

RESTRICTED (When complete)Cheshire Constabulary**WITNESS STATEMENT**

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

URN

--	--	--	--

Statement of: **Stephen Neil Griffiths**Age if under 18: **Ov 18** (if over 18 insert "over 18")Occupation: **Police Inspector**

This statement (consisting of page(s) each signed by me) 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 anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: S N Griffiths

Date: **20th August 2014**Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded ☐ (supply witness details on rear)

I am Police Inspector 2962 Steve Griffiths from the Cheshire Constabulary. I have been a police officer for twenty years and been in my current role as Neighbourhood Inspector at Macclesfield for two years.

Prior to being the Neighbourhood Inspector at Macclesfield, I was based here as a response Inspector managing incidents around the Eastern area of Cheshire.

In around 2009, I started an initiative whereby Police Officers would patrol Mill Street and Pickford Street on a Friday and Saturday night on foot as a reassurance and deterrent tool. This was following a number of incidents of disorder into the early hours as a result of people consuming alcohol in Ronnies bar and Toast bar and then spilling out onto the street and into the fast food venues.

The presence of the police worked very well and stopped disorder before it could escalate. The Police presence however came at a price. Those officers on foot meant they could not respond to other members of the public in Macclesfield and Poynton who needed help.

Five years on, there is still necessity for a police presence, however I can not always allow this depending on ongoing incidents that need immediate attention elsewhere.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

URN

--	--	--	--

continuation of Statement/Interview of: **Stephen Neil Griffiths**

Page 2 of 2

It is fair to say that policing the night time economy is very labour intensive and costly to the public purse.

There are currently three take away premises open until after 3am in the area of Dukes Court and within 50 feet of each other. Although they get busy, this is only really at 3am when the clubs empty. These numbers are sufficient to deal with those revellers who require food.

Dukes Court where the application is for, is a very tight passage from Mill Street into Ronnies and Toast bars. I have seen a number of fights begin in there and there is very little room to resolve issues without the likelihood of injury being caused. A new takeaway by its very nature will be a flashpoint by drunken persons leaving the clubs. All the frontages of buildings are plate glass which raises the risk of serious injury if disorder starts. This would be injury to innocent bystanders and / or police.

The proposed location is also the entrance and exit from the bars. At 3am when up to 400 revellers are leaving Ronnies bar they would need to pass the proposed take away. This will cause congestion issues in the small area just as the doorstaff and police are trying to clear it. Also at 3am, the gate at the entrance on Mill Street is shut by doorstaff to stop people wandering in and this would cause many further issues.

Conclusion.

I do not support the application in respect of necessity for another fast food establishment but more for public safety. The location is not suitable for all the reasons stated.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by: