

EXETER BOARD

OPEN FORUM

28 APRIL 2015

QUESTION FROM MR BROWNBRIDGE

Anti Social Behaviour and Students - The impact of Alcohol induced Anti Social Behaviour (ASB), often at 2:00 am or later!, by new university students- in September/October of each year. on residents of the St Davids, St James and Pennsylvania Wards"

I would call for members and parent agencies to bring pressure to bear on Exeter University to fund a range of actions in order to curb this unacceptable behaviour.

I would then outline a number of actions which I would like to see the University take for September/October 2015.

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to address you on a subject which I find very troubling.

Mainly the "Alcohol fuelled ASB- shouting, screaming and singing, which takes place each September, and I suspect will happen at the end of summer term, most of this takes place at about 2:30am or later on many early mornings. This ASB directly affects me and I suspect many residents of St David's, St James, and Pennsylvania Wards. I believe most of this ASB is caused by University Students during the first month of the new Academic year during so called 'Fresher's week'."

I moved into a New North Rd in early July last year and for over 2 months everything was fine, the only noise heard at night was people leaving the "Imperial", this was just them talking and the sound of car doors shutting, never much after 1am and then only on Friday and Saturday nights.

Despite continuing correspondence with the University and Police on 101, as far as I can tell, no sanctions or charges have been brought against the students involved.

According to the Home Office "Police Crime Map" the three wards affected by this, have the following reports of ASB in the months of July, August, September & October 2014 :-

	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>
<u>St. DAVID'S</u>	<u>43/97</u>	<u>41/78</u>	<u>54/109</u>	<u>42/87</u>
<u>St. JAMES</u>	<u>20/59</u>	<u>17/69</u>	<u>33/105</u>	<u>31/79</u>
<u>DURYARD & PENNSYLVANIA</u>	<u>13/35</u>	<u>6/33</u>	<u>14/37</u>	<u>7/32</u>
<u>WONFORD/ PRIORY</u>	<u>26/59</u>	<u>32/74</u>	<u>51/87</u>	<u>40/97</u>

NOTES: -(a) The first number is for Anti -Social Behaviour out of the total for crimes reported.

(b) Not all ASB/crime is down to University Students.

(c) Figures from Wonford (Priory) ward are provided for comparison, as a low student population ward.

Q. Are the reports of crime & ASB realistic? What % of actual compared to reported?

Q What is the Socio/economic rating for Wonford (Priory) ward compared to that of so called "well educated" university students? Is this acceptable behaviour from the "future leaders of the UK"?

Yes, I realise that the Alcohol consumption problem in this country is much broader than this ASB in parts of Exeter. I also realise that the University can only do so much. Equally the increased availability of cheap alcohol does not help. As does the cuts in funding, for the Police and City Council.

I believe and call upon you as representatives of your parent organisations to go back and make every effort to ensure:-

1) The University, as the parent responsible organisation for these students, needs to take firm action to prevent this ASB occurring, and when it does occur catch and punish those involved. As a temporary measure fund increased Estate Patrols, additional Policing, temporary CCTV cameras- providing real time feeds to the Police on the ground. They also need to provide to residents in the wards a much more effective way of reporting each incident. (A colourful post card with simple phone No. for reporting to University and 101.) The University needs to be seen to “own” the problem. We all know it will happen again this September/October, by generating positive publicity, about how it intends to manage the situation, can only be good for the university.

2) That an effective Police presence is seen in residential areas affected. This would help control the un acceptable ASB, that residents have to put up with. Not only to be seen in and around the pub/ clubs and off sales outlets in the city centre, very few residents are sleeping in this area.

Plymouth police ran a “Tweetathone” last year during the same period. This gathered and reported actions taken and numbers detained. Will Exeter police run a similar scheme this year?

3) The City Council needs to find the funding to temporarily increase “Patrollers” on the streets for a month of Weekend nights. Why not introduce “Late Night Levy”? Yes! You see I have mentioned it. I also realise that it is a “political” thing! Does this city exist for the alcohol trade of our “Vibrant Night Time Economy”? What about the humble residents of this city, which I suspect contribute far more money, than the pubs, clubs and off sales outlets, to the city councils coffers.

IN CONCLUSION

If this ASB continues in September/October of this year I will attempt to generate negative publicity for all those concerned.

Do we have to wait until a couple of students die, as happened in Durham when they fell into the river, before effective action is taken?

Finally, is our only hope that it rains every weekend night for 4 weeks in September/October?

ANSWER

Response of Phil Atwell of the University of Exeter is set out in the minutes, a further written response to be provided by him to Mr Brownbridge.