific reference to the Mikiki Lounge has a serious impact on local residents' lives, especially regular sleep disturbance for many on the nights indicated. At one time we heard talk of establishing noise patrols in our vicinity, but are not aware whether they have been deployed.

We know that

'...the City Council recognises that the provision of licensable activities can have adverse impacts, such as crime, disorder and public nuisance.' We are further reassured to know that the *'Council's primary focus is the direct impact of activities taking place at licensed premises on members of the public who are living, working or engaged in normal activity in the vicinity of the premises/place concerned.'* That it *'...will consider any demonstrable link between particular licensed premises and reported problems of nuisance and anti-social behaviour.....'* We believe we have demonstrated a link between the Mikiki Lounge customers and our reported concerns.

Summary. NHW's activity tends to focus on the safety of the immediate vicinity of their homes. However, schemes are broadening their work to target a range of other problems such as anti-social behaviour and vandalism. NHW is about looking out for each other, building a community spirit and acting together as the eyes and ears of the neighbourhood and picking up on anything that could cause concern or worry. Much of those concerns for St John's and other city centre residents focus on late night alcohol driven rowdy and inconsiderate behaviour in and around the Mikiki Lounge and its predecessor the Blonde Beer Café.

(Home Office research on the impact of the late night economy describes the prevalence of anti social behaviour not only within licensed premises but also the vicinity.)


Derek Harper,
St John's NHW Coordinator