

Bromsgrove South Policing Team  
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09 November 2009

Our Ref: Bromsgrove South  
Your Ref: Local Authorities (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places) Regulations 2007

Dear Mrs Smith,

In response to your letter dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2009 and the application made by Cllr Christine McDonald to have the area in front of the shops at Humphrey Avenue designated an alcohol free zone I have the following to report;

West Mercia Police are not in support of the application made by Councillor McDonald for the following reasons;

1. Anti-social behaviour and crime levels for the Charford estate are average in comparison to the force overall figures, on looking at all types of reported incidents for Humphrey Avenue, Charford, it is evident that designating Humphrey Avenue as an alcohol free zone would be an inappropriate use for this legislation as it cannot be substantiated;

Between the 01/01/2008 and 31/12/2008 West Mercia Police recorded 71 police incidents in Humphrey Avenue, of those incidents only 4 were ASB related and none were alcohol related. 24% of all incidents related to misuse of the public telephone kiosk and a further 25% of all incidents were regarding a resident of Humphrey Avenue who does not live near to the shopping parade.

Between the 01/01/2009 and 31/10/2009 West Mercia Police recorded 105 police incidents in Humphrey Avenue, of those incidents 21 were ASB related. Again 25% of all calls related to misuse of the telephone kiosk and a further 30% related to the resident in Humphrey Avenue.

Over the past two years only 14% of all logs are ASB related and none of these incidents are alcohol related.

The above figures cover the entirety of Humphrey Avenue, having researched further only 1% of all calls (which cover all types of incident not solely ASB) relate to the area Cllr McDonald has applied to designate alcohol free.

2. The PACT process has previously raised the issue of R and M Stores on Humphrey Avenue selling alcohol to under age children. In July 2008 this was raised as a PACT priority, and as a result Trading Standards instigated a test purchase operation which resulted in a positive sale. The owner was subsequently prosecuted. Since this date there have been no further complaints by residents and the issue has not been raised at any PACT meeting in the last 12 months.

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Further more general ASB was raised as a PACT priority at the meetings held on the 03/03/09 and 02/06/09 – this was not alcohol related, it was regarding a family who lived in an adjacent street who were evicted in July 2009 as a result of work done by the local policing team and housing officer. Since their eviction ASB in the area has not been raised as a PACT priority by local residents.

3. Twice a month officers attend PACT surgeries at the TRUNK, Humphrey Avenue and also complete an EVA walkabout on the estate. Alcohol related issues regarding Humphrey Avenue have not been raised at any of these surgeries by local residents.

4. The local policing team work closely with the youth worker for the estate Miss Clare West who works from the Trunk in Humphrey Avenue. This issue has been discussed with her particularly as Cllr McDonald has stated the children attending the Youth club should not be confronted with this behaviour. Both Miss West and the children attending the club have confirmed that they have not witnessed any alcohol related ASB in the area.

I hope the above explains in detail why the local policing team oppose Cllr McDonald's application; if she had approached us prior to her application I could have discussed our position with her.

If you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact PS 929 Tristram or myself on 01527 559514.

Kind regards

PC 1530 Louise Smith  
LPO Charford  
Bromsgrove South Policing Team

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## ASB in Humphrey Avenue

Data period: 01 May 2008 to 09 November 2009 (18 months)

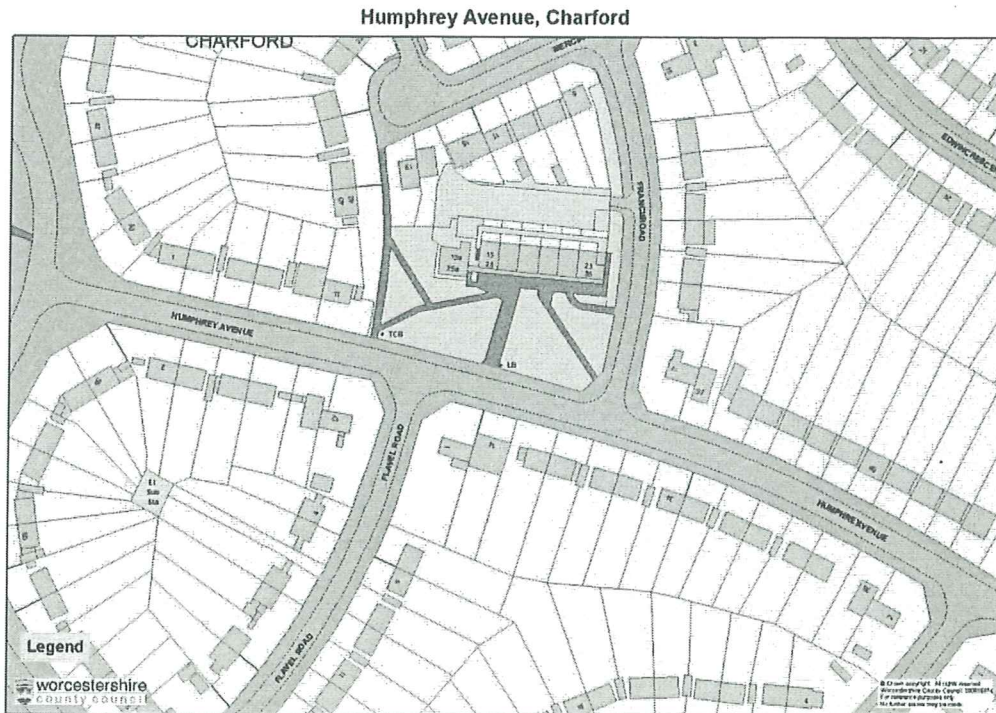


Figure 1: Map to show the location of Humphrey Avenue

### Alcohol-related Incidents

- Only 3 of the total 56 ASB incidents in Humphrey Avenue over the last 18 months mention alcohol, and of those 2 are linked to youths gathering and hence are not relevant to an application for a DPPO.
- The two youth/alcohol incidents all refer to youths gathering with drink near to the flats above the shopping area of Humphrey Avenue, the noise keeping residents awake.
- The other report relates to an incident within a dwelling related to ongoing alcohol issues within a family. Therefore, this incident does not seem to provide any supporting evidence for the need for a DPPO either.

## Total ASB Incidents per month

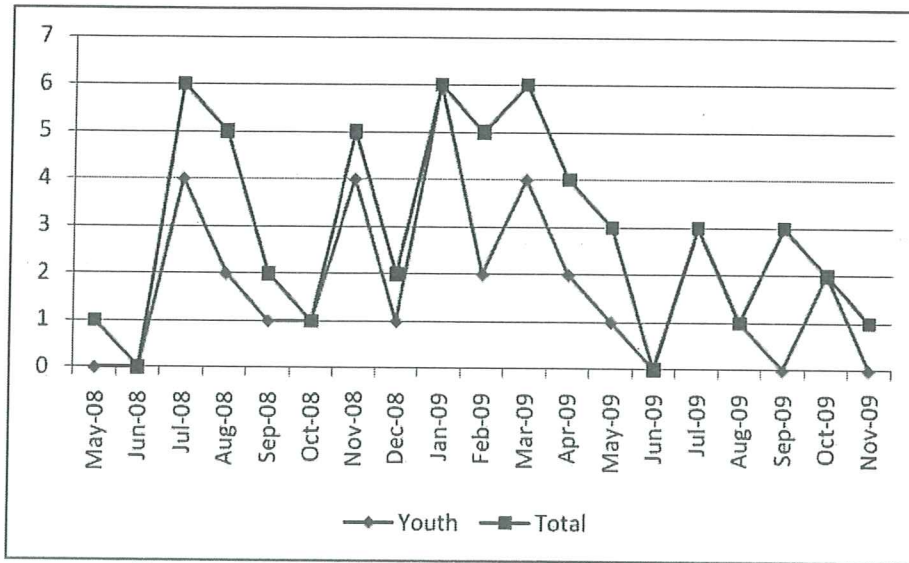


Figure 2: Total ASB and Youth related incidents per month

On average, over the last 18 months, there have been 2 youth related incidents reported per month in the area, and 3 ASB incidents in general. This works out as about one incident every couple of weeks, which is not a huge amount but it must be noted that the study area is quite small.

## Incidents by Type

ASB Category	Youth Incidents	Total Incidents
Rowdy Inconsiderate Behaviour	27	36
Hoax Call to Emergency Services	4	8
Malicious Communications	2	5
Fireworks		2
Harassment Incidents		2
Abandoned Vehicles		1
Animal Problems		1
Noise	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>56</b>

Figure 3: Incidents by Recording Category, May 2008 to November 2009

- There does seem to be a relatively high level of reports of hoax calls to emergency services – this is because there is a telephone kiosk on Humphrey Avenue.
- There is some evidence to suggest there is a youth-related ASB problem in the area, with reports of youths gathering around the shops and flats being made on a fairly regular basis.
- Complaints include issues about the noise created by groups, some reports mention youths throwing things at people or windows.
- There are a few reports that related to youths gathering in the stairwell of flats disturbing residents, and allegedly smoking drugs.

### Repeat Callers

- In the 18 month study period, 10 local residents made more than one complaint of ASB in the area.
- Mrs [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Humphrey Avenue made 6 complaints, mainly related to youths gathering and the related noise near to her residence.
- Mr [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] Humphrey Avenue) made 5 reports of ASB, none of which were related to youths, but were all linked to ongoing disputes and family issues.
- Mrs [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] Humphrey Avenue) made 3 complaints, about youths in the general area of the shops making noise and general nuisance.
- Mrs [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] Humphrey Avenue) made 3 complaints about youths jumping in her hedge.
- Mr [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] Humphrey Avenue) reported youths being a nuisance and abusive in his shop 3 times.
- Mrs [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] Humphrey Avenue) reported youths being a nuisance, making noise that keeps her baby awake.