

## **Submission in Support of a Cumulative Impact Policy for Erdington High Street**

**By Councillors Robert Alden, Gareth Moore and Bob Beauchamp**

**1. Do you believe a Cumulative Impact Policy is necessary for area proposed above?**

Yes, we would very much argue that a CIP is needed for the area surrounding Erdington High Street.

**2. If so, what are your reasons for this?**

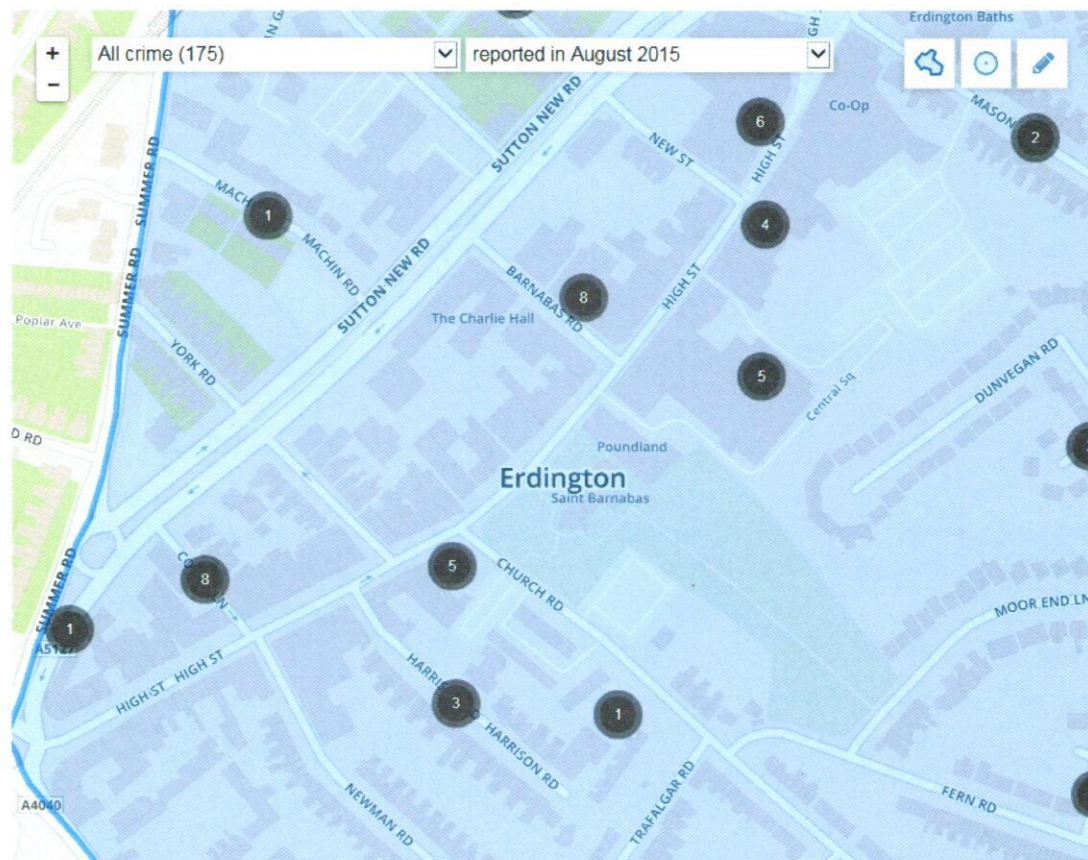
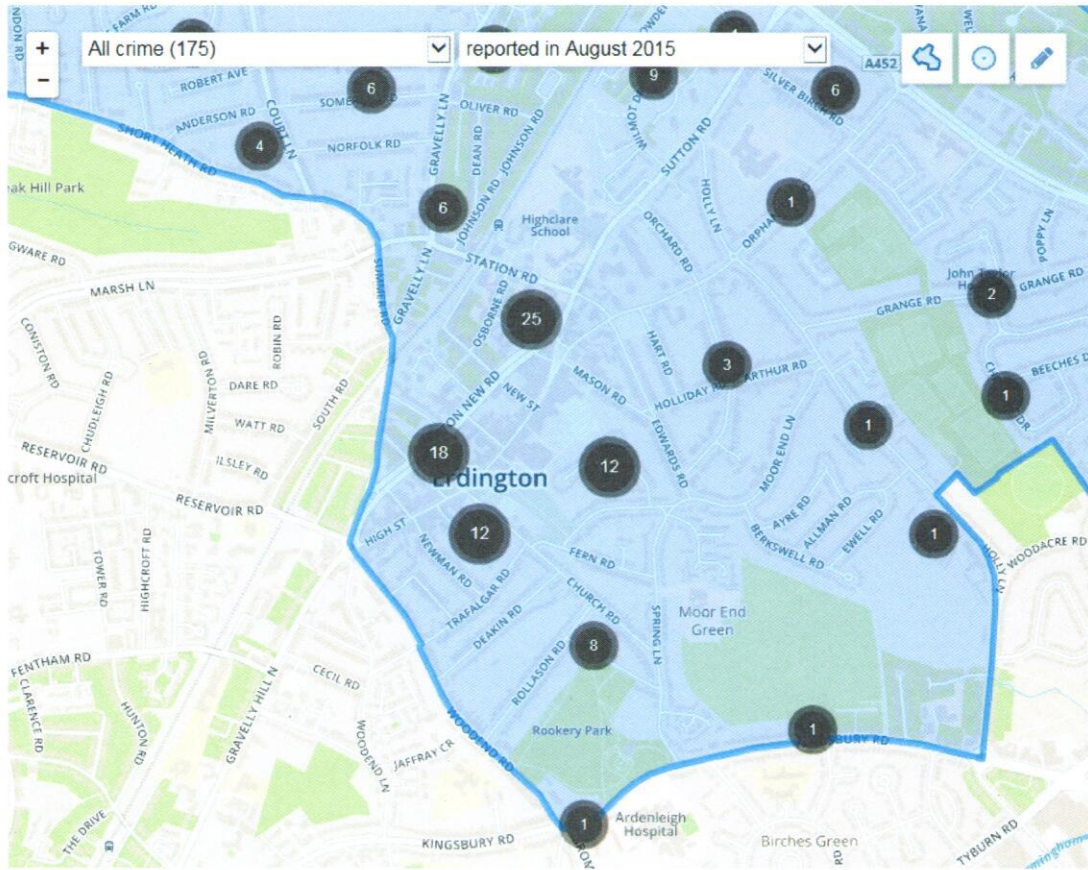
There exist a number of licensed premises already within proximity to the High Street, which causes a number of issues which are contrary to the Licensing Objectives.

Please find enclosed crime maps taken from [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) which demonstrate that the High Street areas suffers from a high crime rate. Many of incidents relate to public order offences, violence and anti-social behaviour. There is a big problem with street drinking on the High Street, with individuals obtaining alcohol from licensed premises and becoming intoxicated. This not only includes persons taking their drinks outside but obtaining it from off-licences and then consuming alcohol in a public place. Examples of the impact that this can have on the local area can be seen with criminal damage, notably damage to Erdington fountain in 2012 and the fire at St. Barnabas Church in 2010.

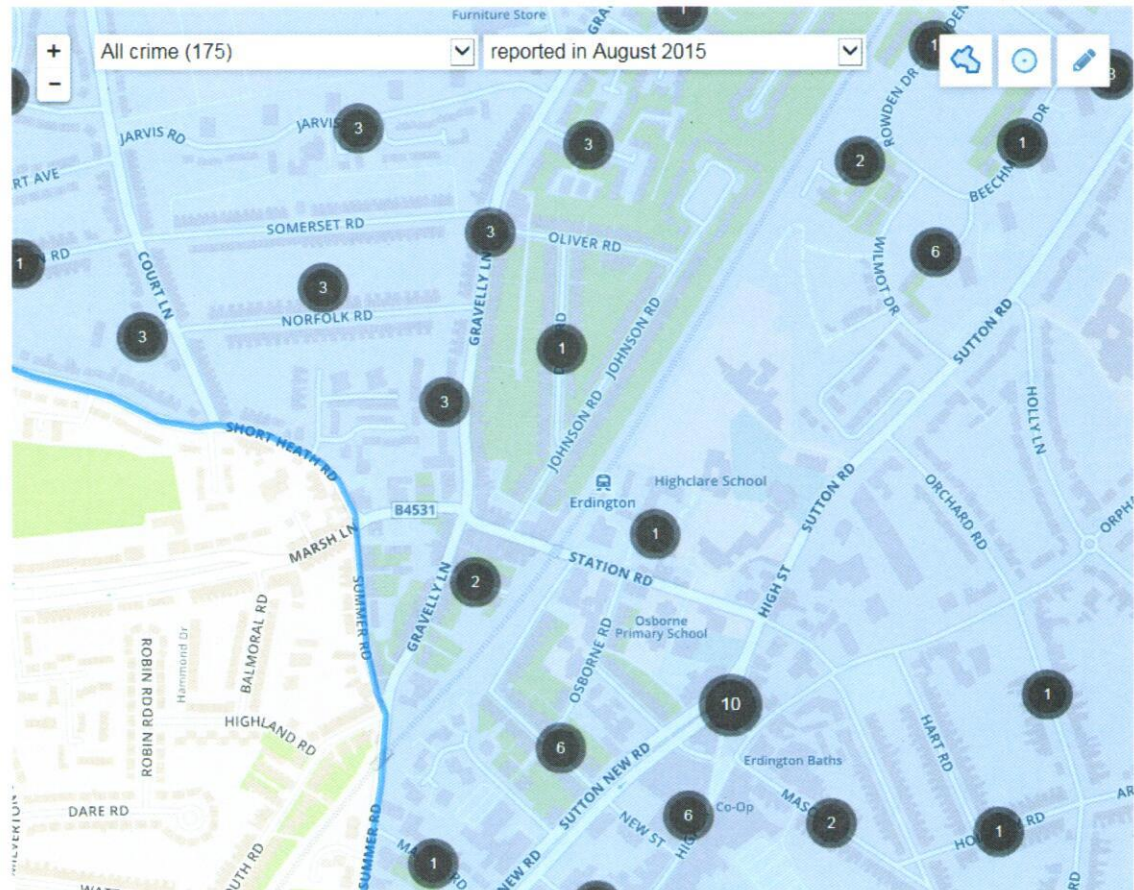
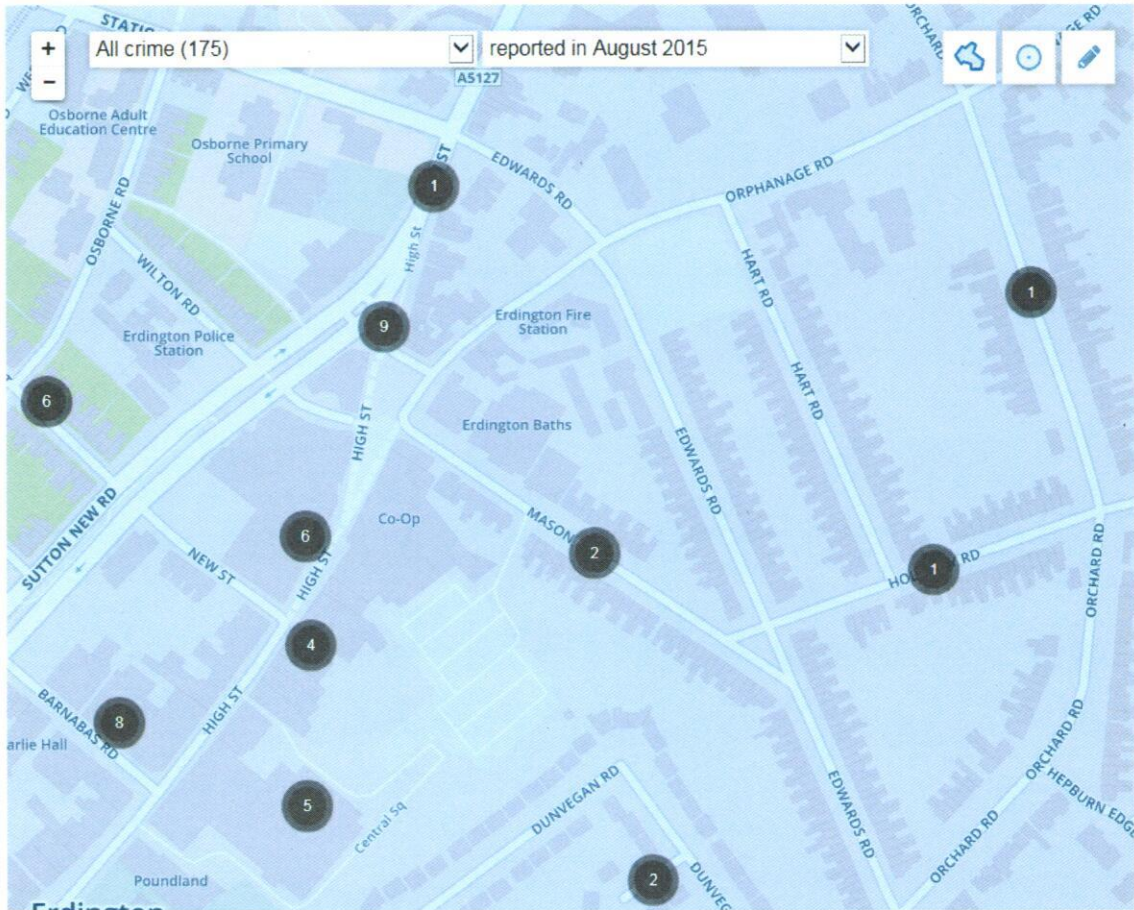
The following information relates to August 2015 but more information can be provided as required.













In addition to the above crime statistics, a breakdown of the licensed premises within proximity to the High Street is as follows:

Off Licence/Retail Unit	22
Late Night Refreshment Only	13
Public House/Bar	13
Restaurant/Takeaway	4

The concentration of so many licenced premises causes the High Street to be a magnet area for those wishing to obtain alcohol and drink. This contributes significantly to the local crime rate as can be seen by the issue of street drinking featuring regularly within the priorities for the Erdington Ward Tasking Group. It also creates an unsavoury image problem for Erdington, which discourages shoppers and visitors and so impacts on local businesses. This is not only a problem for visitors to the High Street, but the many residential roads that surround the High Street area. Residents here frequently have to endure anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance and littering from drunken individuals making their way home.

### **3. Should the CIP extend beyond on-sales to include off-sales/late night refreshment?**

Yes, a major problem is not necessarily traditional licensed premises such as pubs. There have been issues with some pubs, such as the Hairy Lemon, which was closed down by the Council following a review of the licence by West Midlands Police. A key problem is that of street drinking, whereby alcohol has been obtained at a cheaper rate and is then consumed outdoors in public places. This means that more alcohol is consumed and the impact is greater on the surrounding area. Street drinking has also become a serious problem with certain communities whereby it has become acceptable to drink alcohol in public places or at the front of properties.

The figures demonstrate that off-licences almost outnumber the other types of premises and so contributes significantly to crime and public nuisance. This creates a cumulative impact, as alcohol is easier to obtain and encourages street drinkers to congregate around the High Street.

It should be noted that the two CIPs within the City Centre have been extended to cover off-sales and late night refreshment, which demonstrates that a high concentration of both types of premises contributes to crime and disorder and so needs to be controlled.

A cumulative impact policy would help the High Street area by tackling the proliferation of off-licences and other licensed premises which make alcohol easy to obtain. Reducing the number would help to reduce crime and public nuisance, and help to improve Erdington's image. This does not mean that there should be no alcohol sold within the proximity of the High Street, but the combination of pubs and off-licences as opposed to café/bars and restaurants is proving to be detrimental to the local area.

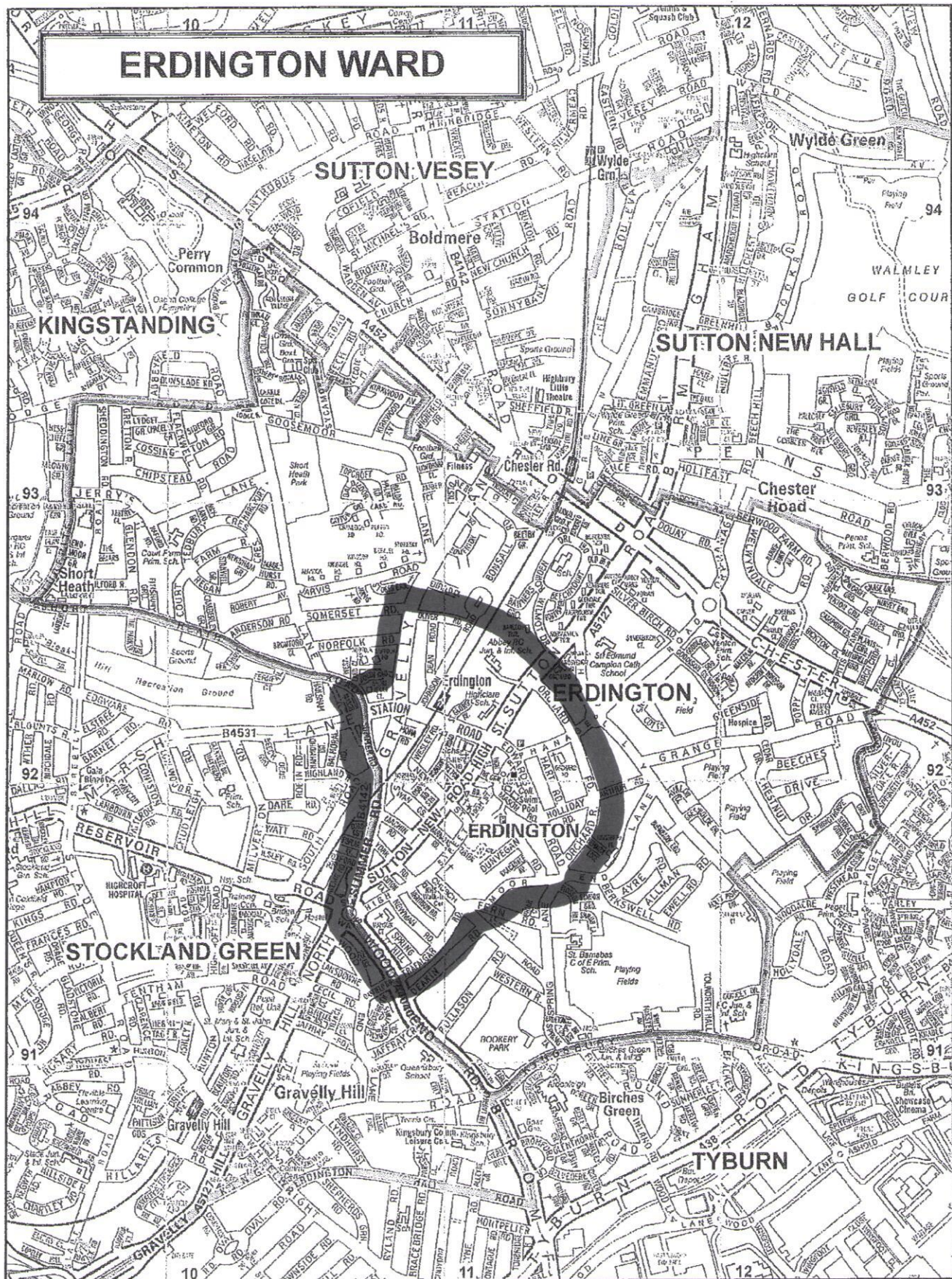
#### **4. What geographical area would be appropriate?**

The proposed map has been suggested as it covers the majority of the prime retail areas where the concentration of licensed premises has occurred, and reflects issues and crime and public nuisance. The suggestion has also been made to include the surrounding residential roads, which suffers from the impact of excessive alcohol consumption. This reflects the view of councillors who have determined licensing applications for Erdington Ward.

#### **Conclusion**

We therefore argue that the best solution to the issue of increasing alcohol-related crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and public nuisance affecting Erdington Ward, a CIP should be introduced by Birmingham City Council as we have requested above.





#### Key

- Ward Boundaries
- City Boundary

Scale: 1:18000

Date: 16/10/2014

0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6



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