

The Licensing Officer,
Coventry City Council.

4/3/19

The Oak Inn, 119 Gosford Street, Coventry - application to vary licensable hours.

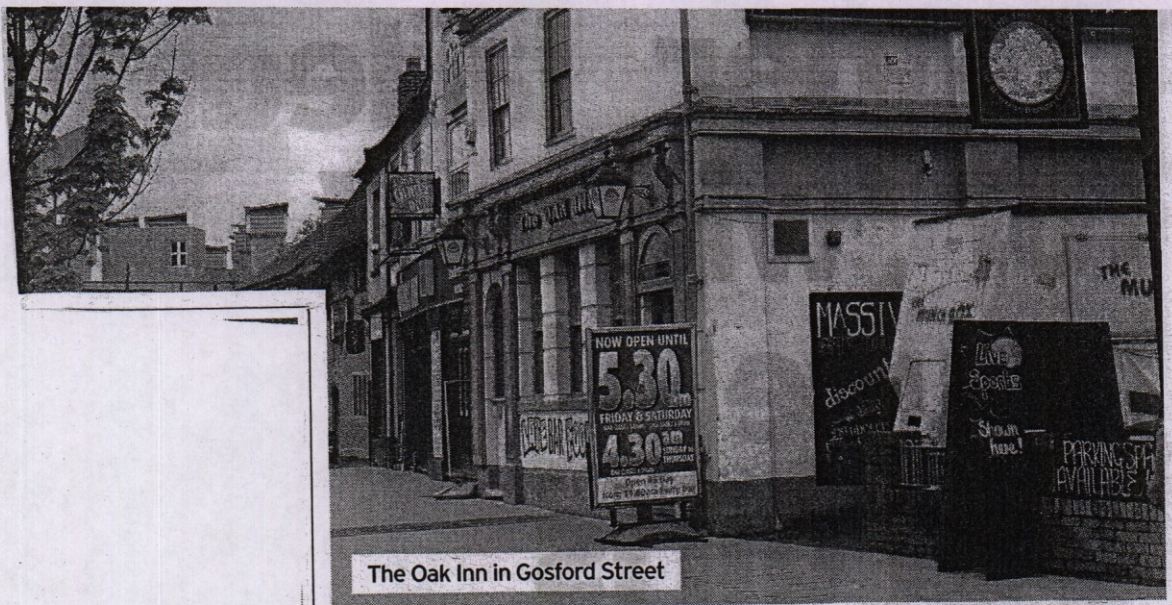
I object to any extension of the current licensable hours of the Oak Inn, on the grounds of serious risk with regard to two licensing objectives - a) Prevention of Crime & Disorder b) Prevention of Public Nuisance.

a) **Prevention of Crime & Disorder.** I append copies of news items from the Coventry Telegraph, 2007 and 2018. As a consequence of late-night violence and disorder between 2004 and 2007, when the Oak was licensed until 5am, its hours were greatly reduced. Over the subsequent years, the very late licence was eventually restored, incrementally. The cuttings from 2018 detail a horrifying incident of violence. This took place at 4.40am, and demonstrates graphically the risks associated with ultra-late licences. In the light of this case, the current application from the Oak seems ill-timed: a more appropriate response might be that its licensable hours be reduced again, rather than extended.

b) **Prevention of Public Nuisance.** The nuisance I would cite here is the detrimental effect on air quality due to black cabs congregating in illicit ranks outside premises with late licences. For some years now, I have permitted Coventry Council's Environmental Protection Department to attach NO2 monitoring tubes to the downpipe on the front of my building, and as a result this section of Gosford Street has been identified as one of the problem areas in the city centre, with NO2 regularly exceeding the permitted maximum level. Normally overnight there would be little traffic, giving some respite from motor vehicle pollution in urban areas. However, where diesel cabs congregate for most of the night with engines running, this will not be the case. Although such unofficial cab ranks are unlawful, neither Coventry City Council nor the police seem prepared to take enforcement action. So, to extend the licensable hours of the Oak at weekends would be to extend the period of NO2 emissions from the unlawful ranking of black cabs nearby, which would seem to contravene the council's avowed policy of improving air quality in the city centre. If, for whatever reason, enforcement action cannot be taken over black cabs congregating, then, until diesel-engined cabs have been phased out, no increases in licensable hours should be granted to premises in air-quality action zones. Indeed, to improve air quality, it would be desirable to aim for a reduction in licensable hours in such areas.

Yours faithfully,





The Oak Inn in Gosford Street

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Coventry Telegraph 26.11.18

Woman in court over attack in pub toilets

48-YEAR-OLD DENIES ASSAULTING MUM-OF-ONE AT THE OAK INN

By **KATY HALLAM**

Chief Reporter
katy.hallam@reachplc.com

A WOMAN has pleaded not guilty to attacking a mum in the toilets of a Coventry pub.

Bobbyjane Boyne, from Radford, was charged with assault following an incident in The Oak Inn pub in Gosford Street on February 24.

Her alleged victim, mum-of-one Anne-Marie Szwed, had to have five stitches following the attack, prosecutor John Cardiff told Coventry Magistrates' Court at a hearing on Thursday, November 22.

Ms Boyne, 48, of Corbet Road, Radford, pleaded not guilty to assault at the hearing. Presiding magistrate Bruce Oliver said the alleged offence was too serious to be dealt with by magistrates, and ordered the case be sent to Warwick Crown Court.

The court heard the alleged victim

suffered head injuries in the unprovoked attack.

Mr Cardiff, for the prosecution, said: "This was an unprovoked assault in a nightclub toilet.

"The complainant suffered head injuries, psychological damage and loss of earnings.

"She ended up with five stitches."

Ms Boyne was ordered to appear before judges at Warwick Crown Court on December 21.

Presiding magistrate Bruce Oliver said: "We have heard this matter is not suitable to be dealt with by the Magistrates' Court and will be sent to the Crown Court."

"Your next appearance will be at Warwick Crown Court on December 21 at 10am.

"Until then you will be remanded on unconditional bail.

"The only requirement of that bail is to attend that court on that day at that time."

News

By KATY HALLAM

Chief Reporter

katy.hallam@trinitymirror.com

A MUM left with a gaping head wound after being savagely attacked in a pub toilet has told how she was just a millimetre away from life-changing injuries.

Anne-Marie Szwed is now scared to leave her Binley home after a fellow reveller grabbed her head and smashed it repeatedly on a sink and windowsill in The Oak Inn pub in Coventry city centre.

The 33-year-old mum-of-one told the Telegraph she can barely sleep following the brutal Saturday night beating.

Horrific photographs showing the aftermath of the attack - with blood splattered all over the bathroom - are too graphic to be published in this newspaper.

She says it was launched by a woman in a fit of jealousy after Anne-Marie unwittingly attracted the attention of a man in the pub.

She said: "They told me if it had gone any deeper, like a millimetre, then it could have been incredibly serious.

"It has put me off going out in Coventry. I used to coach people with mental health problems and confidence skills so for me to be the one that doesn't want to leave my house, it's really foreign for me.

"I just don't want to do anything."

Anne-Marie had gone to the pub on Gosford Street for a quiet drink with a friend after leaving a hot tub party at another friend's house.

She had only been there an hour when trouble erupted.

"We went to the Oak because we knew it was less clubby, you could go there in casuals," she added.

"I walked past a table and I remember this guy looking at me. He made a comment and said 'Are you on tinder?'

"I carried on walking and he carried on staring at me.

"I walked into the bathroom and she [a girl he was sat with] just flew in behind me.

"I turned my head, she grabbed me by the throat and smashed my head off the windowsill.

'She grabbed me by the throat and smashed my head off the windowsill'



"She was screaming 'why doesn't he look at me that way' and 'you're a wh**e, you're a b***h'.

"I couldn't fight back. I was saying I don't know him and trying to reason with her and she just continued.

"I managed to stumble out of the bathroom and my friend was only a couple of tables away. She could just see me covered in blood and came running over.

"I told her to leave me and go get a look at the girl.

"She was calmly washing the blood off her hands.

"When my friend went in she just said I didn't do anything and she ran."

Still in shock four days after the vicious attack, Anne-Marie is still suffering from concussion and can't look after her four-year-old son.

"He's asking every day where his mummy is.

"I'm supposed to be arranging a birthday party for him but that's all gone by the way now.

"I can't do that now. It's really upsetting.

"I'm one of those, I'm usually the strong one that will say 'come on let's go do it' and he gets that from me.

"A couple of times he's seen me he's saying come on mummy it's just a bump on the head and

that's good because he doesn't really understand how serious it is.

"But I know it has really affected him seeing me like this."

Anne-Marie has also been unable to return to work in her complaints role at an energy company since the attack.

She now fears she could lose her job as she is still on probation.

Anne-Marie posted the horrific photos to Facebook in a bid to track her attacker down.

The Coventry community has rallied round her, with the mum-of-one receiving hundreds of Facebook friend requests and messages of support from well wishers.

"I need to find out who she is, someone will know and come forward," Anne-Marie added.

"It was really busy in the pub that night.

"It was just absolutely horrific. I spent the day after the attack in tears.

"I just want to know she can't do this to anyone else."

A spokesman for West Midlands Police said: "Police are investigating an assault on a woman at the Oak Inn, Gosford Street, Coventry which took place on Saturday 24 February.

"At around 4.40am, a 33-year-old woman was followed into the ladies

toilets by an unknown woman who grabbed her hair and hit her head against a windowsill.

"The attacker then left the premises.

"The victim was taken to hospital for treatment

for cuts and bruising to her head.

"Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101 giving crime reference 20CV/44106T/18."

A spokesman for West

Midlands Ambulance

Service said: "We were called to reports of a patient who had been assaulted on Gosford Street at 4.46am on Saturday morning, one ambulance attended the

scene. An off duty para-

medic also offered assistance at the scene.

"We treated a woman, believed to be in her 30s, for a head injury and transported her to hospital."

24-HOUR BOOZE: VIOLENCE SOARS

COV. TEL. 21.11.07

By Emma Stone
CRIME REPORTER

Trouble is out of control at city nightspot with 5am licence, say police

LATE-NIGHT violence and disorder have spiralled since the licensing laws were relaxed to allow 24-hour drinking in pubs, say Coventry police.

One popular pub near the city centre which is open until 5am has seen trouble soar.

Problems at the Oak Inn, in Gosford Street, are out of control, says a special police report.

Police are so worried about the situation that they have prompted a review of the pub's licence.

But the pub's owner says the number of incidents there is

LOWER than at some city centre venues.

The police report blames the pub's 5am licence which was granted in February 2006.

It points out that most of the trouble happens because people leaving city centre nightspots at 2am head to Gosford Street. They know they can carry on drinking for another three hours at the Oak.

Police have compiled a compre-

hensive report of incidents at the pub, including a list of call-outs for police and ambulance crews and a compilation video tape of CCTV footage.

Between November 2004 and November 2005 police were called to the pub on 53 occasions. This rose to 104 between November 2005 and November 2006, and again to 140 between

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■ LICENCE REVIEW... The Oak Inn in Coventry's Gosford Street which has been plagued with trouble since its licence was extended to 5am. People can carry on drinking long after other venues have closed.