



Ashford Police Community Safety Unit

Ashford Police Station, Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent TN23 1BT
Telephone: 01233 896354

Date: 4th January 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Codfather, 15 High St, Ashford TN24 8TH.

Further to my application to review the premises licence at the Cod Father 15 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TH please find attached additional information in support of the application.

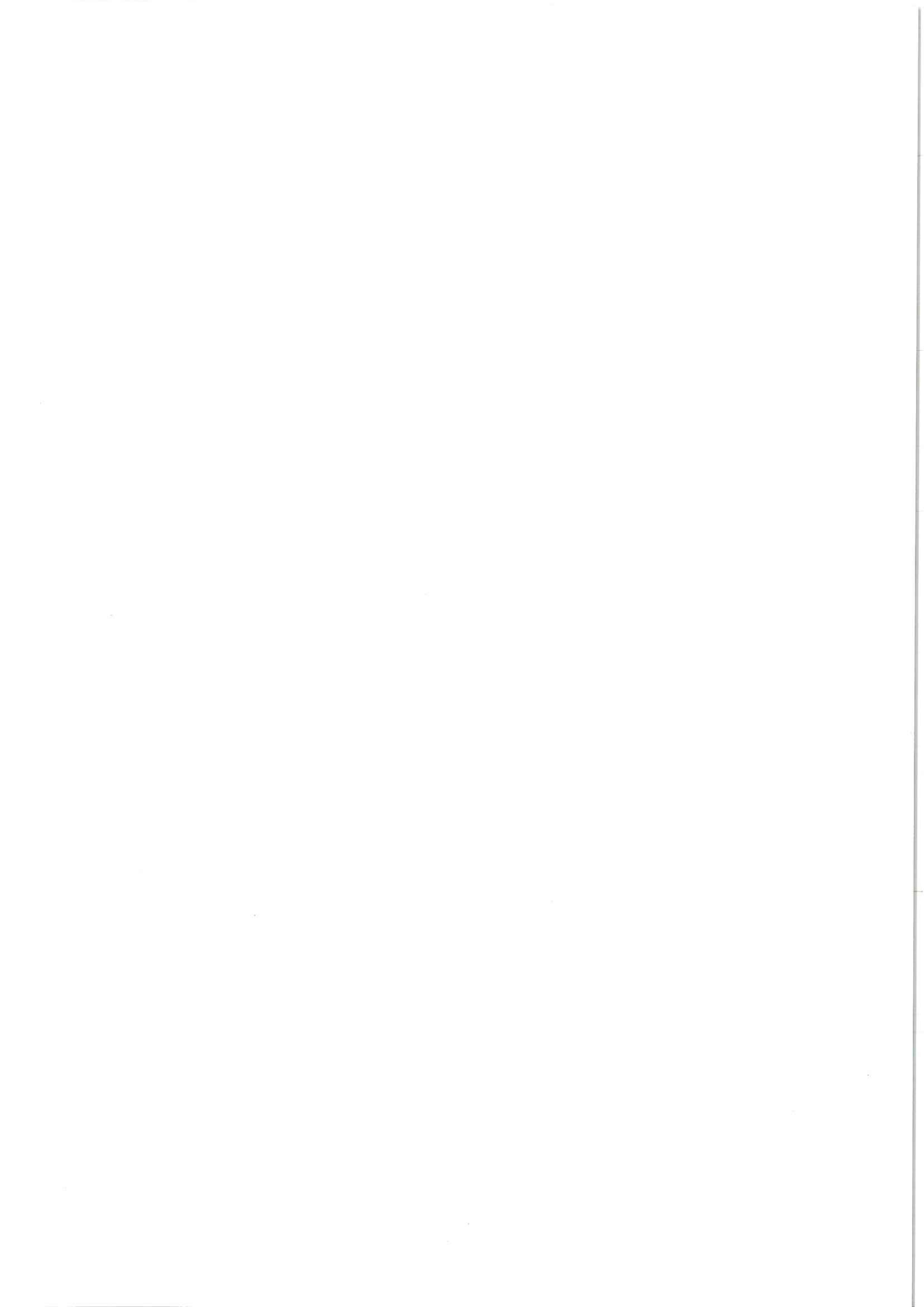
1. Further letter sent to the premises licence holder Mr Sahar Gul Ahmadzai – hand delivered by Police on the 4th January 2019. This letter is an invitation for the licence holder and/or his representative to attend the Police Station or any other location to view the CCTV which will be shown on the day of the hearing. Kent Police have suggested three separate times and dates, whereby the footage could be viewed by the premises licence holder or their representatives. Should those dates not be suitable then contact was requested so an alternative arrangement could be made.

Within the letter Kent Police request further information from the licence holder which included: Further information to show what training members of staff from the Cod Father have had in respect of 'conflict Management' as well as the associated certificates to show its completion. Kent Police also request the premises provide details of all members of staff who were working on the night of the 6th October 2018 into the 7th October 2018. The licence holder is asked to confirm the CCTV is fully operational and that should access be required by Kent Police this will be facilitated.

2. A summary of incidents/calls to the Cod Father 15 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TH from February 2016 to date. This document includes a summary of each call, and how each matter was resolved.
3. CCTV stills and summary of each, which show particular moments from the footage caught by Ashford Borough Council monitoring centre on the 7th October 2018. The footage shows a view of the High Street, Ashford and contains persons holding or using offensive weapons in public. The specific images will be shown on the day of the hearing, and are not intended for public viewing.
4. Document titled 'Recommendations'. This document contains recommendations made by Kent Police following concerns that the Cod Father 15 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TH is failing to promote the licensing objectives of the 'Prevention of Crime and Disorder' and 'Public Safety'. The recommendations are put forward with the view to support the premises in its obligation to promote the licensing objectives.

Yours Sincerely

PC 10699 Pringle
Licensing Officer
Community Safety Unit
Ashford Police Station.



Community safety unit



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Ashford Police Community Safety Unit

Ashford Police Station, Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent TN23 1BT
Telephone: 01233 896354

Date: 3rd January 2019

Dear Mr Sahargul Ahmadzai,

Re: Codfather, 15 High St, Ashford TN24 8TH.

Prior to the hearing to review the premises licence at the Cod Father, 15 High Street, Ashford, TN24 8TH I wanted to extend an invitation for you and/or your legal representative to view the CCTV I intend to show to the Licensing Committee during the hearing.

It is only fair that you and/or your representative have access to the footage to allow you to see what will be shown. This may assist you in your preparation for the hearing.

The footage is the same footage I showed you during our meeting at Ashford Police Station on the 23rd October 2018 in the presence of Mr Postlethwaite – Licensing Officer, Ashford Borough Council. The footage has been edited to reduce its length. Due to the fact that other members of the public, who were not involved in the incident, are identifiable from the footage, I feel that this is the most appropriate way forward to ensure data protection is not breached or that they are put at any disadvantage by the footage becoming public. Therefore I am inviting you or your representative to view it on the following times/dates. Please can you let me know if you would like to view the footage or not and when would be the best time/date for you?

I am available on Wednesday 9th January 2019 at any time between 9am and 3pm.
(I can change my shift to an evening meeting should this be preferable to you).

I am available on Friday 11th January 2019 at any time between 8am and 3:30pm.

I am available on Tuesday 15th January 2019 at any time between 8am and 4pm.
(I can change my shift to an evening meeting should this be preferable to you).

If these times or dates are not suitable to you or your representative you can contact me, I will be flexible to ensure you have sufficient access to the footage.

My contact details are:

Telephone: 01233 896354

Or email: 10699@kent.pnn.police.uk

My postal address is: Ashford Police Station, Tufton Street, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1BT.

Or you can attend the front counter and ask if I am available.

Should you not wish to attend the Police Station, I am happy to arrange a meeting with you at a location away from the Police Station, such as the Council Offices, or at another suitable location we can agree on.

During our meeting on the 23rd October 2018 you said that members of staff at the Cod Father already have 'conflict management' training. The training will explain to members of staff how they should deal with 'conflict in the work place' when dealing with members of the public should problems arise. You told me that members of staff have already completed such training and have certificates.

Please can you provide details of what training members of staff have already undertaken and can you provide copies of the certificates so that I can understand the extent of that training? If you could provide the paperwork and details of the training to Ashford Police Station I would be most grateful.

During our conversation you suggested that you had not checked your CCTV for several years. Can you now confirm that it is fully operational, and that you are fully aware of how it operates so that should Kent Police need to utilise the footage we will be able to do so?

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Finally please can you supply me with details of all of your employees that were working on the night of the 6th into the 7th October 2018?

Should you have any questions or queries regarding this letter or any other licensing matter don't hesitate in contacting me.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PC 10699'.

PC 10699 Pringle
Licensing Officer
Community Safety Unit
Ashford Police Station.

Cod Father 15 High Street, Ashford, TN24 8TH – Calls and incidents to the premises or in the vicinity and connected:

The term 'CAD' means 'Computer aided dispatch' – this is a reference number generated by the Kent Police Control room, when contact is made concerning a crime, incident or information. The report details relevant information such as a description of an incident, who dealt with it, and the outcome.

Each CAD has been summarised below to ensure personal information held on the original is not inappropriately shown.

The calls are details from the 21st February 2016. The reason for this is to show the frequency and type of incidents Kent Police are called to resolve. It also shows the increase in incidents since 2017, albeit these so match those in 2016.

The summery below shows that in 2016 there were nine incidents described as disturbances, assaults, and threats. In 2017 there were three incidents described as two disturbances and a fight. In 2018 there were nine incidents described as being eight disturbances and one theft.

Summery

CAD 21-0074. (Sunday)

Call Type: Disturbance. On Sunday 21st February 2016 at 01:34 hours Kent Police were contacted with regards to a female causing a disturbance at the Cod Father. The female was calling someone a 'Slave'. Kent Police officers attended and words of advice were provided to those involved. No crime report was recorded.

CAD 21-0173. (Sunday)

Call Type: Disturbance. On Sunday 21st February 2016 03:53 hours Kent Police were contacted with regard to a fight taking place at the Cod Father. No weapons were involved, and the fight was brief. The persons involved dispersed and no crime reports were recorded.

CAD 18-0001. (Monday)

Call Type: Disturbance. On Monday 18th April 2016 at 00:03 hours members of staff from the Cod Father contacted Kent Police in relation to two males who were causing a disturbance. The males were intoxicated, abusive and aggressive. They had been ejected from another licensed premise for urination and aggression. Kent Police officers attended and both males were arrested for being drunk and disorderly.

CAD 03-0264. (Sunday)

Call Type: Disturbance. On Sunday 3rd July 2016 at 03:38 hours a fight was reported outside the Cod Father. Kent Police officers attended however no offences were recorded.

CAD 23-0103. (Tuesday)

Call Type: Disturbance. On Tuesday 23rd August 2016 at 03:03 hours a member of staff from the Cod Father pressed a 'panic alarm' situated inside the premises. The alarm had been raised due to an abusive customer. The alarm company spoke to a member of staff at the Cod Father who informed them that the male in question had left the premises. No offences were recorded.

CAD 03-0199. (Saturday)

Call Type: Assault. On Saturday 3rd September 2016 at 03:38 hours a fight was reported inside the Cod Father. It was reported that 3 to 4 males were fighting. There was a further call from members of staff saying that they were still fighting, and that they were now outside of the Cod Father. The group causing the disturbance then left the area. This incident resulted in Kent Police recording a crime report for actual bodily harm. Members of staff had pressed the 'panic alarm' and Kent Police officer arrived on the scene. A female identified herself as a victim of crime. She told officers that she had stepped in between two fighting groups and had herself been struck in the face causing no visible injuries. Kent Police recorded two crimes reports of assault. The result being that one of the offender was identified the other was not. The male received a formal caution.

CAD 10-0243. (Saturday)

Call Type: Threats. On Saturday 10th September 2016 at 04:03 hours Kent Police was contacted by a member of the public. The male reported that whilst at the Cod Father another customer had threatened him. CCTV viewed the area and did not see a disturbance. Kent Police officers attended however no crimes were recorded.

CAD 01-0220. (Saturday)

Call Type: Disturbance. On Saturday 1st September 2016 at 03:59 hours an unknown person who wished to remain anonymous reported a fight outside the Cod Father; a disturbance could be heard in the background of the call. CCTV viewed the area and could not see anything of note. The same caller then again reported 8/9 persons fighting outside the Cod Father. Kent Police officers attended and found that the premises had closed and no one was in the street. No crimes were recorded.

CAD 19-0157. (Saturday)

Call type: Assault. On Saturday 19th November 2016 at 03:13 hours Kent Police were notified of an altercation between two females inside the Cod Father. The argument became heated and one of the females dragged the other out of the premises by her hair. Kent Police officers attended and spoke to both parties, neither party wanted to support a prosecution. Kent Police recorded a crime report for an assault; however the crime was not progressed due to the victim declining to support.

CAD 15-0163. (Saturday)

Call Type: Disturbance. On Saturday 15th April 2017 Kent Police were contacted by CCTV regarding a fight taking place at the Cod Father. A male was trying to start a fight with others inside which overflowed into the High Street, a male picked up a pole from nearby (not from premises) and chased others before leaving the area in a taxi. (Records do not confirm if this matter was progressed)

CAD 29-0152 (Monday)

Call Type: Disturbance. On Monday 29th May 2017 at 02:59 hours two females were reported to Kent Police due to causing a disturbance inside the Cod Father. Both were intoxicated, and were demanding a first aid kit as one of the females had stepped onto smashed glass in town. Both became aggressive. This matter did not result in any crimes being recorded.

CAD 27-1235 (Saturday)

Call Type: Fight. On Saturday 27th January 2017 at 22:03 hours a male who was a member of staff from the Cod Father contacted Kent Police alleged that he had been assaulted at the premises by several persons whom were connected to another premises. The offending group arrived by car, several punches were thrown. Kent Police recorded an assault crime report and a Public Order crime report. The victim, who claimed he was a member of staff from the Cod father, stated that he had been assaulted. Three offenders were interviewed and provided differing accounts. CCTV from Ashford Borough Council showed the victim punching out first, which conflicted against the original account. The matter was investigated but it did not proceed to court as the evidence obtained was inconclusive.

CAD 03-209 (Sunday)

Call Type: Disturbance. On Sunday 3rd June 2018 Kent Police were notified of a disturbance taking place outside of the Cod Father and a male was lying on the floor. Another call was received by members of SIA door staff from other licensed premises who were attempting to deal with this incident. Kent Police recorded two racially aggravated public order offences and an assault report. The victims refused to engage with Police therefore the investigation could not proceed. Kent Police cannot confirm if anyone involved in this incident was a customer of the Cod Father, or if the location was coincidental.

Crime report ZY/58343/18.

Crime description: Theft. This report related to a theft of wallet and mobile phone outside the Cod Father. The owner attended Ashford Police Station and stated that on Monday 1st October 2018 between 04:00 and 05:00 hours. The victim and a friend attended the Cod Father to purchase food. The victim stated that he believed his phone and wallet were stolen from him whilst outside of the Cod Father. The report was filed as there were no further lines of enquiry to be made. No enquiries were made with the staff from the Cod Father.

CAD 06-295/ 06-434

Call Type: Disturbance. A drunk female attended the Cod Father and caused a disturbance. Two calls were made to Kent Police. The first call was from a member of the public saying that a female was trying to fight with people and kick things. The female was angry with someone in the kebab shop. The second call was from a member of staff from the Cod Father at 0436 hours on the 6th October 2018. Caller states a female is swearing and punching people. The caller was trying to close the shop but the female is preventing him from doing so. She started a fight with two other customers and when the manager asked her to leave it seemed to make it worse and she started banging on doors. The female left the shop and carried on outside the venue before leaving. Kent Police recorded an attempt criminal damage crime report. The report was not progressed, staff from the Cod Father confirmed that the female had been lashing out, but no damage had been caused.

CAD 07-228

Call Type: Disturbance/Offensive Weapon. Ashford Borough Council CCTV notified Kent Police of an altercation which started near to the front of the Cod Father. This incident instigated Kent Police in trying to work with the license holder to increase public safety and to promote the 'Prevention of crime and disorder' objective. The nature of this incident which involved staff members using offensive weapons in public and the subsequent reluctance to either alter operating hours or employ security caused Kent Police to have significant concerns that the premise was failing to promote the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety objective. The incident which took place on the 7th October 2018 at 04:48 hours involved vehicles hitting each other, and fighting in the street. Kent Police Officers attended and arrested a member of staff from the Cod Father for being in possession of a baseball bat in public. Staff members are seen fighting with what looks like a broom handle and a cricket bat. Prior to that a male was seen leaving the Cod Father with what is believed to be a knife before returning with it. Police Officers arrived and attempted to speak to those at the scene. A male identified himself as the manager of the Cod Father. He admitted to bringing out a baseball bat from his vehicle. Kent Police recorded three crime reports comprising of an assault/affray and an offensive weapon. No persons at the scene provided further details as to who was involved. The manager of the Cod Father was cautioned for the offence of possessing an offensive weapon in public.

CAD 04-286

Call Type: Disturbance. Ashford Borough Council CCTV contacted Kent Police on Sunday 4th November 2018 at 04:51 hours. This was in relation to a disturbance taking place in the High Street Ashford outside of the Cod Father. The disturbance involved a male who is connected to and believed to be a member of staff from the Cod Father. The male was seen trying to start a fight with a female. Two other persons were trying to stop the disturbance. Police attended and the male was argumentative towards the attending Police Officer, but did leave the area and no offences were recorded.

CAD 14-1205

Call Type: Disturbance. An individual employed by the High Court contacted Kent Police on Wednesday 14th November 2018 at 16:24 hours. Whilst at the Cod Father, for a legitimate reason a disturbance was taking place which involved members of staff. Kent Police Officers attended and prevented a breach of the peace. No crimes were recorded.

CAD 14-1266

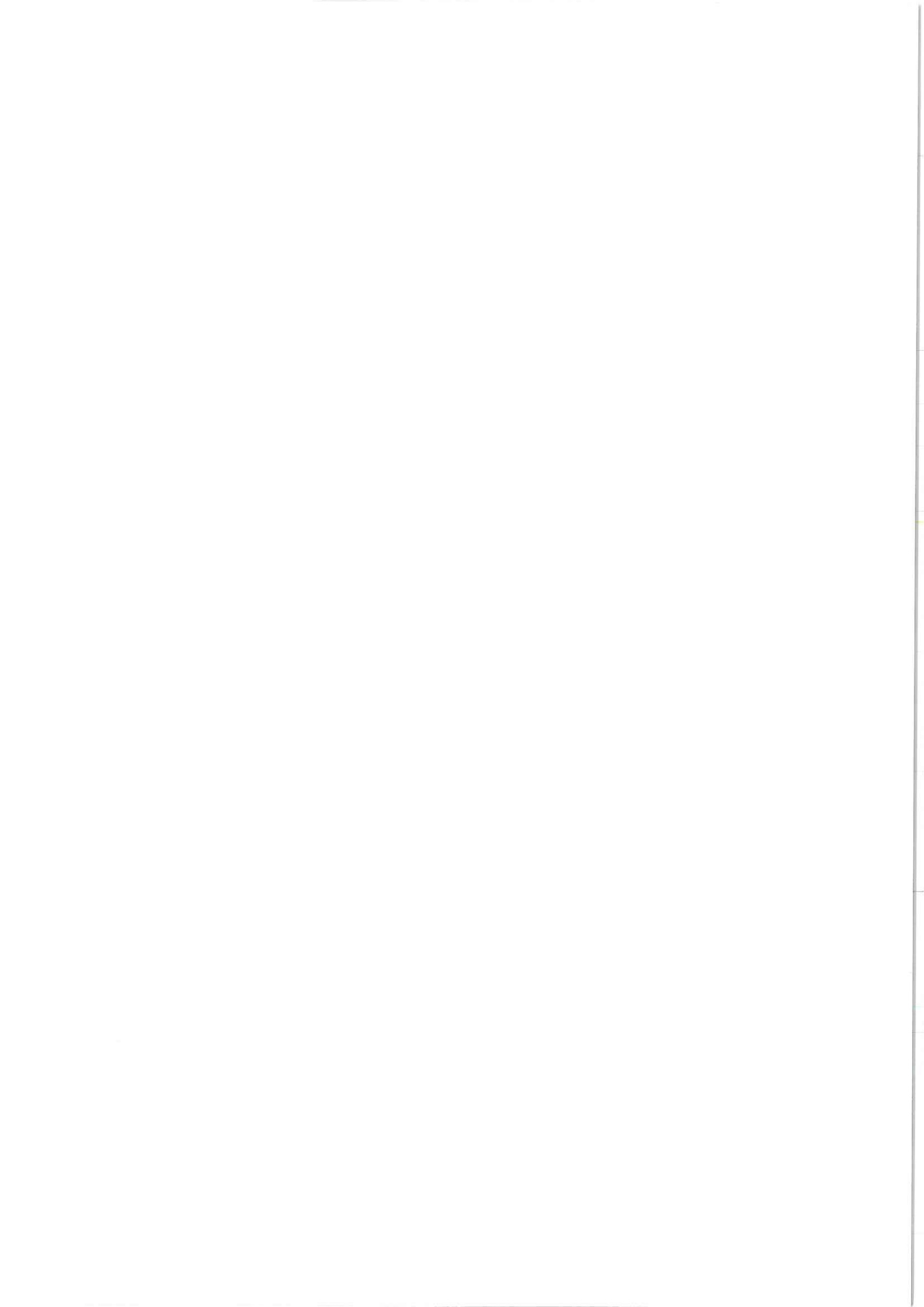
Call Type: Disturbance. On Wednesday 14th November 2018 at 16:59 hours a further call was made to Kent Police by an employee from the High Court. The caller described that a male within the Cod Father was becoming aggressive. This incident was related to the previous incident. Police attended to prevent a breach of the peace. No crimes were recorded.

CAD 17-0149

Call Type: Disturbance 'Assistance'. On Saturday 17th November 2018 at 02:14 hours A Police Officer was on patrol in the High Street, Ashford. The officer contacted the Kent Police control room requesting 'assistance' due to a fight taking place outside of the Cod Father. The two males who were fighting were separated. Neither wanted to provide any details to Kent Police therefore no crime reports were generated.

CAD 24-0225

Call Type: Disturbance. On Monday 24th December 2018 at 03:40 hours an intoxicated member of the public contacted Kent Police. He said that he was involved in an altercation at a different venue. The other party had followed him to the Cod Father and was waiting outside for him. Kent Police officers attended and ensured no offences took place.

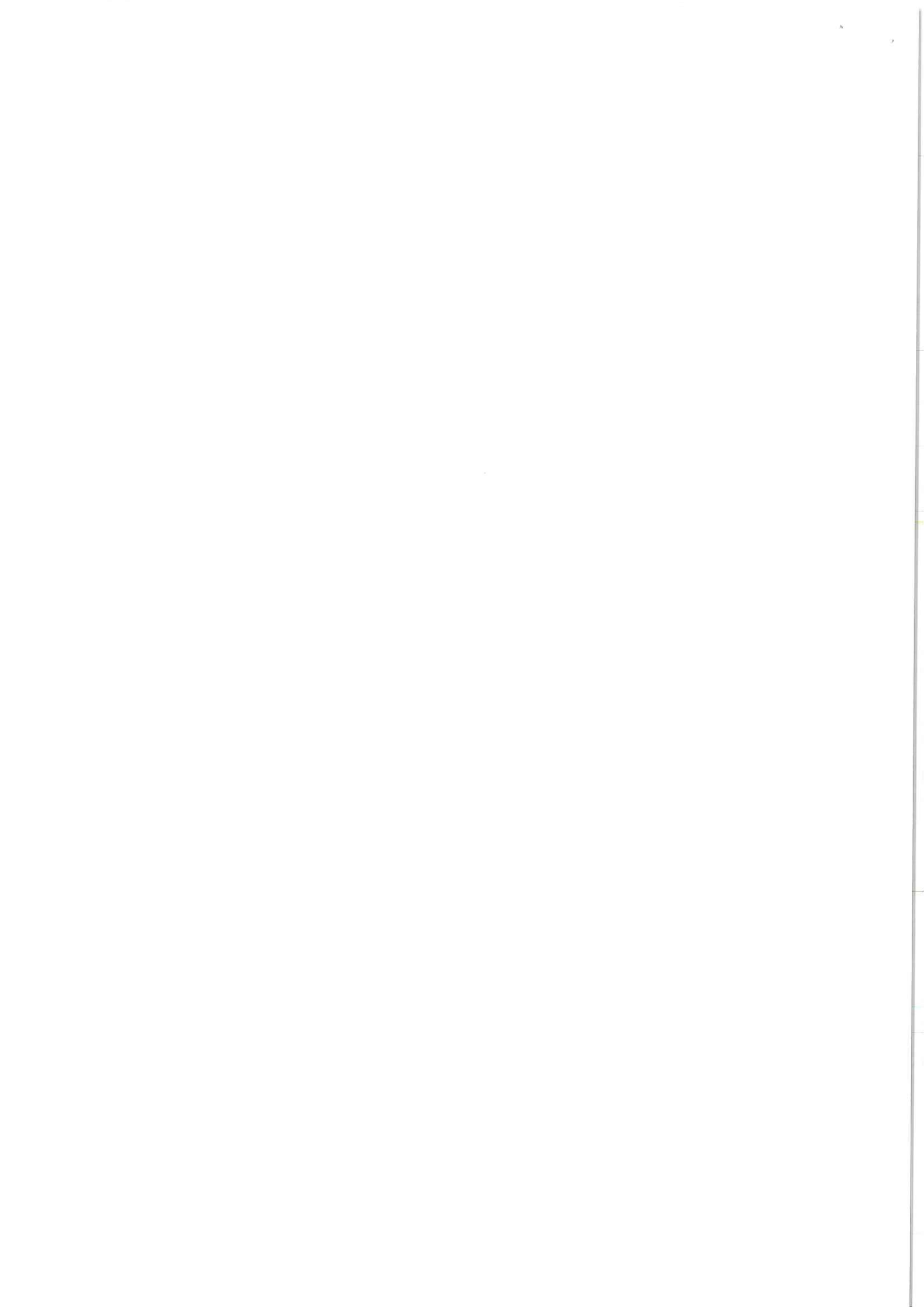


The Cod Father 15 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TH

7th October 2018 – Disturbance/Affray.

This image will be shown to all involved parties present during the hearing.

The above image is a screen capture of Ashford Borough Council CCTV taken on the 7th October 2018 at 04:51 hours. The male to the left of the screen is holding a long metallic object behind his back. The footage shows the unknown male observing the fight, he turns and enters the Cod Father 15 High Street, Ashford and after a few seconds returns to the High Street with the weapon hidden behind his back. Kent Police suggest that the item being carried in public is a kebab knife. Kent Police suggest that he is a member of staff from the premises, because he was seen at the premises at a time the licence holder states the premises were closed and only members of staff remained as they were cleaning. He had very easy access into the premises during the disturbance, and knew exactly where to find the weapon.



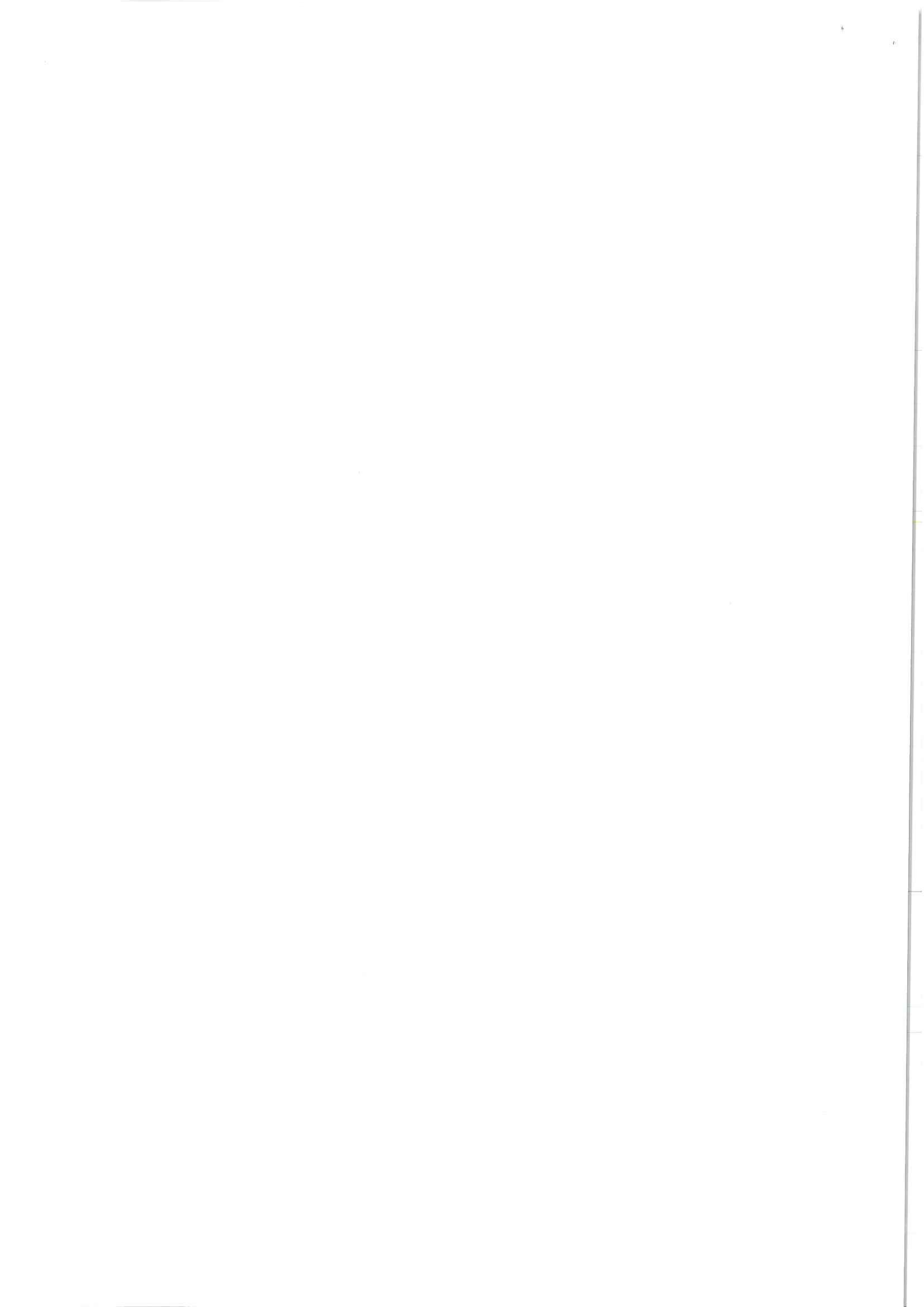
The Cod Father 15 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TH

7th October 2018 – Disturbance/Affray.

This image will be shown to all involved parties present during the hearing.

The above image is a screen capture of Ashford Borough Council CCTV taken on the 7th October 2018 in Ashford High Street at 04:56 hours. The image shows the premises licence holder stood to the left of the screen. In front of him is a staff member from his premises who is holding a cricket bat. The male with the bat is seen striking out several times with the bat towards a male in the street.

This specifically was not report to Kent Police by the parties involved.



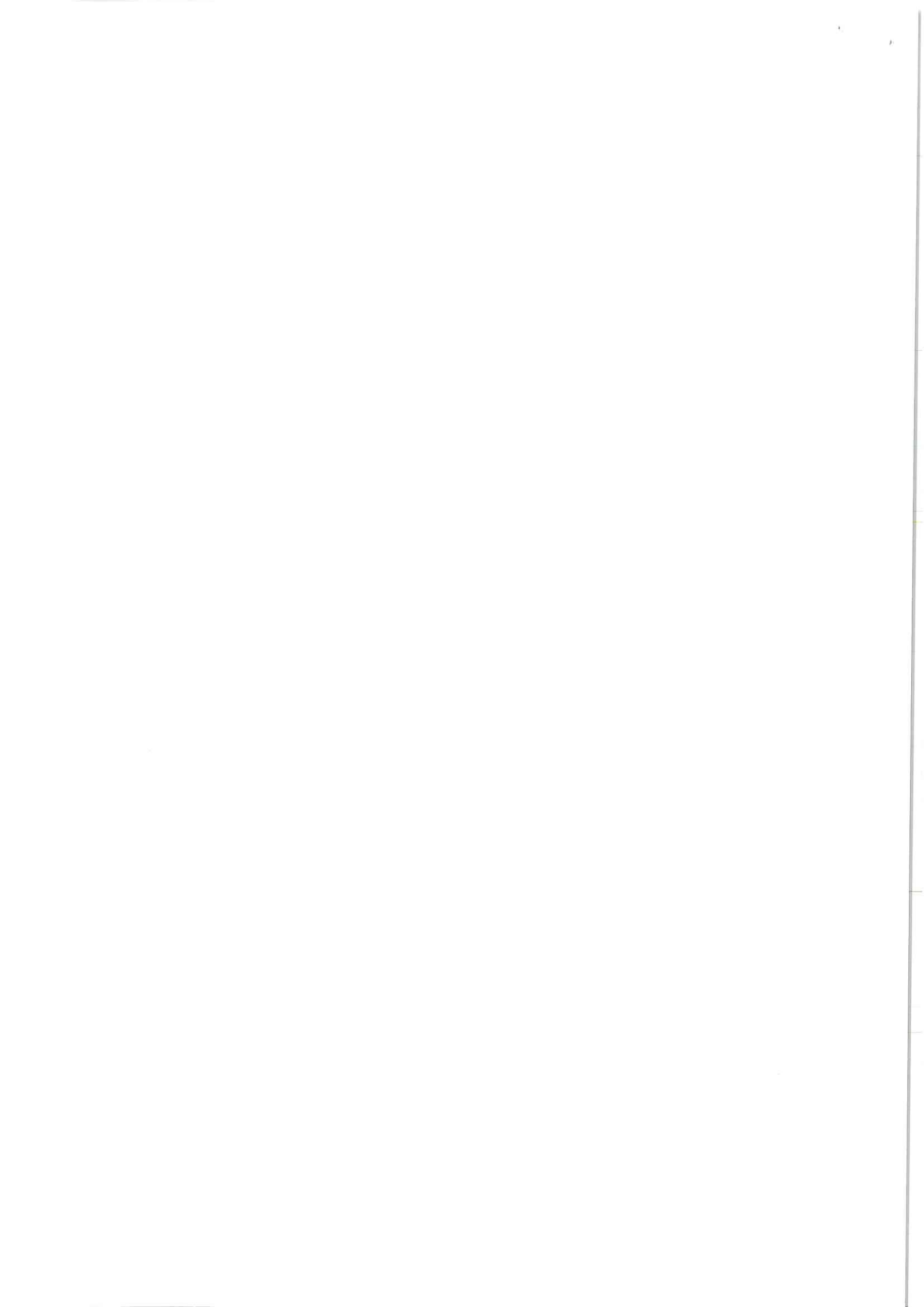
The Cod Father 15 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TH

7th October 2018 – Disturbance/Affray.

This image will be shown to all involved parties present during the hearing.

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The above image is a screen capture of Ashford Borough Council CCTV taken on the 7th October 2018 in Ashford High Street at 04:56 hours. A male is seen exiting the Cod Father whilst holding a broom. The male is seen using the broom in a clubbing motion towards another male. When a Police vehicle attends the scene the male holding the broom is seen to run back into the Cod Father.



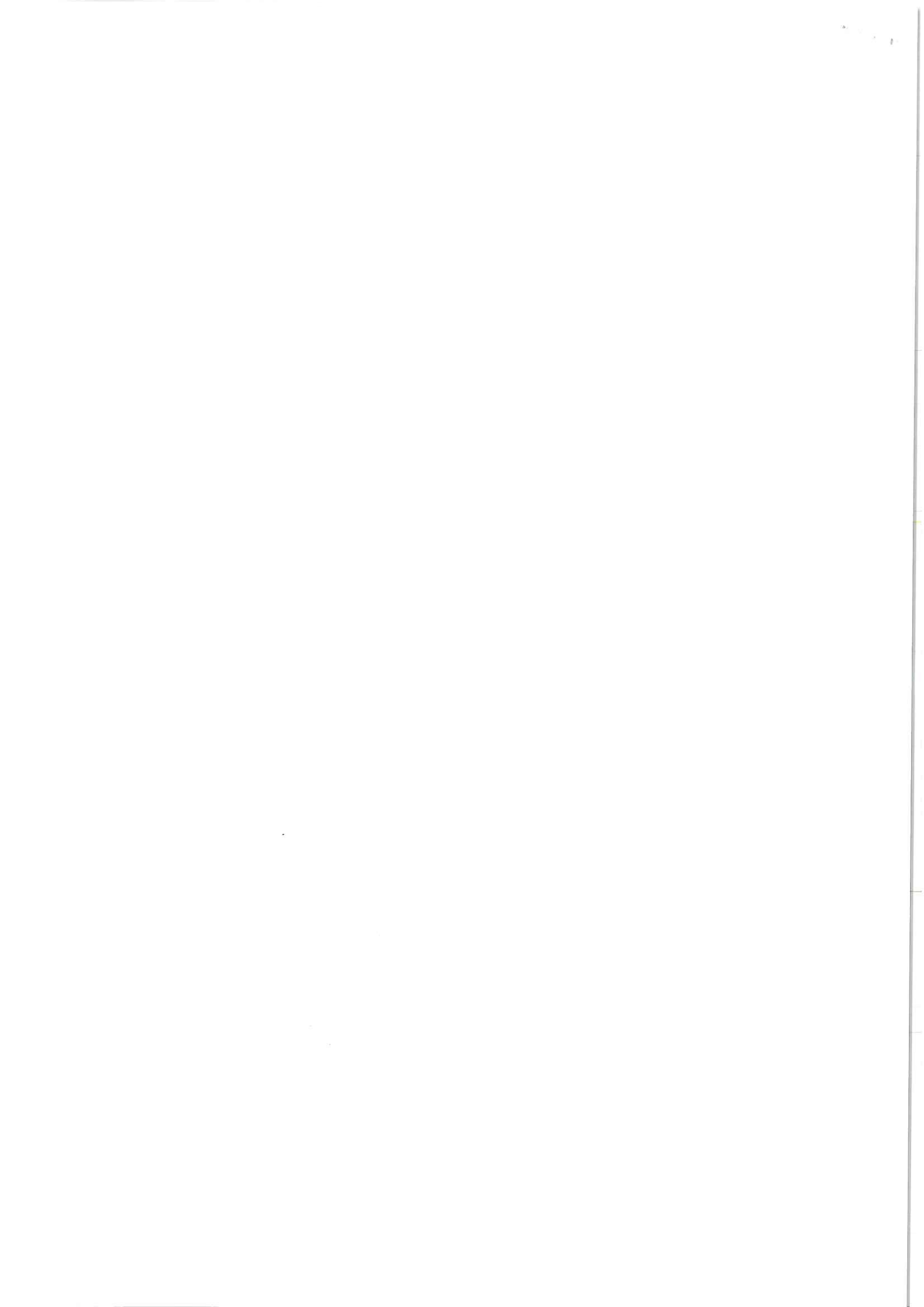
The Cod Father 15 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TH

7th October 2018 – Disturbance/Affray.

This image will be shown to all involved parties present during the hearing.

This image will be shown to all involved parties present during the hearing.

The above image is a screen capture of Ashford Borough Council CCTV taken on the 7th October 2018 in Ashford High Street at 04:56 hours. The black vehicle was rammed from behind and knocked across the street. The male at the rear of the vehicle, is a member of staff from the Cod Father. It was later established that he was in fact the manager. The item he is holding is a baseball bat. After his vehicle was damaged he retrieved the weapon from the boot. A marked Police car arrives on the High Street and he is seen by officers in possession of the bat in public. He was subsequently arrested and after admitting the offence he was given a formal Police Caution. The baseball bat was recovered by Police.



Recommendations:

Kent Police have serious concerns about the ability of the Premises Licence Holder to uphold and promote the licensing objectives. Furthermore, there is a concern based on the lack of recognition by the Premises Licence Holder that he has not upheld the objectives, despite efforts to communicate this to him, and that he would be unlikely to follow any unique conditions that may be imposed. It is therefore a strong recommendation of Kent Police that the Premises Licence be revoked.

Should it be decided not to revoke, Kent Police would ask that consideration be made to suspend the licence for a period of no less than 3 months. This would be sufficient time to allow the premises licence holder to fully train staff, and implement the conditions put forward to them during a meeting and later in writing.

Having reviewed the conditions originally proposed in the initial application Kent Police would like to adjust the conditions recommended in order to prevent duplication and to add clarity. Accordingly Kent Police would like propose the following amended conditions in line with our application:

To replace condition number 2 under the Prevention of Crime and Disorder objective on the current premises licence with:

1. CCTV will be provided in the form of a recordable system, capable of providing pictures of evidential quality in all lighting condition particularly facial recognition.
 - Cameras shall encompass all ingress and egress areas to the premises and all areas where the supply of late night refreshments occurs.
 - Equipment must be maintained in good working order, be correctly time and date stamped, recordings **MUST** be kept on the hard drive, kept for a minimum period of 28 days, and handed to Police or member of the Local Authority upon reasonable request.
 - The premises licence holder must ensure at all times an appointed member of staff is capable and competent at downloading CCTV footage in a recordable format to the Police and Local Authority upon reasonable request
 - Notices are to be placed and displayed within the public areas advising that CCTV is in operation for the purposes of crime reduction.

Kent Police suggests that the above condition is implemented to ensure that CCTV footage is recorded and retained with a view to assisting with Police investigations relating to 'Crime and Disorder'. Having an operator trained in its use will promote its integrity; promote public safety and the prevention of crime and disorder.

To add the following conditions:

2. The premises must employ two Security Industry Authority approved door supervisors every Friday and Saturday from midnight until close. These door supervisors are to be dedicated to the role of crime and disorder. Both members of door staff must wear reflective tabards that can be easily and clearly identifiable.

Kent Police suggests that the above condition is essential to ensuring the premises are able to promote the 'Prevention of Crime and Disorder' and 'Public Safety' objectives.

The incident on Sunday 7th October 2018 at 04:48 hours at the Cod Father may not have developed to the extent of weapons being used in the street had effective controls been in place.

Implementing security at the Cod Father on Friday and Saturday nights provides appropriate and necessary cover to reduce the risk of crime and disorder taking place at the mostly likely times it would occur. The use of two SIA door staff will allow the premises licence holder to effectively reduce crime and disorder at his premises.

They will be present to reduce the likelihood of customers thinking that disorderly behaviour is acceptable. Should an intoxicated persons attempt to gain access to items which could be used as weapons then having two members of SIA security will increase their capability to restrain and eject anyone with this mind-set. The use of two members of door staff will allow them to monitor the inside and outside of the premises ensuring that incidents that may be seen as associated to the premises are controlled / minimised.

3. The premises license holder shall ensure that an incident book will be maintained at the premises and will ensure any incident of 'crime and disorder' or 'antisocial' behaviour is recorded to include, time/date of incident, descriptions of those involved and their actions, and, any actions taken by members of staff. The person making the entry will record details of all members of staff on the premises at the time of the incident. The book will be made available to the Licensing Authority and Kent Police on request.

Kent Police suggests that the above condition will promote the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Public Safety licensing objectives by ensuring that details are recorded that will enable the effective investigation of crime and disorder

4. All staff, paid or unpaid, will be provided with a half day course in 'conflict management' provided by a suitably competent and recognised trainer. .
A register including completion certificates will be kept at the premises and be made available to Police and Local Authority on demand.

Kent Police would like to suggest that the above condition will promote the Prevention of Crime and Disorder objective. Had members of staff involved in the incident on the 7th October 2018 had even the most basic of training in 'conflict management', they would have at least known that their actions were escalating the situation and not diffusing or controlling it.

5. Last orders taken at 04:30 (Licensable activity to cease at 04:30 hours to ensure that the premises can close at 05:00 hours as per the premises licence)

Kent Police would like to suggest that a reduction of the hours the Cod Father is able to conduct late night refreshment. Reducing the hours from 05:00 hours to 04:30 hours is an appropriate and measured reduction to ensure persons are encouraged to purchase food after the close of nearby alcohol licensed premises, this will then allow 30 minutes for dispersal. Door staff could encourage the safe dispersal of patrons so that intoxicated persons are not left to congregate in the immediate vicinity of the premises which may reduce the likelihood of incidents taking place.

