

RESTRICTED (when complete)

THIS INFORMATION MAY BE SHARED WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Witness Statement

(Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, r.27.1(1); CJ Act 1967, s.9 & MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3)(a) & 5B)

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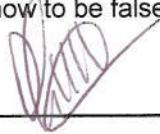
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Statement of David GUNN

Age if under 18 "over 18" (if over 18 insert "over 18") **Occupation** Police Community Support Officer

This statement (consisting of pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature



Date 05/03/15


Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

I work for Hertfordshire Constabulary as a Police Community Support Officer, during the course of my duties, while on foot patrols within the town centre and the Holywell and Vicarage wards I deal with individuals and groups of people who drink alcohol in a public place. Some of these areas fall within Watford Borough Councils designated 'No Alcohol Drinking Zone'.

During these duties, while on foot patrol I come across several individuals including small groups, of what I describe as 'Street Drinkers' some of which are homeless. These individuals are predominately males but there are a few females amongst the group.

These people drink their Alcohol at various locations around Watford and become highly intoxicated, the effects of which cause them to be verbally abusive and threatening to other members of the public including Police and PCSO's. I have also witnessed occurrence's where male street drinkers have urinated outside shops, in particular on 'The Hornets' located on Vicarage Road including the rear service roads which serve shops and private residencies. There have been reports given to Police that several of these people have defecated within the service roads and alleyways as well as spitting on windows of shops.

Signature



Signature witnessed by

Continuation of Statement/Interview of *David Gunn*

Other locations where these individuals and groups gather are, the corner of Park Avenue at the junction of Whippendale Road, outside the day centre which is run by the New Hope trust which is located at the top of Whippendale Road. The length of Whippendale Road including Vicarage Road and Tolpits Lane. These people discarded their rubbish and Alcohol containers in resident's private gardens and shops. Further to the above I have identified locations within the Holywell Ward where these street drinkers are sleeping rough at the locations of Turpin Court, Lucinda Court, Copperdale Court and Raven Close.

Signature



Signature witnessed by

RESTRICTED (when complete)



**HERTFORDSHIRE
CONSTABULARY**

Witness Statement

(CJ Act 1967 s.9; MC Act 1980 ss.5A, (3) (a) and 5B, MC Rules 1981 r.70)

URN

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Statement of PCSO 6119 Marc Abbott

Age if under 18 Over 18 (if over 18 insert "over 18") **Occupation** Police Community Support Officer

This statement (consisting of 2 pages each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature 

Date 05/03/2015

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details)

I am employed by Hertfordshire Constabulary as a Community Support Officer and am designated the Vicarage Ward and have worked on this area for over six years.

During this period I have noted the Street drinking and associated antisocial behaviour impacting on people's perception of the surrounding environment and more importantly their quality of life and safety even if it might only be perceived. Groups of drinkers can sometimes be intimidating and stop people using public spaces. Street drinking can have a negative impact upon the quality of life of citizens and businesses.

Problems such as littering, noise and public indecency can be made worse by the disorderly conduct of those under the influence of alcohol.

During my time here I have seen person urinating in public places, theft from shops, theft from person, drug usage associated with the general group of drinkers.

I have constant complaints from local shop keepers that their business has suffered because of drunken persons loitering close to their shop or office.

Historically, street drinking has been a problem in several areas around the Vicarage Ward. The main areas of concern are: Vicarage Road Precinct (known as The Hornets), Vicarage Road Cemetery, The bench at the junction of Vicarage Road and Banbury Street, Victoria Passage, Junction of Whippendell Road and Southsea Avenue, The benches close to St Michaels on Durban Road West, Junction of Whippendell Road and Park Avenue, Garage area behind houses on Park Avenue, The car park behind Kennet Court on Addiscombe Road.

All of these areas are impacted because of the easy access to purchase alcohol in small quantities from shops on Vicarage Road, Market Street and Whippendell Road and also because of the drop in centre on Whippendell Road. I have seen the result of drinkers purposely urinating through letter boxes and school children having to pass groups of drunken adults when on their way to school.

Signature 

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Continuation of Statement/Interview of Marc ABBOTT

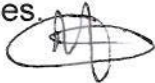
All of these areas listed are within the "No Drink Zone" and even though the street drinkers know this, they still persist in using these areas. Usually drinkers are in groups of 2-5, but occasionally I have encountered much greater numbers, especially around 11:00am when they are waiting for the drop in centre to allow them in for food.

Shop keepers, especially on the Hornets are complaining that drinkers are arriving their long before normal working hours, which means that proprietors need to clean up the front area of their shop prior to opening time. Usually this would mean disposing of empty drink cans and other litter but also occasionally urine and faeces.

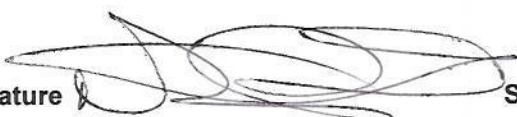
I have also been sent to deal with drinkers using private property for night time sleeping, using enclosed alleyways, sheds and doorways on Chester Road, Harwoods Road, Addiscombe Road and Durban Road West.

The West Watford Community Centre on Harwoods Road has been badly affected by drinkers. Mothers with buggies and old age pensioners have had to negotiate their way past drinkers using the doorway as shelter during cold weather.

There is a main hard core of around 10 persons in the street drinking group, but obviously this attracts others to join in causing major concerns for local residents and businesses.



Signature



Signature witnessed by