

Micropubs effect on the High Street

I am proposing to open a community spirited micropub with a vision of hosting mature drinkers willing to pay a premium for the quality of beverages I plan to offer. I intend to champion ales, wines and spirits from local producers and highlight the wide range of diverse taste available in the region.

As I've highlighted previously, Whickham is the second safest small town in the Tyne and Wear region, the safest small town is Ryton. In 2018, a licence application for a micropub in Ryton raised 5 objections from the public amid fears of a rise in anti-social behaviour and noise disturbance (amongst other concerns). The licence was granted and the micropub has enjoyed 3 years of trouble-free business. The crime data trend for both of these small towns has reduced over the past few years with the exception of 2020 (which was an extraordinarily different year for us all).

In a study carried out by the London Borough of Barnet, "Impact of Premises Licenced the sale and supply of Alcohol on Crimes," they found that "despite the fact we have a large number of licensed premises at the above locations, these have a limited impact on Street Drinking incidents." They also found that "There is no substantial links between alcohol and noise nuisance; most cases of noise nuisance that were reported to the Local Authority were not directly linked to alcohol misuse." In a different study carried out by Drug and Alcohol Findings "Controlling Alcohol-related Crime and Disorder," they found that "there has been a downward trend in alcoholrelated crime and disorder during the past two decades."

The demise of the high street has been widely documented over the past decade, and in an article from Clearway Scotland (2021), they stress that anti-social behaviour is a major problem in towns and communities affected by empty business units. Apart from my offer on the rental of 30-32 Front Street, there has been no other interest from any other party to take on the lease for this property. There are already a number of retail units in Whickham that are empty and have been for some time.

As the licensee, I will do everything stated in my licencing objectives to ensure that my premises do not negatively affect this downward trend in alcohol-related crime. I have attached my Noise Management and Refusal of Service policies to show that I am serious about controlling the effect of my business on the local community and neighbouring properties. These policies will form part of the training for all of my employees and be available to review at all times to the regulated authorities.