

Sussex Police Exhibit 15 – Resident’s statement 16/09/2020

WITNESS STATEMENT			
Criminal Procedure Rules, r 16.2; Criminal Justice Act 1967, s.9			
Statement of: [REDACTED]	URN		
Age (if under 18): N/A	Occupation: [REDACTED]		
<p>I am making this statement about the issues caused by the Devonshire Bar and Lounge, Devonshire Road, Bexhill on Sea.</p> <p>I have been a resident for 8 years in the local vicinity of the Devonshire Bar and Lounge. There have always been issues however I am a reasonable person and understand that you have to accept some noise and disturbance if you choose to live near a pub, especially one that has a late night license. I have always given them a chance and at points have defended them when other residents have made complaints. Since the Covid-19 lockdown ended at the beginning of July the establishment has progressively got worse and is now at a point where I feel can't be defended any longer.</p> <p>I am aware that the premises has to be shut by 0200hrs on a Friday and Saturday night and this is the only place that stays open in Bexhill until this time therefore attracts all the drunk people and is not managed correctly.</p> <p>On Saturday 15th August 2020 at approx. 0230hrs there was a large fight outside the entrance to the pub between 5 to 6 males. All of these were extremely intoxicated and there was no intervention by anyone associated to the pub including the door staff. Police were called and attended the incident.</p> <p>On Sunday 16th August 2020 at approx. 0245hrs I was woken by the noise caused from the pub even though they should have been shut for 45 minutes. I went onto my balcony and could still see people drinking alcohol mainly drinking from glasses which they would have got from the pub. There were still groups of 6-8 people loitering around near the bench areas in the square.</p> <p>On Sunday 23rd August 2020 I was again woken by the noise outside the front of the pub at between 0145hrs and 0200hrs. I again looked outside and could see large groups still loitering outside the pub, drinking even though they appeared highly intoxicated and with no members of staff or door staff doing anything to reduce the public nuisance.</p> <p>On Saturday 12th September 2020 I arrived home by taxi after being out at approx. 0045hrs. As I walked past the Devonshire Bar and Lounge the premises appeared overcrowded and spilling onto the square. There was no regard for social distancing and all of the customers appeared intoxicated. Again no members of staff, management or door staff appeared to have any control. I was even asked by the door staff if I wanted to go in for a drink, which astounded me as they were already too busy for them to control.</p> <p>On Sunday 13th September 2020 at approx. 0140hrs the noise emanating from the pub was extremely loud and continued to wake me up. The Police were again called.</p> <p>As I have previously mentioned I have been more reasonable than some people with the business as I am aware it is a difficult time for them however their inability to provide any measures to control the social distancing, reduce crime and disorder including drug related activity and reduce public nuisance has made me need to take action.</p> <p>[REDACTED] residents association of where we live and all the residents have</p>			
Witness name: [REDACTED]			
2010/11	RESTRICTED (when complete)		

started to complain of the Devonshire Bar and Lounge. We are unable to get any sleep on a Friday or Saturday night due to the constant disruption caused by the patrons of the pub.


I am fearful of retaliation if I try and bring up any of the issues with the management and believe that they encourage drug use within and around the premises.

The current management and owners have no regard for the residents or the law.

The freeholder of the property, GINO FORTE, has been seen in the premises whilst these incidents have taken place and so must also be held accountable.

I feel that the only way to improve the situation is to remove the current License holder and any management from having anything to do with the Devonshire Bar and Lounge. They have shown they are unable to care for the local community or for the welfare of their patrons and so should be unable to carry on running this business.

This statement 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 Witness 

Date: 16-09-2020