Alcohol-related crime analysis for proposed Controlled Drinking Zone

Our brief was to analyse geographic crime data around Kingston town centre with a view to recommending a suitable area for a Controlled Drinking Zone (CDZ) for the purposes of identifying the extent of a proposed Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) in the Town Centre. The data analysed comprised all recorded incidents in the borough attended by police between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2012 that were assigned an alcohol flag (i.e. recorded as involving either a suspect or victim who had been drinking) by the reporting officer. This includes recorded offences (around 89% of the incidents analysed here), crime-related incidents* (8%), and incidents where no crime was judged to have taken place (3%). Any incidents where alcohol was involved but which were not flagged as such have not been included.

The data was mapped according to the postcode where each incident was recorded as taking place. The boundaries of the currently-existing Cumulative Impact Zone (Fig. 1) were then overlaid, and the number and density of offences in the area were calculated. Building on the earlier hotspot analysis carried out by the Police which showed the highest concentration of offences in the Town Centre, two potential new zones were mapped south of the railway line with a view to picking out the most-affected areas. The first extended to the southern and eastern boundaries of the CIZ below the railway (Fig. 2), while the second area is larger, going as far as Woodbines Avenue in the south and Albert Road/Villiers Road in the east (Fig. 3). The area in Figure 3 was drawn so as to extend only slightly further than that in Figure 2 while still remaining bounded by pre-existing geographical features such as main roads and the Hogsmill River.

This analysis showed that the smallest of these three areas – the current CIZ area excluding the Canbury Gardens area north of the railway, shown in Figure 2 – had by far the highest crime rate, at 995.8 offences per square kilometre over the two year period. The crime rate decreased dramatically north, south and east of this area (the town centre is bounded to the west by the Thames). See Table 1 for exact figures in each potential CDZ area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boundary</th>
<th>Number of incidents recorded in area</th>
<th>% of total recorded incidents in borough</th>
<th>Size of area (km²)</th>
<th>Density (incidents/km²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ) area (Fig.1)</td>
<td>516 (out of 1,066 total in borough)</td>
<td>48.4%</td>
<td>0.84 (2.3% of total Kingston area of 37.25km²)</td>
<td>614.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIZ, south of railway only (Fig.2)</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>44.8%</td>
<td>0.48 (1.3%)</td>
<td>995.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larger area south of railway (Fig.3)</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>1.00 (2.7%)</td>
<td>502</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Number and density of alcohol-flagged incidents occurring in different CIZ areas, 2011-12

*A crime-related incident is defined as: “a record of an incident which has come to the attention of the police, which, on the balance of probabilities, would normally amount to a notifiable crime, but [where] a resultant crime has not been recorded”, for example because the alleged victim declines to confirm whether or not the crime occurred. (Definition taken from Kent Police website, [http://is.gd/fL9uKO](http://is.gd/fL9uKO).)
Outside of the area shown in Figure 2 the density of incidents drops significantly. The 10 postcodes in the borough which saw the highest number of alcohol-related incidents all fall within the area shown in Figure 2, with the exception of one which is partially within the area and partially adjacent to it. The breakdown of offences in each of the top 10 postcodes is given in Table 2. The geographical areas which these postcodes cover are shown in Figure 4.

Therefore, on the basis of this data a case could be most strongly made for a CDZ to be implemented in the area shown in Figure 2. However, it may also be worth considering the possibility that alcohol-related offences may be displaced to adjacent areas (e.g. northwards to Canbury Gardens).

Attached overleaf:

- Table 2, listing the location of the ten postcodes in the borough where the highest number of alcohol-flagged incidents occurred, with a breakdown of the type of incident recorded.
- Maps of Kingston town centre area, showing different possible CDZ boundaries (Figures 1, 2 and 3), and a thematic map showing the density of offences by postcode area (Figure 4). Blue dots in Figures 1, 2 and 3 show the postcode location of recorded incidents. Please note that a single dot can denote more than one recorded incident. The numbered postcode areas in Figure 4 correspond to the numbered postcodes listed in Table 2. Those postcodes represented by small squares (numbered 3, 4 and 9 on Figure 4) are vertical postcodes, normally denoting a single postcode within a large building which contains more than one postcode.

Analysis compiled by Kingston Data Observatory (kdo@rbk.kingston.gov.uk)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>POSTCODE</th>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Crime-Related Incident/No crime</th>
<th>Violence Against the Person</th>
<th>Sexual Offences</th>
<th>Criminal Damage</th>
<th>Drugs</th>
<th>Other (including Robbery, Burglary, Theft, &amp; Affray/Public Order offences, among others)</th>
<th>Total incidents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>KT1 1QP</td>
<td>Clarence St (near Rotunda, Wilkinsons side)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>KT1 1QT</td>
<td>Clarence St (near Rotunda, Subway side)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>KT1 1RP</td>
<td>Union St (opposite Boots)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>KT1 1QN</td>
<td>Riverside (around McClusky's)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>KT1 1PB</td>
<td>Southern part of Wood St, western end of Clarence St (around TK Maxx)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>KT1 1HN</td>
<td>High St/Portsmouth Road from corner of Kingston Hall Rd to corner of Woodbines Avenue (including Kingston Mill, Ama-Gi and riverside restaurants)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>KT1 1LB</td>
<td>High St (near Kingston Police Station/Guildhall)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>KT1 2AH</td>
<td>St James Rd/Brook St (around Hippodrome)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>KT1 1UJ</td>
<td>Kingston Railway Station</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>KT1 1TN</td>
<td>Riverside/Buckland Wharf (just south of Kingston Bridge)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2: Top 10 postcodes in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames with the highest number of alcohol-flagged offences and incidents, 2011-12
Fig. 1 Current Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ)

Postcode location of alcohol-flagged incident(s)
(One dot may denote the location of more than one incident)

CIZ boundary

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Fig. 2 CIZ area, south of railway only

Postcode location of alcohol-flagged incident(s)
• (One dot may denote the location of more than one incident)
Fig. 3 Larger area south of railway

Postcode location of alcohol-flagged incident(s)
• (One dot may denote the location of more than one incident)

CIZ boundary
Fig. 4 Top 10 postcodes in Kingston for alcohol-flagged incidents, 2011-12

Recorded alcohol-flagged incidents, 2011-12
- 92 to 92
- 45 to 92
- 22 to 45
- 16 to 22
- 11 to 10

Ward boundaries
Current CiZ, south of railway line only

Numbered Postcodes:
1. KT1 1QP
2. KT1 1QT
3. KT1 1RP
4. KT1 1QN
5. KT1 1PB
6. KT1 1HN
7. KT1 1LB
8. KT1 2AH
9. KT1 1LI
10. KT1 1TN

Please refer to Top 10 Postcodes table for more details about the areas covered by each postcode and the types of incident recorded at each location.