

**London Borough of Barnet, Trading Standards and
Licensing, Development and Regulatory Services**

IMPACT OF PREMISES LICENSED THE SALE AND SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL ON CRIMES

The Problems Associated with Alcohol
Consumption in Barnet Borough

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Introduction

This report highlights the problems caused by alcohol within the London Borough of Barnet. It will focus on the prevalence of alcohol-related crimes and the impact of licensed premises on crimes and the community. The report will comment on the impact of licensed premises in Barnet Borough, crime prevention and will make key recommendations. This report will identify repeat locations for alcohol related violence crimes but will not identify individuals at this stage.

Barnet Trading Standards and Licensing have commissioned this report to conduct some statistical analysis into the impact of licensed premises in Barnet Borough. This is the first study of its kind in this Borough, this project will focus on the relationship between the concentration of licensed premises and the impacts on crimes, underage drinking, noise nuisances, street drinking, Anti Social Behaviour, environmental impact, impact on emergency services e.g. on Ambulance services, Police and Fire Services.

The research project reveals that the density of licensed premises does appear to contribute to the upsurge in alcohol misuse and source the upsurge in the number of alcohol related calls made to the London Ambulance Service (LAS), this is linked to intensifications in 999 calls. Not only that; it also posed a greater risks to young people suffering alcohol harm due to the greater availability of alcohol.

People are more likely to drink at home; this is due to the price differences, i.e. price difference between alcohol bought from on and/or off-licence premises (a pint of beer in London's pubs is £3.60¹ where Stella Artois (4x440ml) cost £4.49 at Tesco² (prices are correct as at 27/08/2014). There has been an increase in the number of off-licence premises compared to 30 years ago; this is a 25% increase³ (typical examples are the 24-hours-supermarkets, convenient stores etc, which are dominating our high streets). Research analysis reveals that licensed premises; On and/or Off premises are the major direct and indirect source of access to alcohol for young people under18 years old. Alcohol sales promotion (High Street Supermarkets sales, bars/pubs Happy Hours Sales etc) and the density of licensed premises create negative alcohol-related consequences.

Summary

- Licensed premises are spread across the borough, with high concentration in HA8, NW4, NW11, EN5, N12 and N3.
- Despite the fact we have a large number of licensed premises at the above locations, these have a limited impact on Street Drinking incidents, although the datasets used were limited to incidents reported to the local authority (3 years record – Aug 2011 to Aug 2014).
- HA8 – especially from Station Road to High Street A5, down to Montrose Avenue appear to be the borough hotspots for street drinking; NW11 also shows an indication of borough hotspot.
- In contrast; the density of licensed premises - especially on and off premises, appears to contribute to alcohol misuse and source the upsurge in number of alcohol related calls made to the London Ambulance Service (LAS), this is linked to intensifications in 999 calls.
- The report also sees a 4% of calls to LAS were related to underage drinking – (July 2011 and July 2014). Barnet and Camden are ranked 3rd in the table of Underage Drinking in London. (As at 2012 Barnet 4 -17years age group population is 53% more than of Camden's. Barnet is 63,327 and Camden 4-17years age group is 29,494)
- There is no substantial links between alcohol and noise nuisance in Barnet borough; most cases of noise nuisance that were reported to the Local Authority were not directly linked to alcohol misuse. Although the complainant may not be able to establish if the offender is steered by the alcohol consumption. As expected the Noise complaints figures has gone down since the Live Music Act 2012 Deregulation was put in place on 27/06/2013.
- Most of noise complaints in the borough licensed premises hotspots are loud music/party related and often complained by the residents.
- Alcohol appears to have a significant impact on crimes in the borough, especially at the locations with clustered of on/off premises.

Findings

Barnet is the second largest London borough⁴, the 2011 Census reveals that Barnet has a population of 356,400 and covers an area of 86.74 square kilometres (33 sq mi), Barnet with the 4th highest housing target in London, estimates that the population will increase by 21% over the next 21 years and this may have an impact on the alcohol related incidents in the future.

Data from Barnet Observatory⁵

PREMISES LICENCES

This can be defined as premises licensed the sale of alcohol, to host/perform regulated entertainment (e.g. showing films, staging sporting events or plays e.g. theatrical plays) and to provide late night refreshment. Many premises are licensed the sale of alcohol and late-night refreshment. In the UK there are currently 204,400 premises licences in force: an increase of 3% since 2009⁶

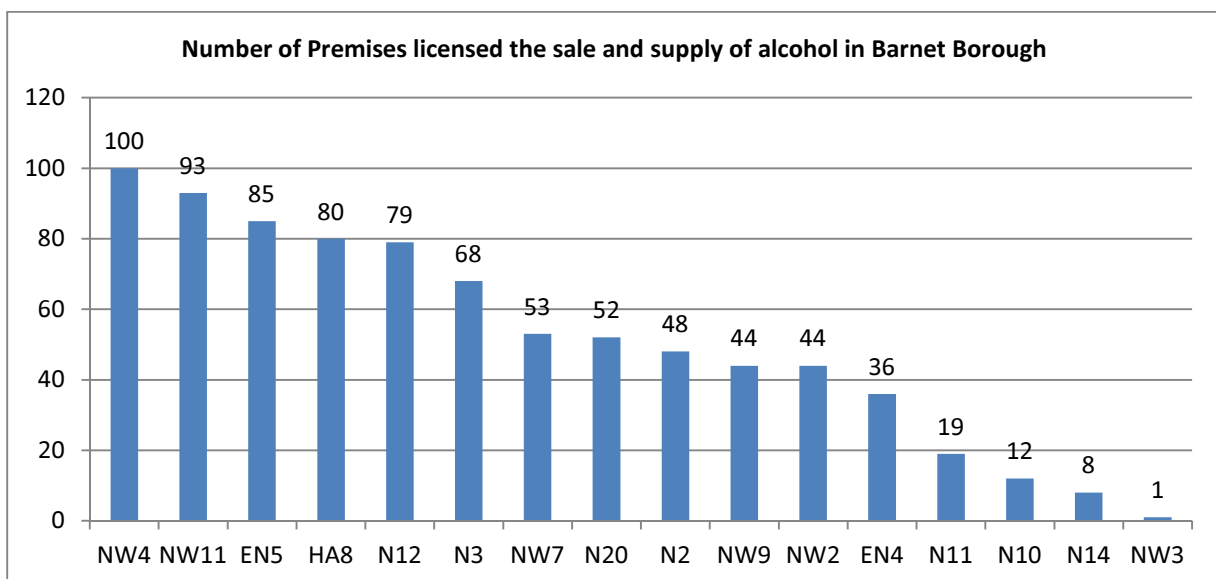
There are three types of licence specific to alcohol retail:

- On and off-sales (to sell alcohol for consumption on or off the premises)
- On-sales only (to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises only)
- Off-sales only (to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises only)

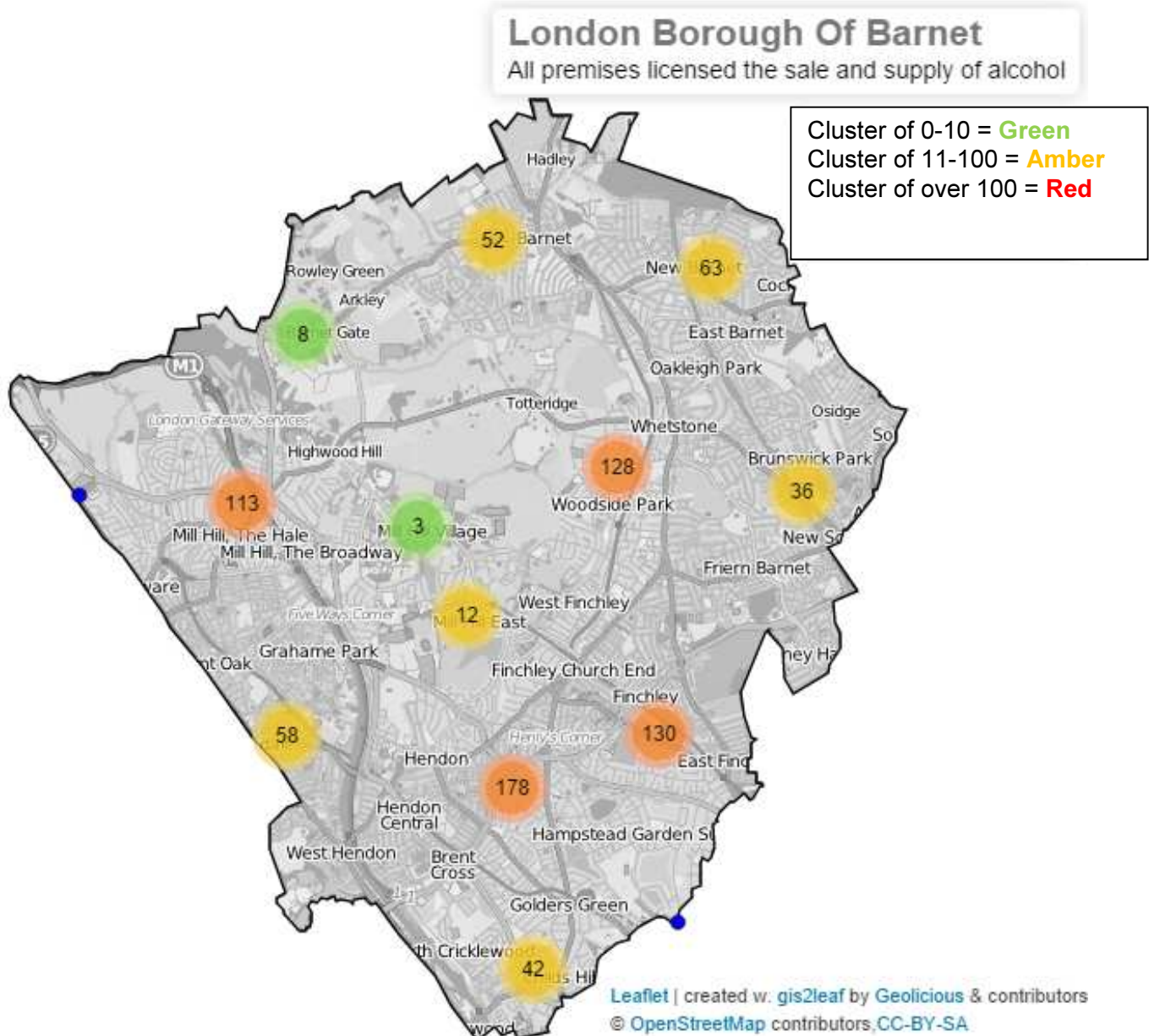
In London Borough of Barnet, individual premises are categorically licensed the sale, consumption or supply of Alcohol⁷.

- 43% are licensed the Sale or Supply of Alcohol off Premises, (Off-sales only)
- 36% are licensed the Sale or supply of Alcohol – Both. (On and off-sales)
- 18% are licensed the Sale or Supply of Alcohol on Premises, (On-sales only)
- 3% are licensed the Sale by Retail of Alcohol
- 0.12% are licensed the Supply of Alcohol by Club

The above premises are spread across the borough, although there is a high concentration especially in the west of the borough - NW4, NW11, HA8. North east - EN5 and south - N12 and N3. Although we have low figures in N10 and N14, a couple of factors may help explain this pattern. These two postcodes are boarded with the neighbouring boroughs (Haringey and Enfield), if these boroughs' figures are to put into consideration, this may increase our borough's figures significantly. This also applies to NW2 and NW9 (Brent).

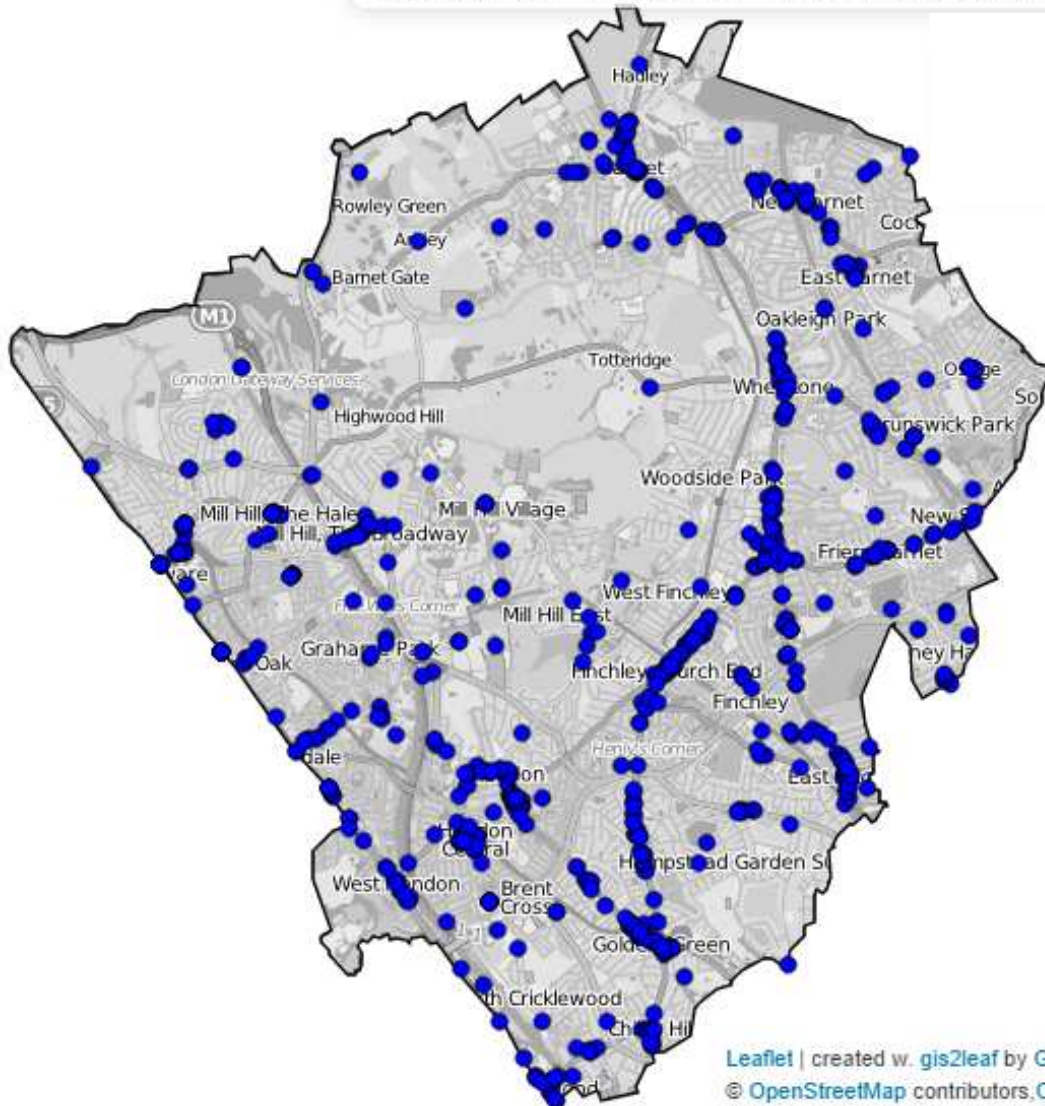


Figures used in the above graph are obtained from Acolaid⁸ i.e. Apr2014 Alcohol Licensing data.

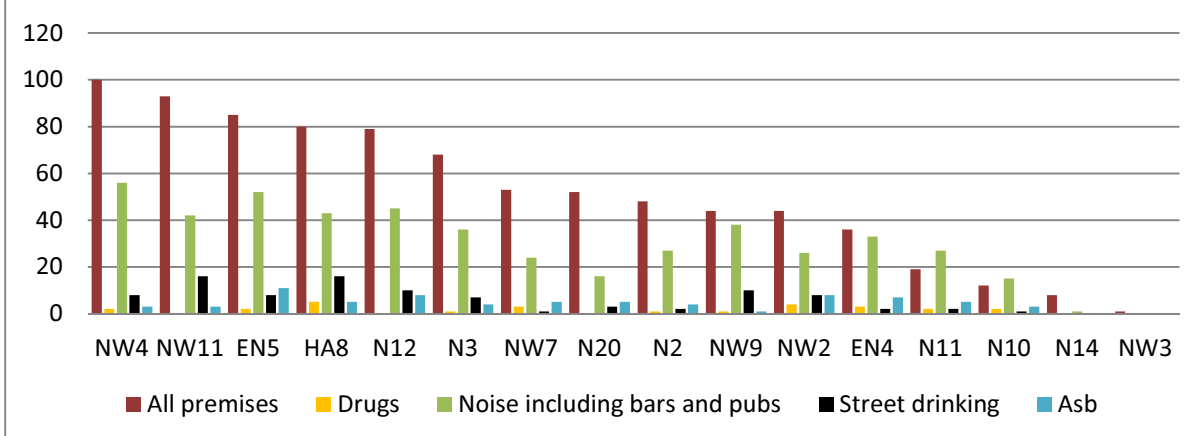


London Borough Of Barnet

The Distribution of all premises licensed the sale and supply of alcohol



All Premises vs Drugs, Noise (inc Pubs & Bars) and Street Drinking

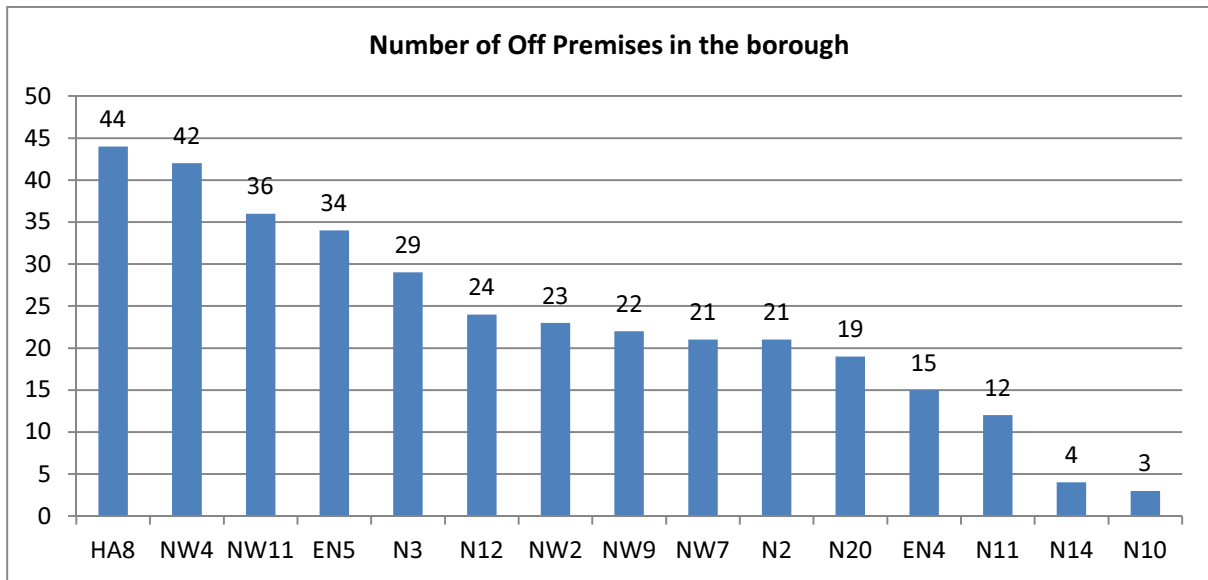


Environmental impact

Alcohol can make neighbourhoods less desirable places in which to live, or run a business. There is a likelihood and evidence for alcohol-related incivility in our residential neighbourhoods. There is a degree to which the presence of licensed premises may be related to anti-social behaviours.

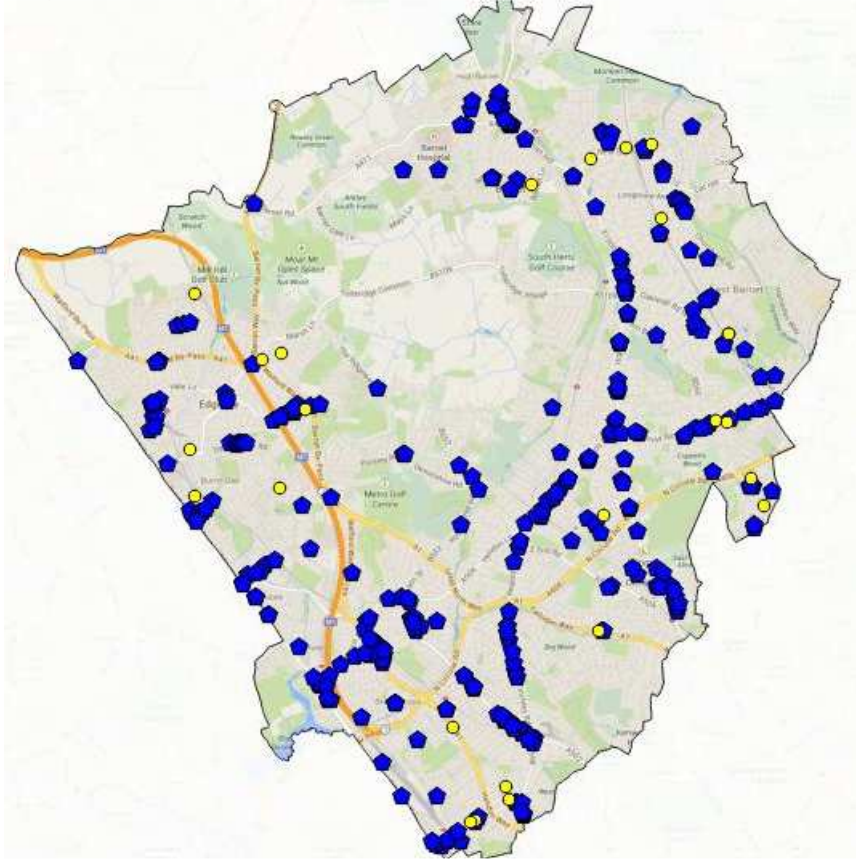
Off-licence premises

Analysis shows that HA8 has the highest concentration of borough’s off-licence premises, followed by NW4, EN5, NW11 and N3 – these locations are within a 2.5 miles radius. A5 is the artery route that connects these borough hotspots, apart from EN5 - (A1 Road), A5 runs northwest up to the Edgware Road through Colindale and West Hendon. This A5 corridor area formerly rich of shopping heritage that was always busy, with variety of shops, but nowadays, things are a little different. Arranged around a busy stretch of A5 route now dotted with alcohol licensed premises. A5 is also known as one of the borough hubs for local businesses.

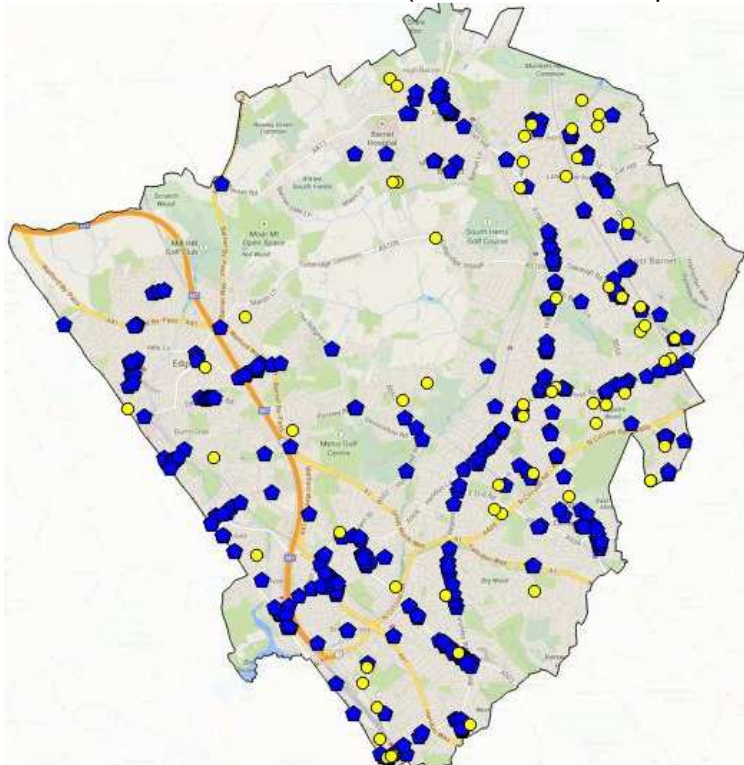


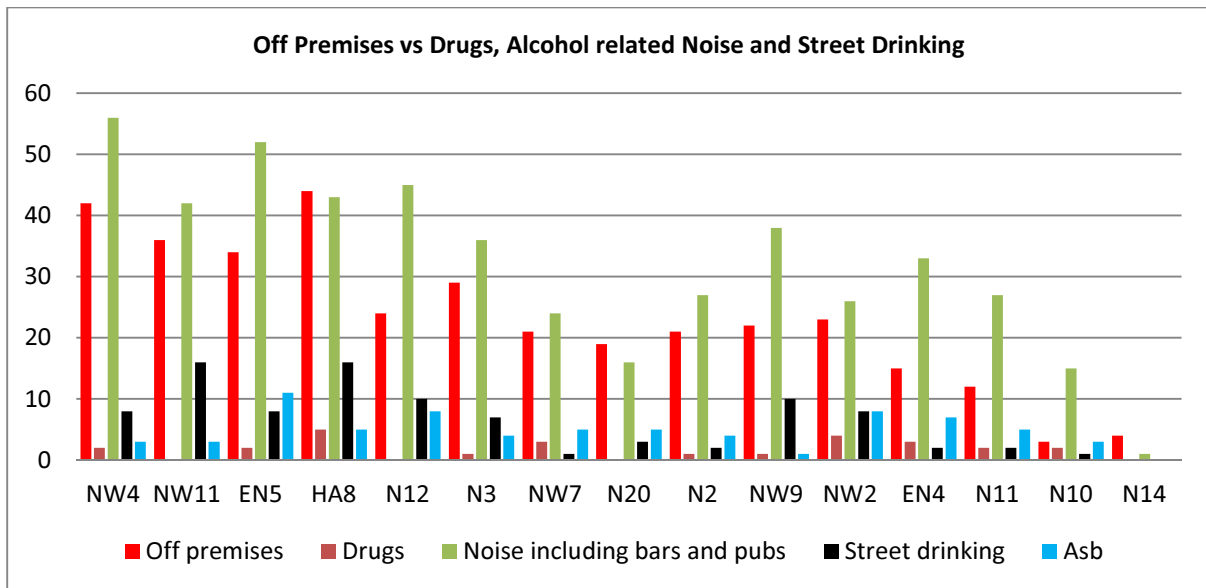
Maps

Plots of hotspot areas in relation to complaints of drugs and presence of dealers or users overlaid on grouping of towns known Off Premises (Blue = Off-licence premises. Yellow = drugs and presence of dealers or users)



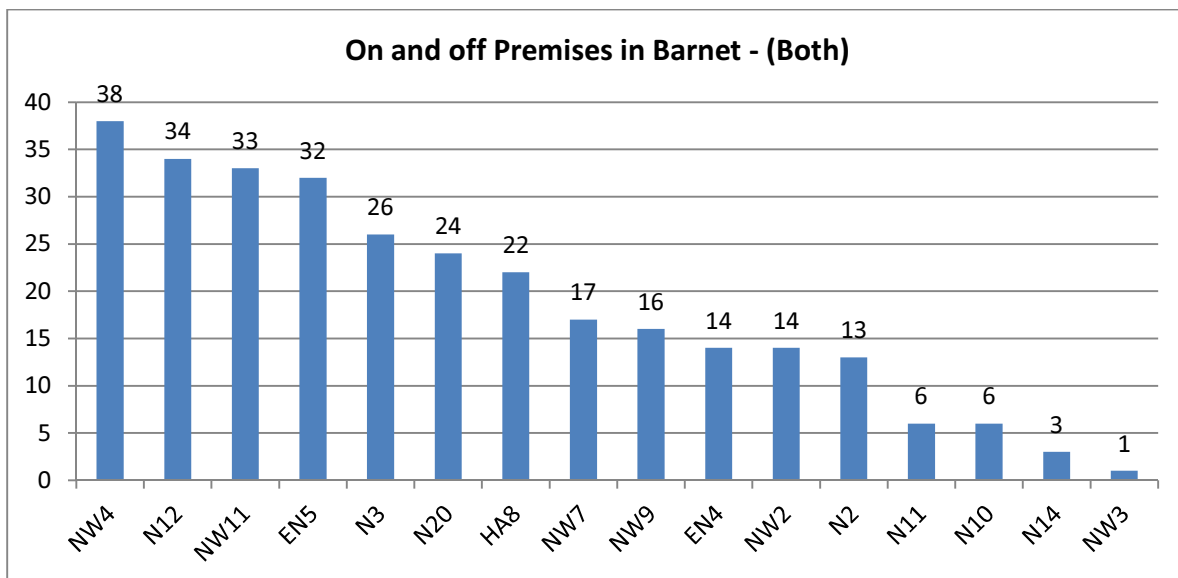
Plots of hotspot areas in relation to complaints of Anti Social Behaviour overlaid on grouping of towns known Off Premises. (Blue = Off-licence premises. Yellow = ASBs)

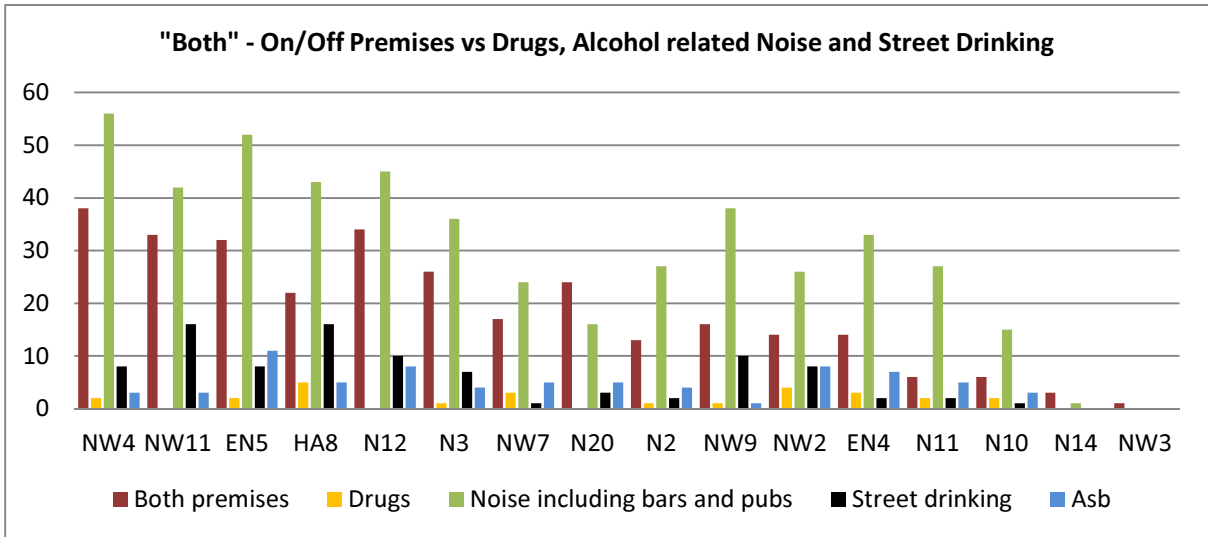
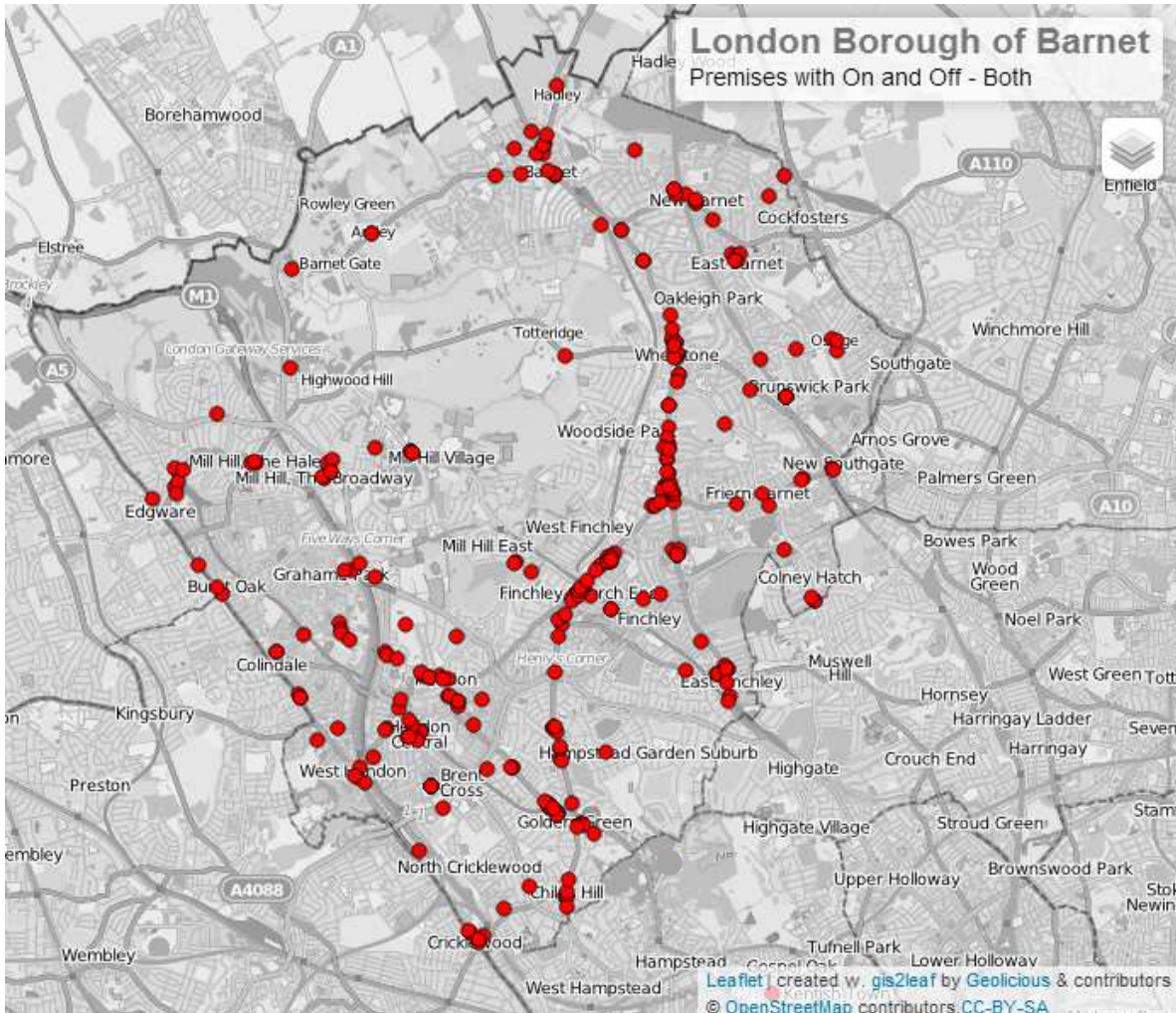




Sale or supply of Alcohol – Both

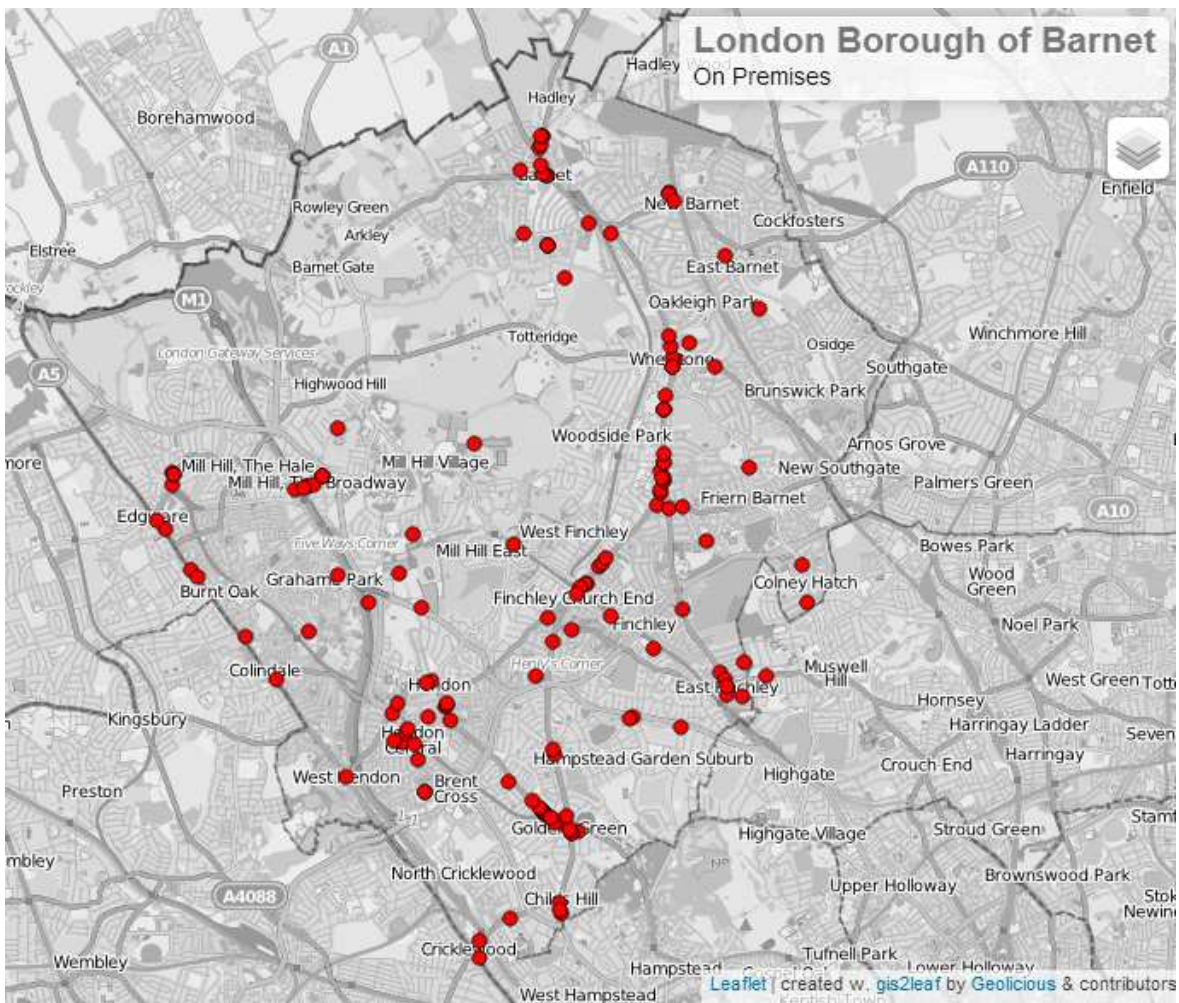
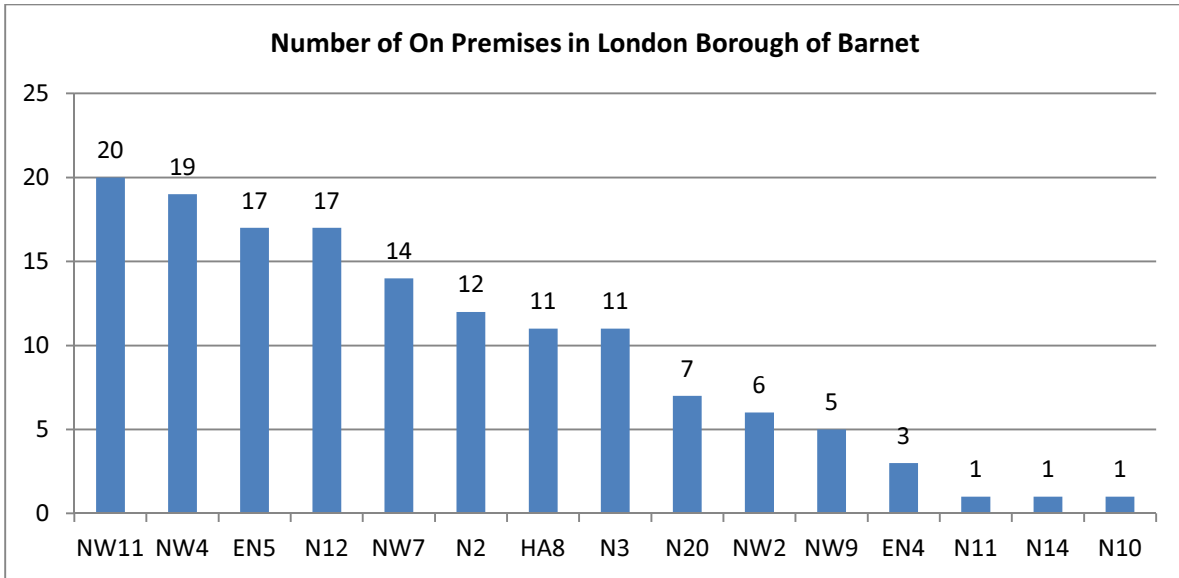
Studies shows that 36.37% of licence issued were to “Sale or Supply of Alcohol – Both”. These are concentrated in and around NW4, N12, NW11, EN5, N3, N20, HA8, NW7 and NW9. These high concentrations are expected to be common – These are prime areas for businesses. The graph below illustrates:

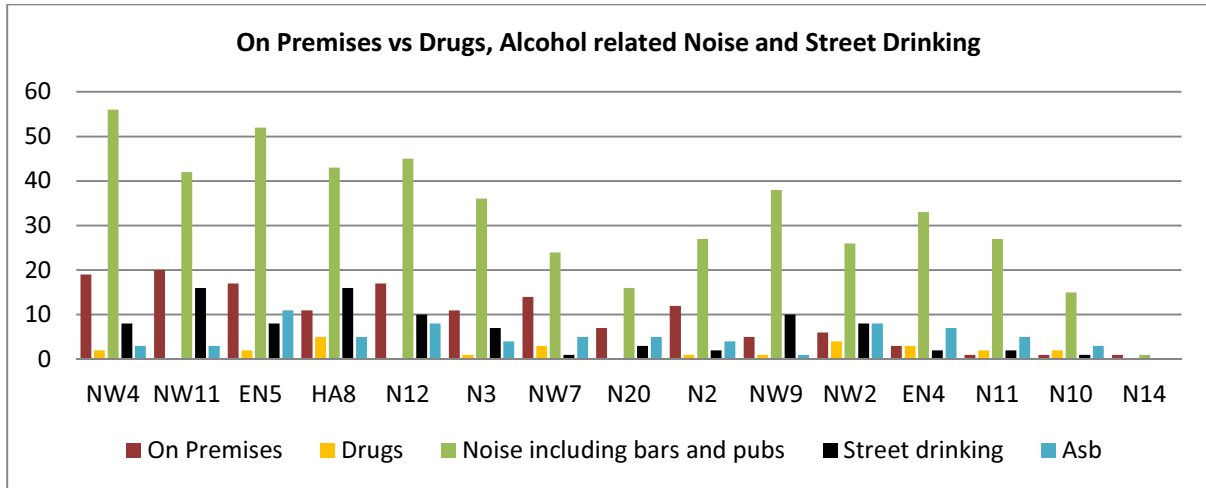




Sale or supply of alcohol – “On premises”

Studies shows that 18% of licence issued were to “On Premises”. These are concentrated in NW11, NW4, EN5 & N12, NW7, N2, HA8 & N3.





Anti Social Behaviour - ASB

There appears to be a link between alcohol and crime or anti social behaviour, although there are fewer datasets available to build a better picture of this, due to most cases are reported directly to the police and fewer are to the local authority. (Local Authority ASBs Datasets used)

Anti social behaviour is described in the crime and disorder act 1998⁹ as ‘acting in an anti-social manner as a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household’. Research and general assumption indicates that people who have been drinking are more likely to become involved in crime and/or disorder.

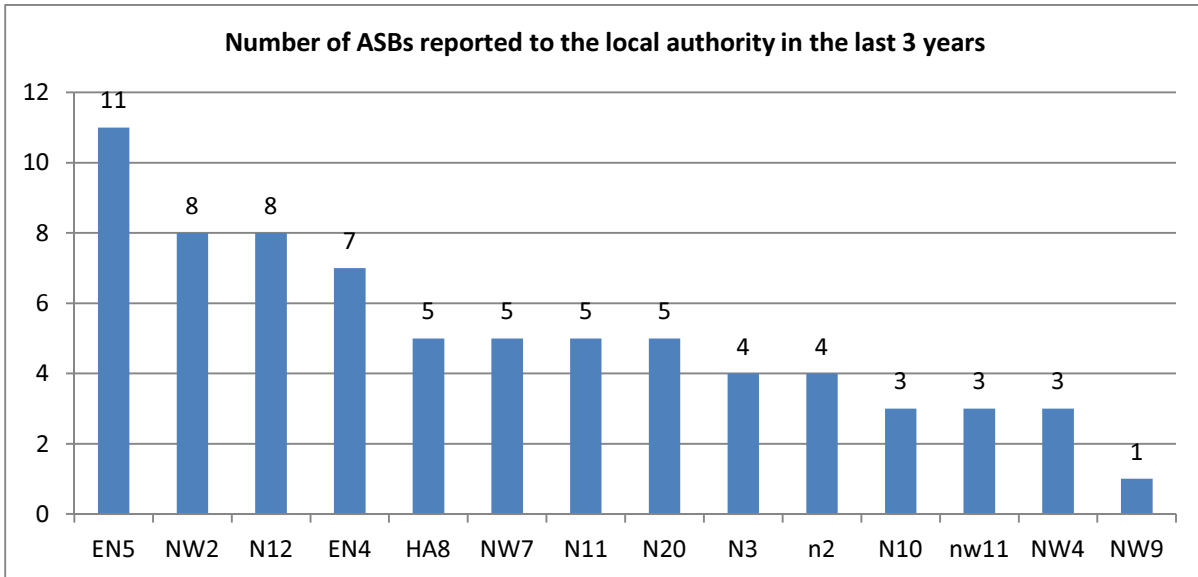
The bullet points on alcohol Statistics from Alcohol Concern websites¹⁰ states the following:

- Alcohol is 45% more affordable than it was in 1980
- Alcohol misuse costs England approximately £21bn per year in healthcare, crime and lost productivity costs
- Average alcohol consumption has gradually fallen in many OECD countries (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) between 1980 and 2009 with an average overall decrease of 9%. The United Kingdom however, has seen an increase of over 9% in these three decades
- It is estimated that 2.6 million children in the UK are living with parents who are drinking hazardously and 705,000 living with dependent drinkers

ASB incidents reported to Barnet council between 27/08/2011 and 28/08/2014 totalled 74 and as follows: Fighting, Hooliganism, Shout and Swear, Vandalism caused to buildings, Graffiti, Vandalism caused to Street furniture’s, or/and Trees/Plants/Hedge. Most ASBs concentrates in the EN5 postcodes, especially 500 yards radius of The Spires Shopping Centre, 11 incidents are recorded in this area in the past 3 years. EN5 is 3rd in the table of density of licensed premises in the borough - especially Off and On licensed premises. 17 of On-Premises and 34 of Off – Premises are in EN5. Therefore the concentration of off-premises; i.e. 34 venues may be linked to the high level of ASBs in the area.

Other areas identified as the borough hotspots as follows N12 – especially 700yards radius of Ballards Lane N12. (Especially the streets along Woodhouse Road). This venue is known for its vibrant surroundings particularly restaurants, bars and pubs.

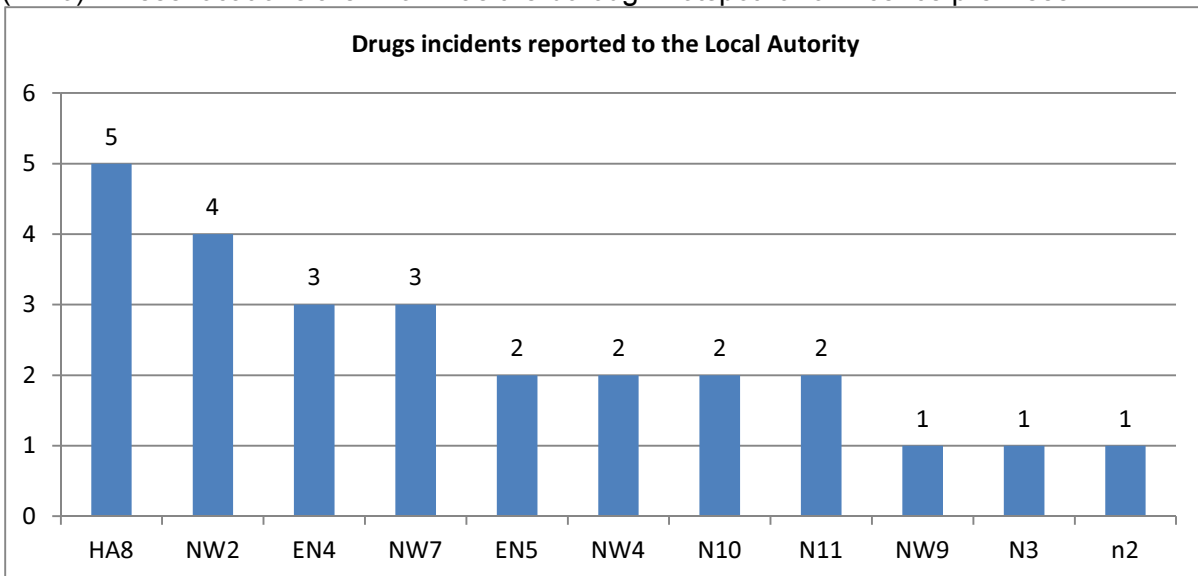
NW2 – in and around Claremont Road also indicates as the borough’s ASB hotspot. (Note: 4 incidents in 2012, 1 incident in 2013 and 3 incidents in 2014)



Datasets obtained from Acolaid¹¹

Drugs

Alcohol/drugs misuse may result in relationship problems, financial difficulties, unemployment and homelessness. According to the 2011-15 JSNA - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Report - A large proportion of (substance abuse) service users reside in the HA8 postcode (Burnt Oak / Edgware), Friern Barnet (N12), North Finchley and Colindale (NW9). These locations are known as the borough hotspot for off-licence premises



2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation in Barnet

The map illustrates areas where there are less than 40% in the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation in Barnet. Again the A5 corridor is considered as the borough hotspot. The combinations of the deprived area, high concentration of licensed premises (easy access to obtain alcohol); and an increase in the number of alcohol related crimes will cause burden on the emergency services including the LAS.



Noise Nuisance

Statistic of alcohol related noise nuisance complaints and number of licensed premises in the borough shows that licensed premises has no major significant contribution towards the noise nuisance in the borough. An example for illustration is NW4, despite this location has a cluster of licensed premises in the borough (bars, convenient shops, and supermarkets in prime areas such as Hendon Central, Brent Cross, The Boroughs and Hendon), the noise nuisance recorded in this area is almost equivalent to NW9 (Colindale area) that has 56% lesser licensed premises.

However, deeper analysis into general noise pollution (regardless of alcohol related) shows a relationship between licensed premises and noise pollution in the borough.

Sound is part of communication and plays an important part in our lives and in our community; it is an affirmative part of a vibrant city. However, excessive sounds can become ‘unwanted sound’ – noise and many people suffer from its impacts.

London Borough of Barnet council’s Noise Team received 2167 reports of noise problems between 01/09/2013 and 23/09/2014, the noise related complaints are recorded as follows:

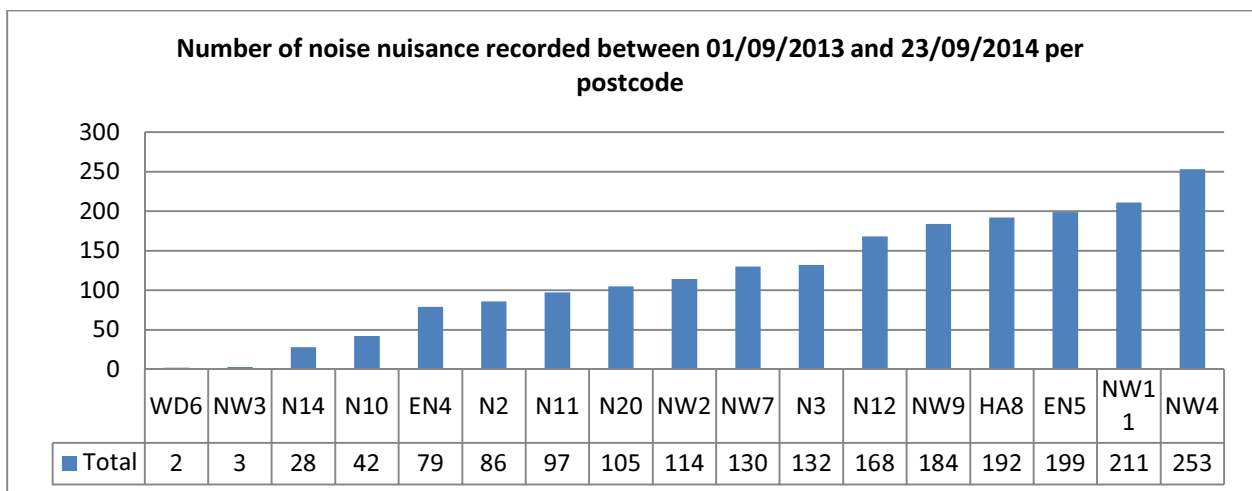
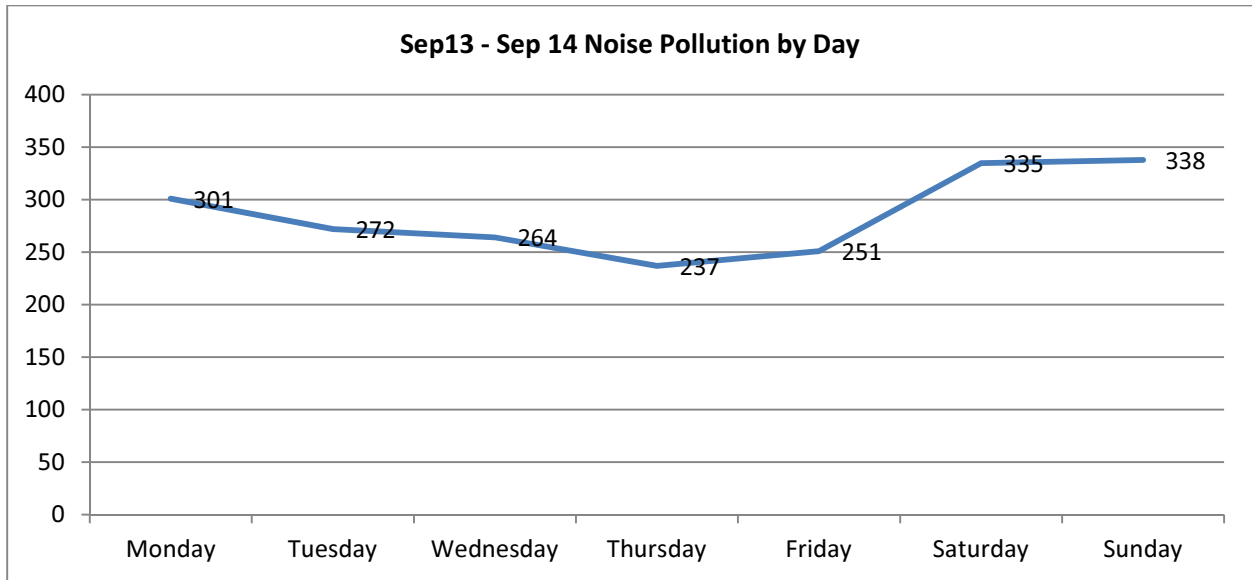
Noise complaint Types	Percentage	Number
Noise Complaint Not Ongoing	39.27%	851
Noise Complaint Out of Hours	39.09%	847
Noise - Neighbours	10.66%	231
Noise Complaint Ongoing	9.23%	200
Noise - Loud music	0.78%	17
Noise - Business & industry	0.51%	11
Noise - Cars & m/cycles	0.42%	9
Vehicle - Racing cars	0.05%	1

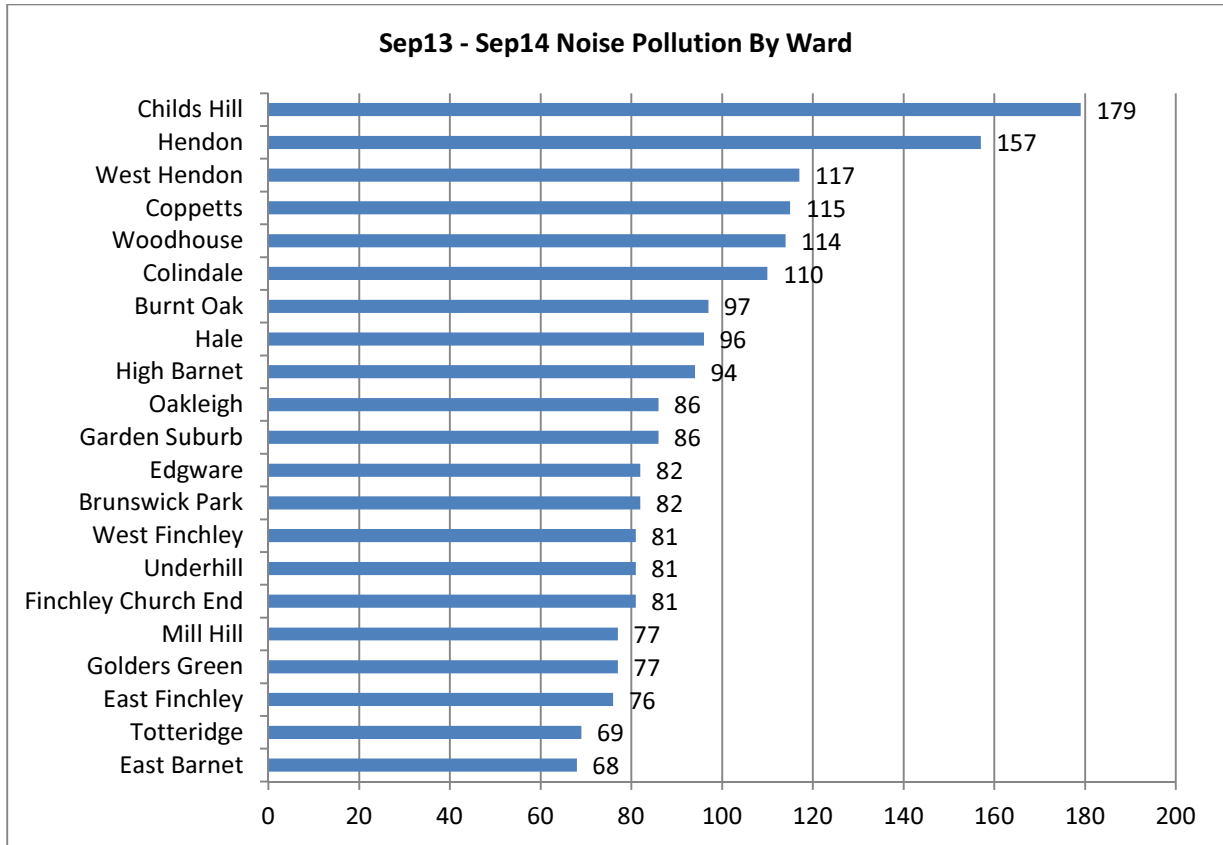
Total	100%	2167
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6% or 140 of above incidents are without postcodes and have been discounted from the analysis below.

The borough hotspots for noise pollution in the last 12 months are NW4 and NW11 (these postcodes are in Childs Hill, Hendon and West Hendon Ward, these areas are known for clusters of licensed premises). 13% of all recorded noise incidents are from NW4 and 10% are from NW11. Other noticeable hotspots identified are NW9 and HA8 i.e. Edgware, Burnt Oak and Colindale, again these wards/postcodes are known for cluster of licensed premises).

The factor behind these identified hotspots is that, weekends (Friday into Monday morning) sees numerous complaints regarding noise from pubs, bars and neighbours. The increasingly powerful music systems, the desire for late night entertainment and the increase in leisure time have all contributed to general noise pollution.





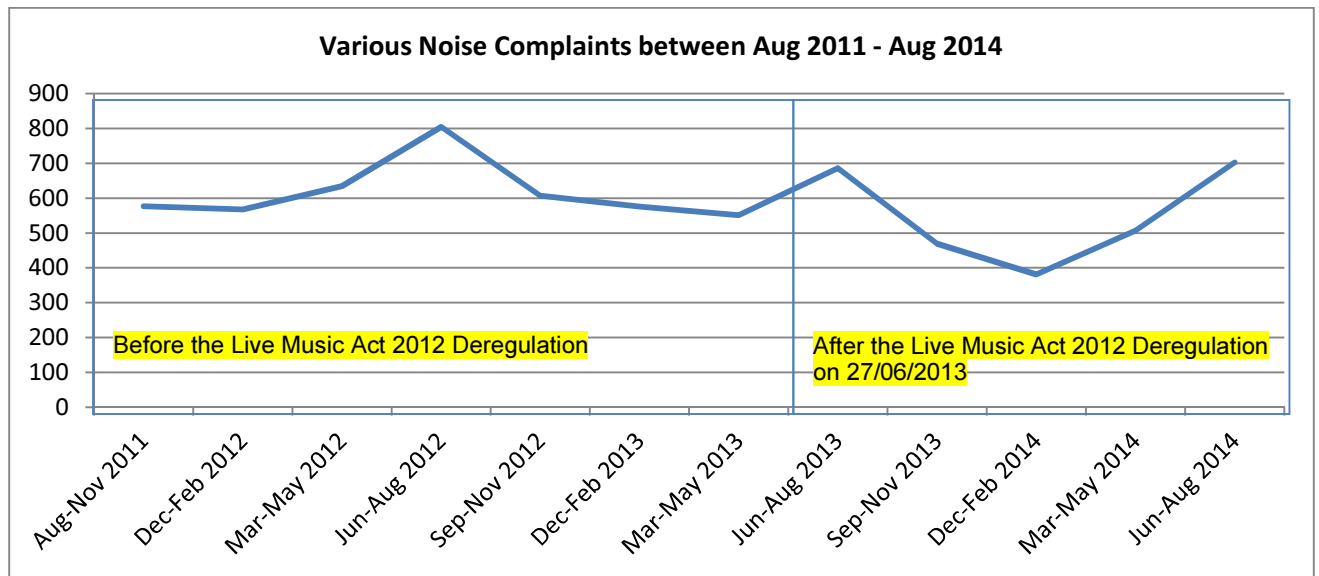
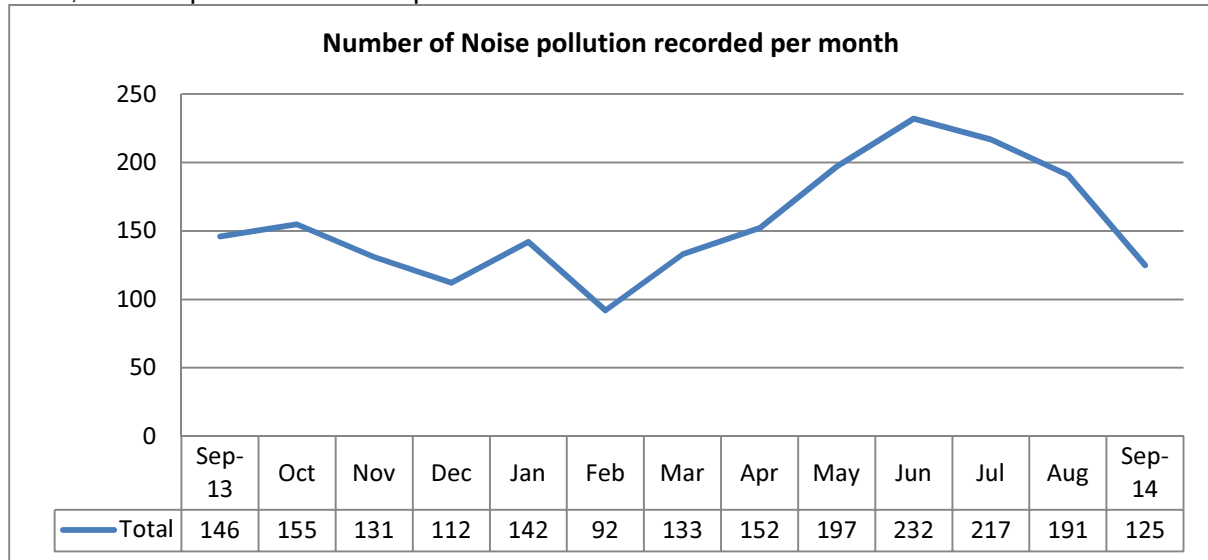
The problems linked to noise pollution forms a significant part of the work that the London Borough of Barnet Environmental Health Officers regularly carries out. Noise nuisance recorded are from a variety of sources, but the majority are domestic e.g. loud music and/or DIY i.e. noise sourcing from neighbours and constructions.

Between Sep 2013 and Sep 2014, the number of noise complaints (including barking dogs) received by the London Borough of Barnet decreased by 14% compared to September 2013 (Note: Sep13 figures are 7 days older than of Sep14), 33% of all recorded noise pollution in the last 12 months relates to Loud Music, i.e. people socialising including partying and with possibilities of alcohol consumption. This also includes noise arising from entertainment premises, which are now a common cause of disturbance to nearby residents. The table below shows the noise pollution by descriptions

Noise Descriptions	Number
Loud Music	661
Other Noise	469
Construction	276
ASB	136
Dog barking	127
Alarm	117
Alcohol related noise	78
Machinery	72
Noise from Neighbours	29
Vehicle noise	29
Musical Instrument	18
Other animals	13

Total	2025
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The graph below shows noise pollution recorded by months. The graph pattern forecast that there may be a continuous drop in the level of noise pollution until the beginning of Spring 2015, if these patterns are to repeat itself in a circle.

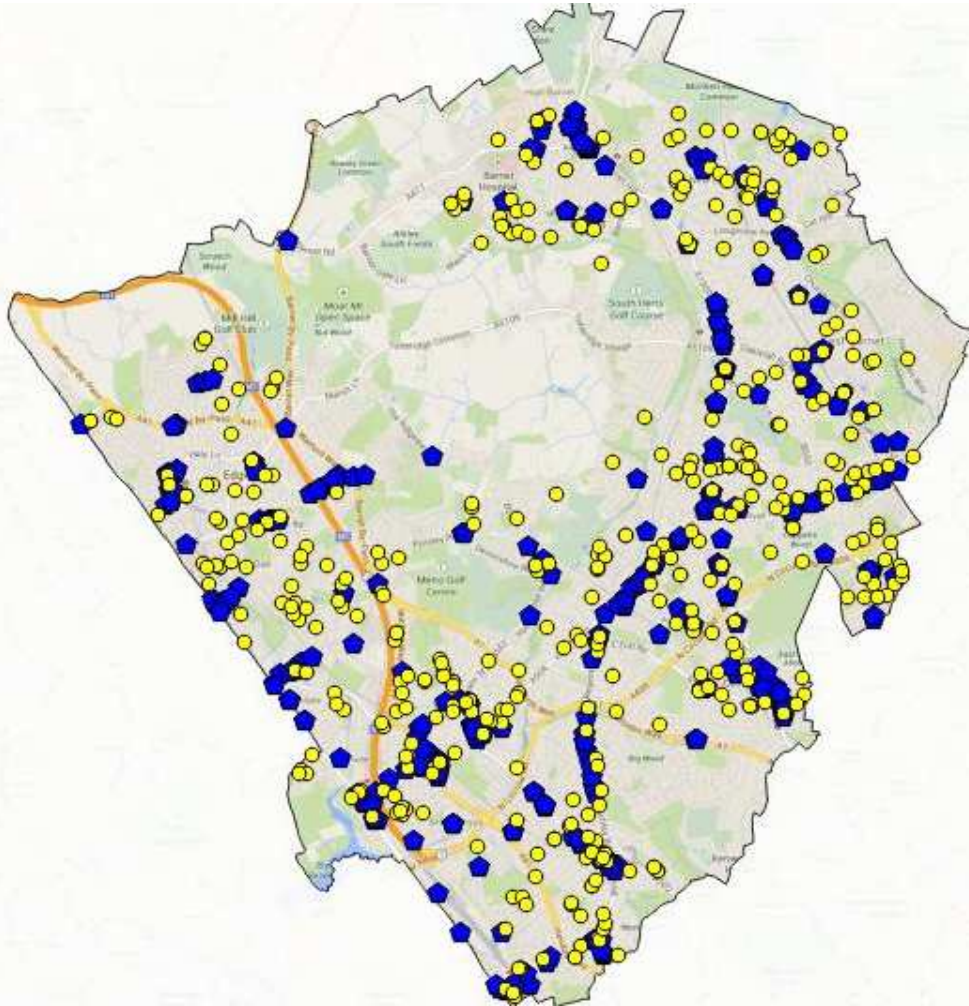


Alcohol related Noise levels are expected to increase during the summer time. An example can be seen in Aug-Nov 11 and Jun-Aug of 12 / 13 / 14. Likewise the noise level is expected to decrease during the winter period, due to shorter days and cold weather, for example Dec-Feb of 12 /13 /14. Although the pattern shows the noise level start to pick up from early spring.

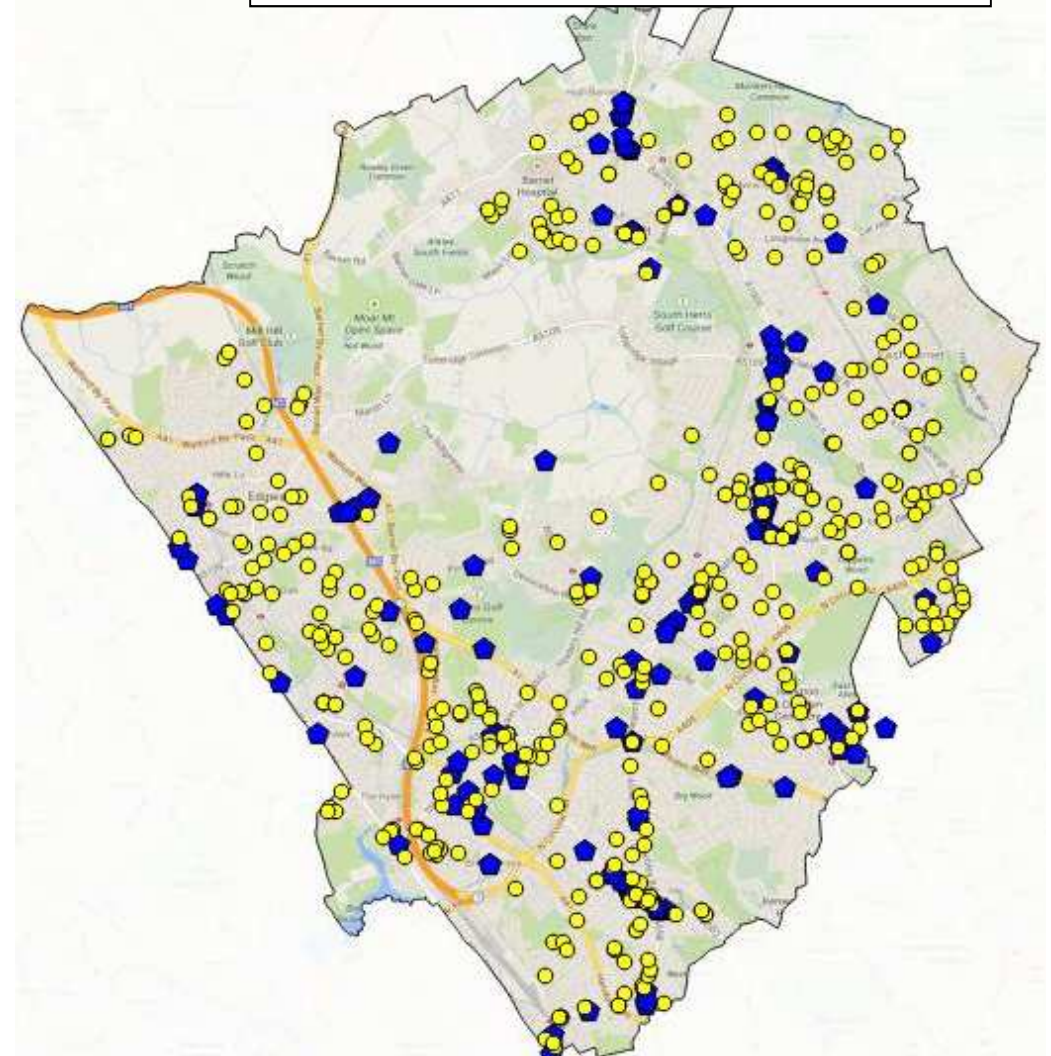
Crime

In contrast, licensed premises in general have some impact on crimes in the borough; for example in N20, the number of crimes recorded at this venue is almost the same as its number of licensed premises. HA8, EN5 NW9, NW11 and NW4 have the highest number of licensed premises, these areas also suffers from high volume of alcohol related crimes.

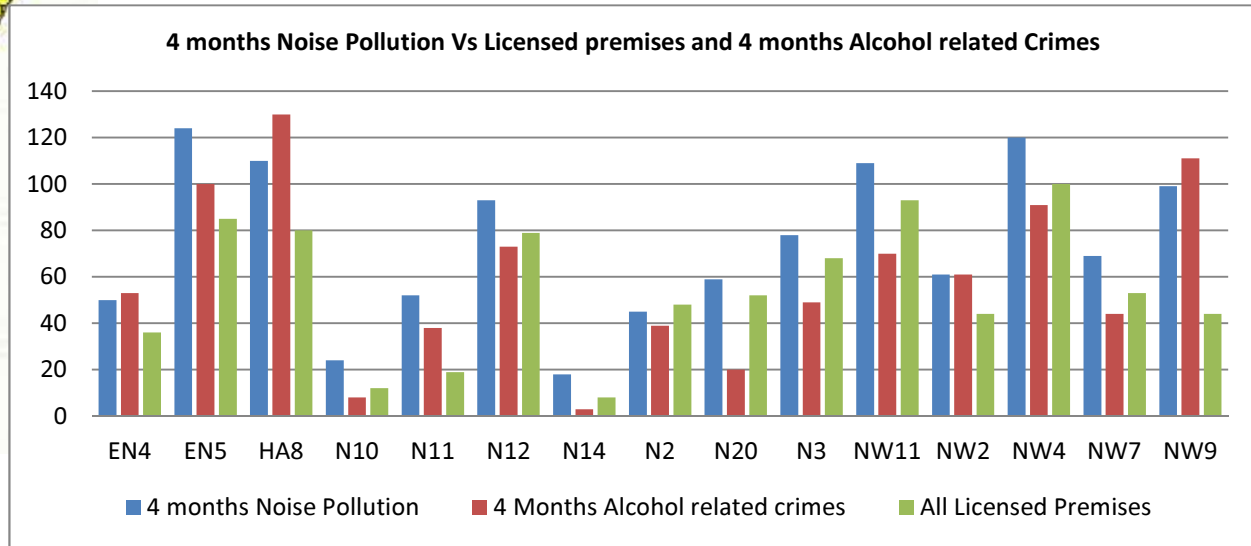
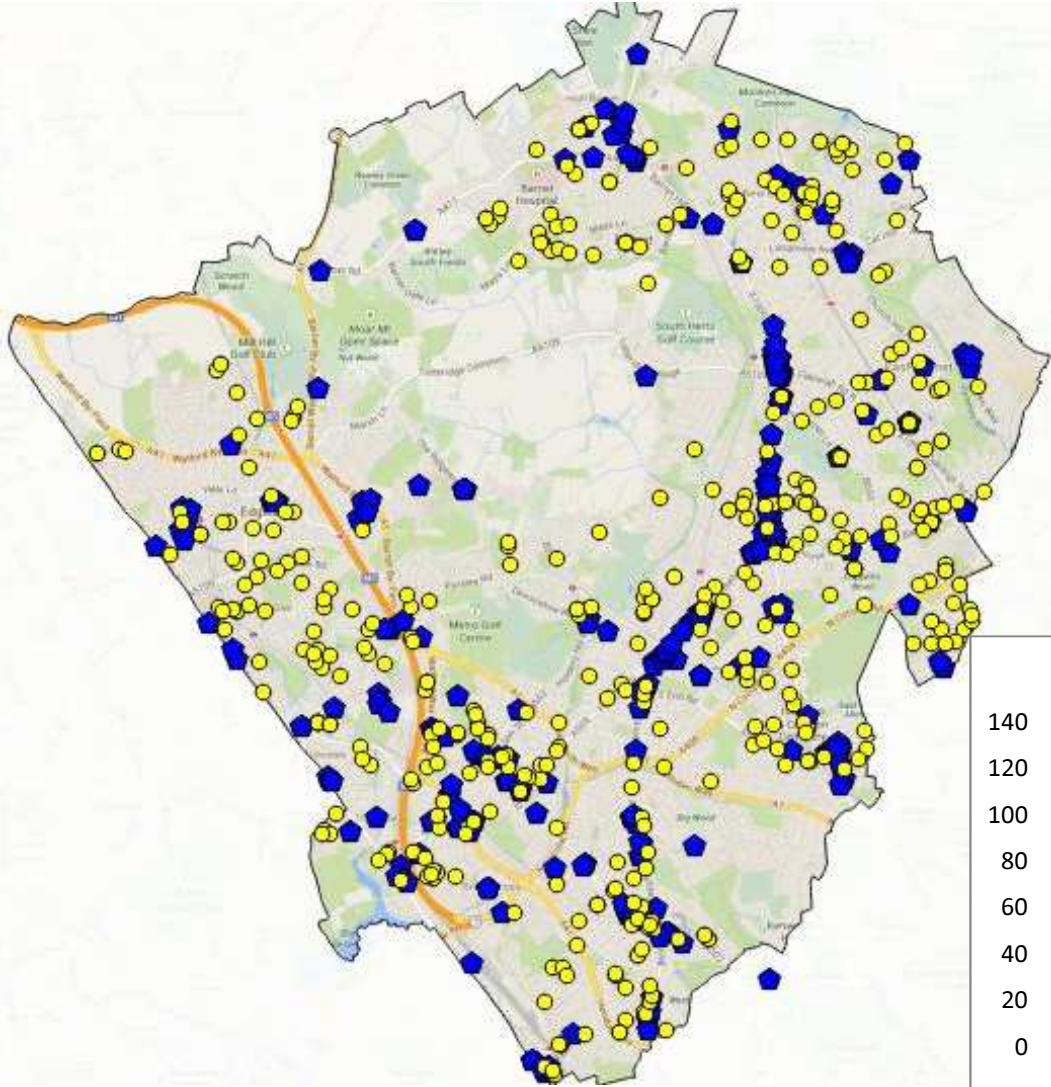
Plots of hotspot areas in relation to complaints of Noise including noise from bars and pubs overlaid on grouping of towns Off Premises



Plots of hotspot areas in relation to complaints of Noise including noise from bars and pubs overlaid on grouping of towns known On Premises



Plots of hotspot areas in relation to complaints of Noise including noise from bars and pubs overlaid on grouping of towns On and Off Premises – “Both”



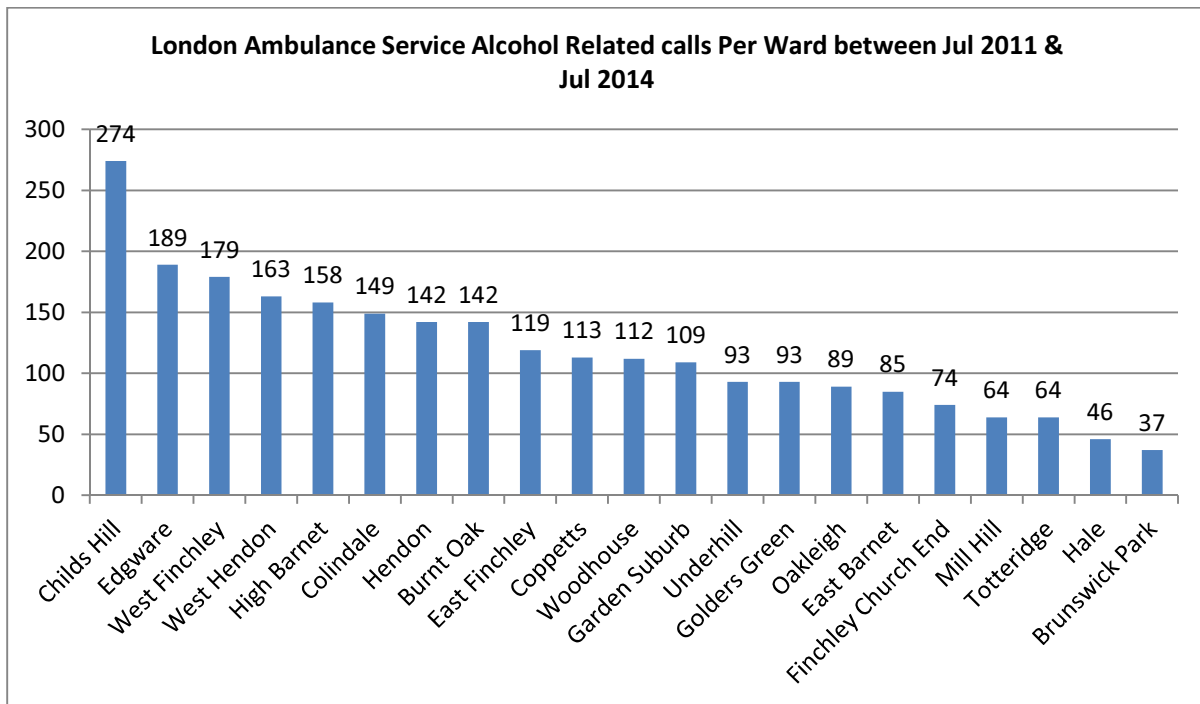
Impact to London Ambulance Service - LAS

The data of Alcohol related calls¹² to LAS in Barnet borough between July 2011 and July 2014, shows 2494 calls were made, this is 3% of all alcohol related calls made in London. The graph below shows the number of calls made to LAS per ward in Barnet. This gives some indications that, the areas identified as the borough hotspots for licensed premises comprise a high volume of alcohol related calls to LAS. For example; NW11, NW2, NW3 and NW4 are Childs Hill postcodes.

Noticeable NW11 and NW4 are prime areas for On-Premises; this gives indication that people are likely to get drunk in pub/bars in these areas. Males are likely to involve in alcohol misuse than females.

Alcohol has a significant impact on ambulance operations in Barnet and is linked to upsurge in 999 calls, as well as incidents of abuse and assault on ambulance crews, 2% of alcohol related patients in Barnet were violent towards the ambulance crews.

The highest numbers of life threatening emergency calls made to LAS were alcohol related and this is 43% or 94413. Alcohol related calls have increased by 4% compared to the same previous year. Calls to LAS peak time spread across the day but high concentration from 1500hrs to 0300hrs especially at midnight. In almost all of these emergencies calls; alcohol is the factor and often violence is involved.

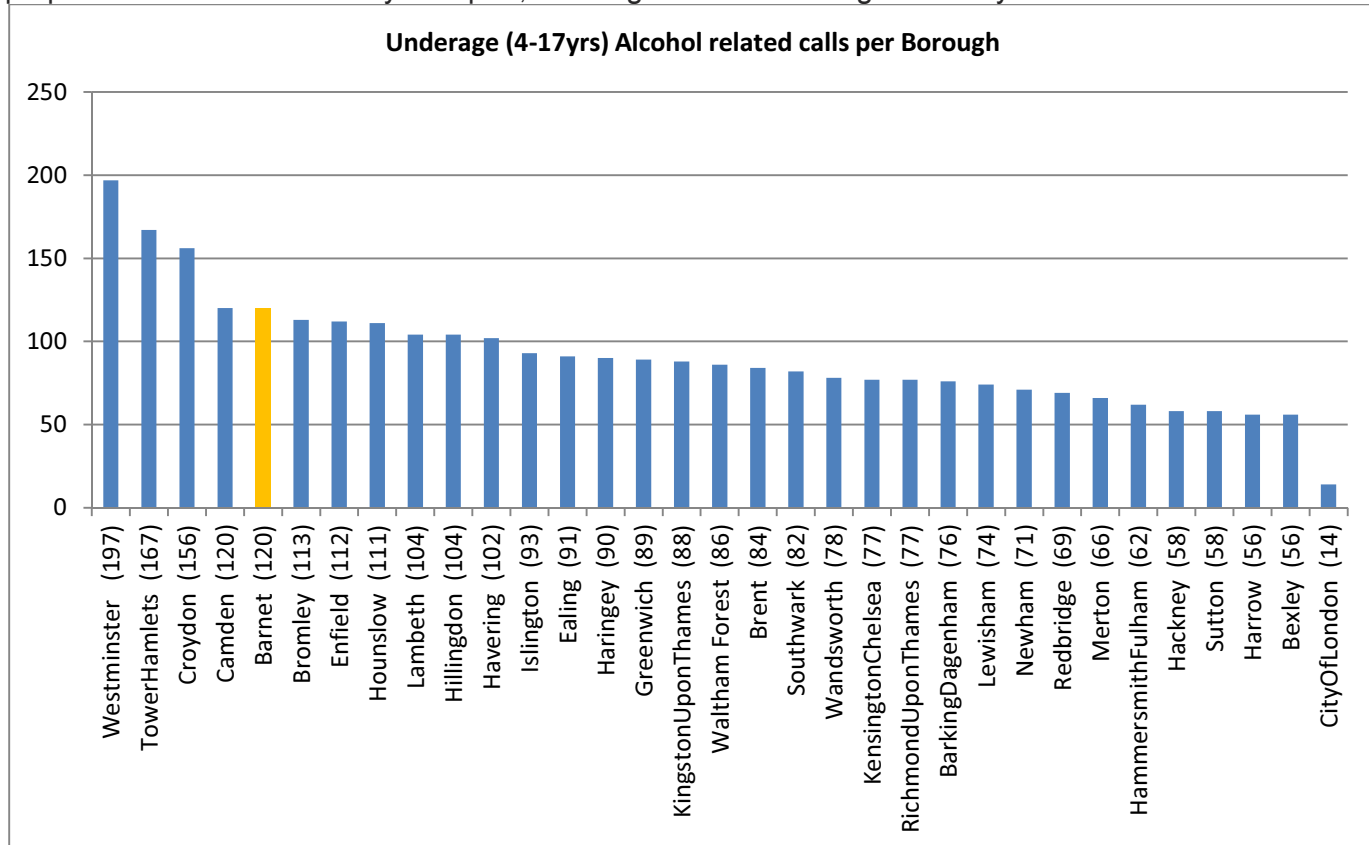


The table below shows London Boroughs number of alcohol related calls made to London Ambulance Service. LAS calls' figures show Westminster in the top league, this figure is expected because Westminster is considered as one of the busiest boroughs in terms of socialising and businesses. Camden is second in the league and London Borough of Barnet is number 17th in the table of alcohol related calls to London Ambulance Service.

Rank	Boroughs	Number of alcohol related calls to LAS between Jul 2011 – Jul 2014
1	Westminster	10161
2	Camden	5579
3	Lambeth	5057
4	Southwark	4708
5	Ealing	3653
6	Hackney	3366
7	Brent	3360
8	Croydon	3347
9	Islington	3265
10	Tower Hamlets	3176
11	Newham	3126
12	Wandsworth	3063
13	Lewisham	3025
14	Haringey	2860
15	Hillingdon	2598
16	Hammersmith Fulham	2582
17	Barnet	2494
18	Waltham Forest	2445
19	Redbridge	2423
20	Kensington Chelsea	2308
21	Hounslow	2246
22	Greenwich	2172
23	Havering	2097
24	Enfield	1969
25	Merton	1690
26	Kingston-upon-Thames	1688
27	Bromley	1648
28	Harrow	1606
29	Barking Dagenham	1566
30	City Of London	1488
31	Richmond Upon Thames	1264
32	Sutton	1209
33	Bexley	1174

Underage drinking

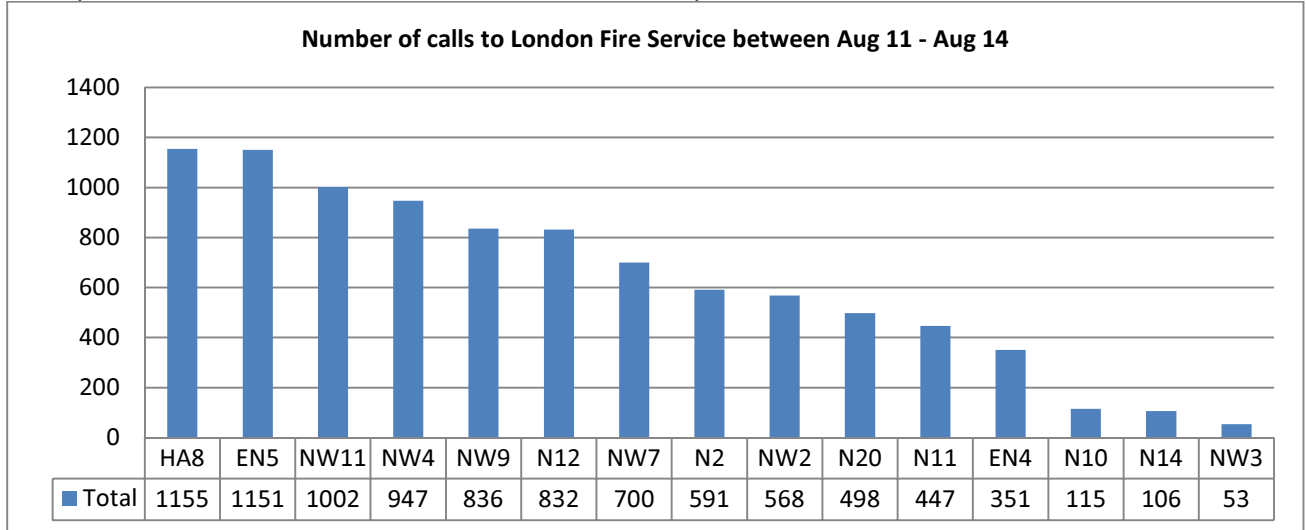
The graph below shows the number of underage drinking calls made to LAS. For the purpose of this research analysis report, underage is defined as age 4 to 17 years old.



Alcohol consumption is the medicine of choice among youths. Many young people are experiencing the consequences of drinking too much and at too early age, as the graph above illustrate. As a result, underage drinking is one of the leading public health problems in UK. In Barnet borough alone 4% of calls to LAS associated with underage drinking.

Impact on London Fire Service

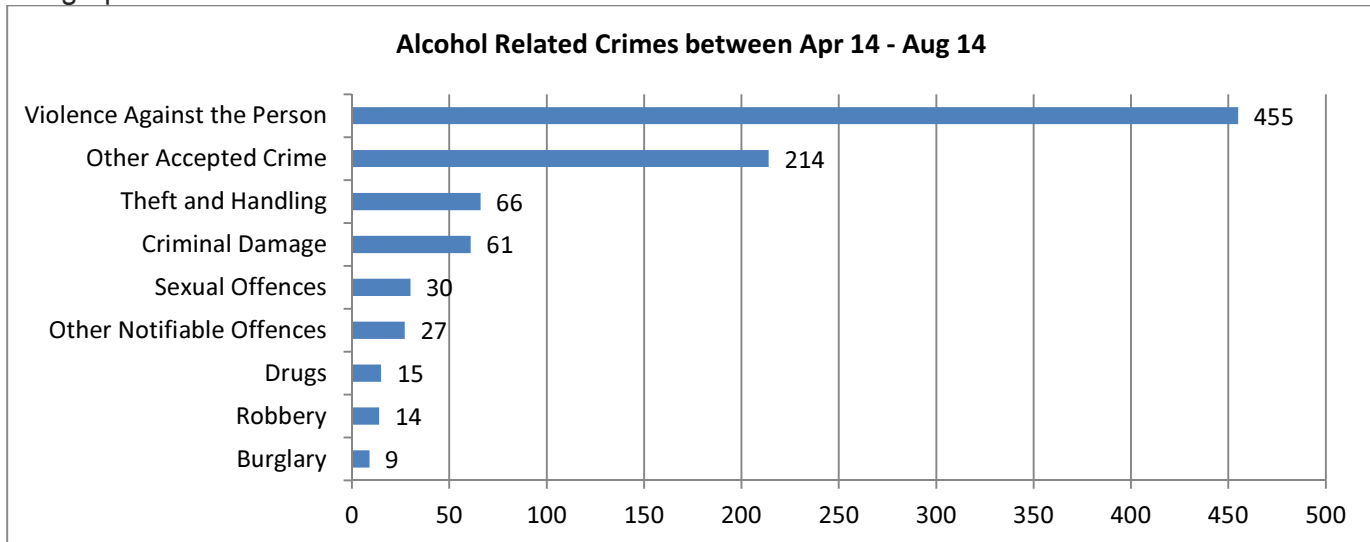
Although there is no direct links between the density of licensed premises and the number of calls to London Fire Service, however there does seem to be a pattern in the number of calls and number of licensed premises. All top-5 postcodes in Licensed Premises table interlinked the top 5 of number of calls to the Fire Service¹³ except N12 and NW9.

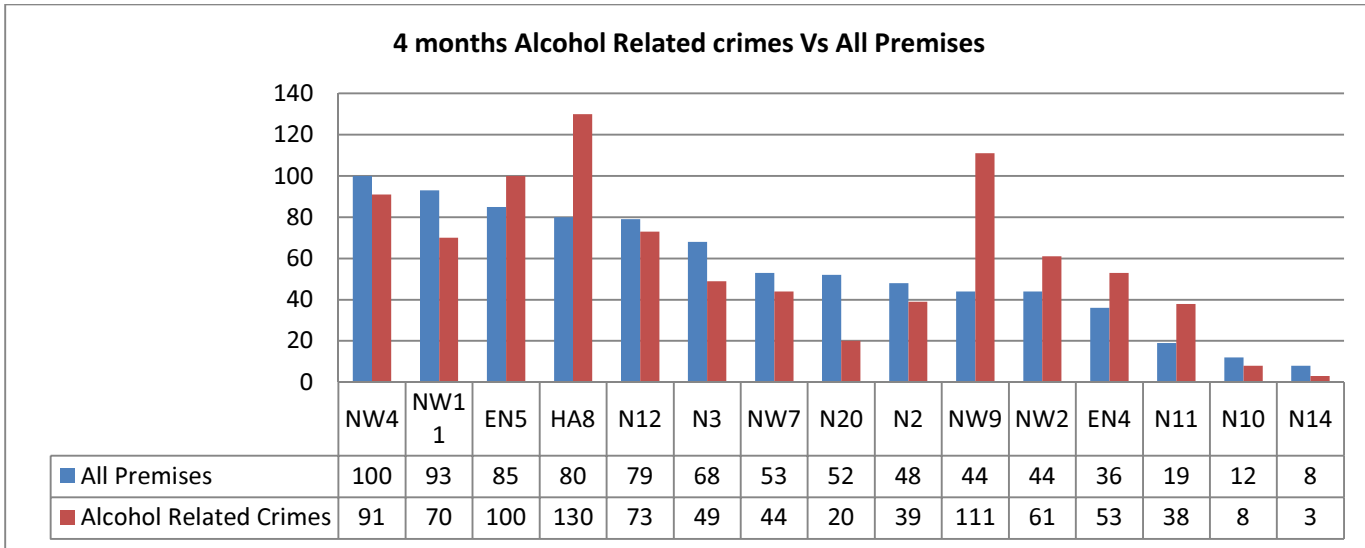


Metropolitan Police Service¹⁴

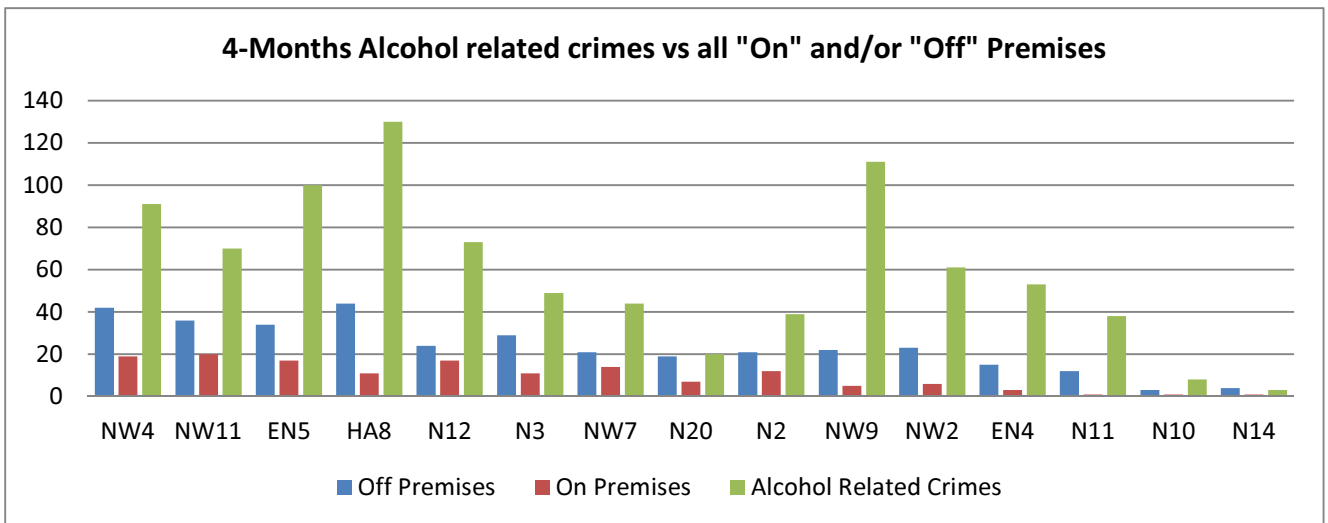
There seems to be a link between alcohol and some levels of offending in the London borough of Barnet, for instance; a four-month datasets (April 2014 to August 2014) shows that 891 alcohol-related crimes were recorded by the Met Police. 51% or 455 of these relates to Violence Against the Person (this includes: Assault with Injury, Common Assault, Harassment, Offensive Weapon, Other Violence and Serious Wounding). Other Accepted Crime where alcohol is flagged is 24%, Theft and Handling is 7%, Criminal Damage is also 7%.

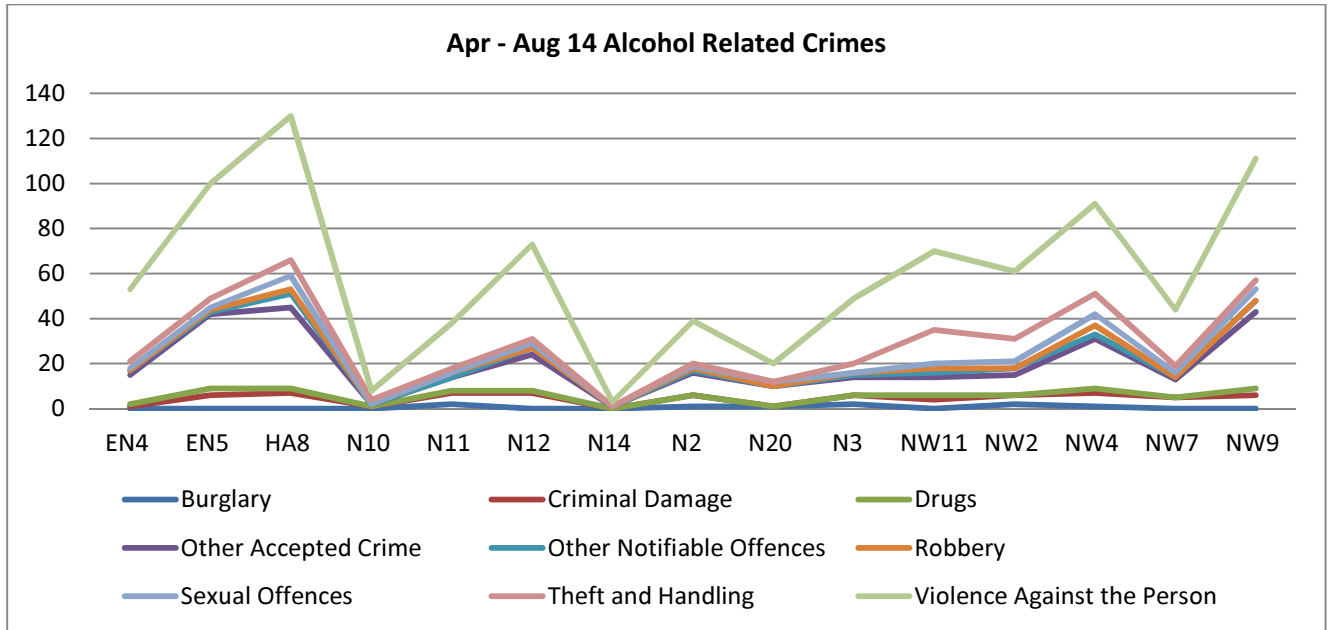
The graph shows the breakdown of 4 months alcohol related crime





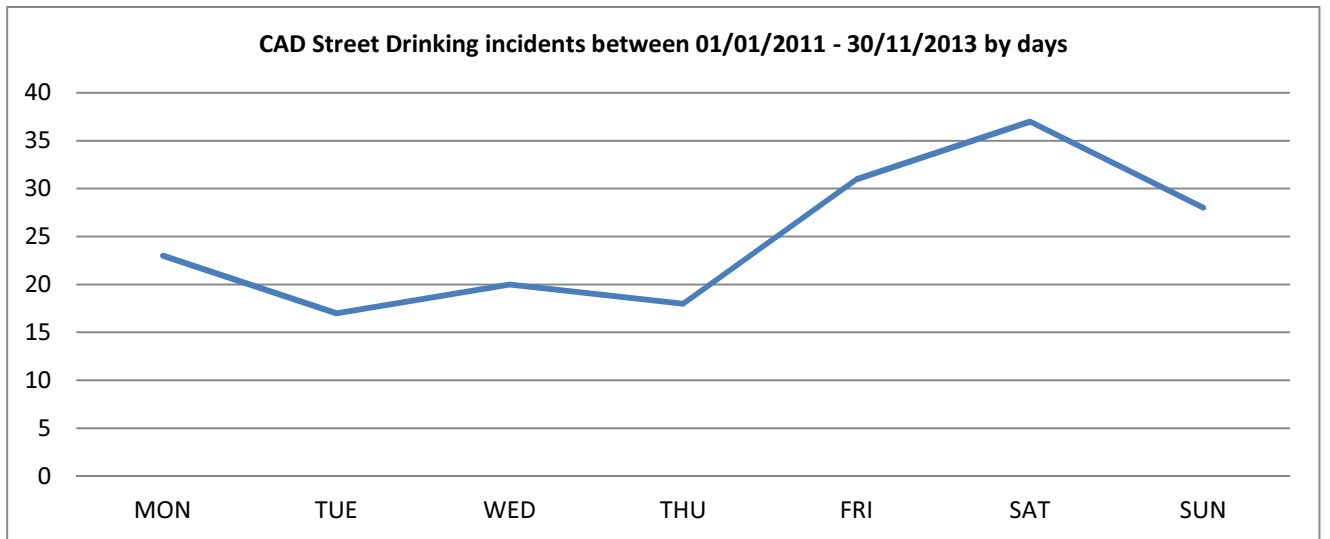
The graph above shows all premises with the number offences in which the consumption of alcohol is thought to have played a role of some kind in the committing of the offence, usually in the sense that the offender was under the influence of alcohol at the time. The above graph reveals that the cluster of all premises plays significant impact on crimes. The higher number of licensed premises in any particular postcode; the higher the number of crimes recorded in the area. An example is HA8 and NW9 – these two postcodes are in a close proximity with highest number of alcohol related crimes.

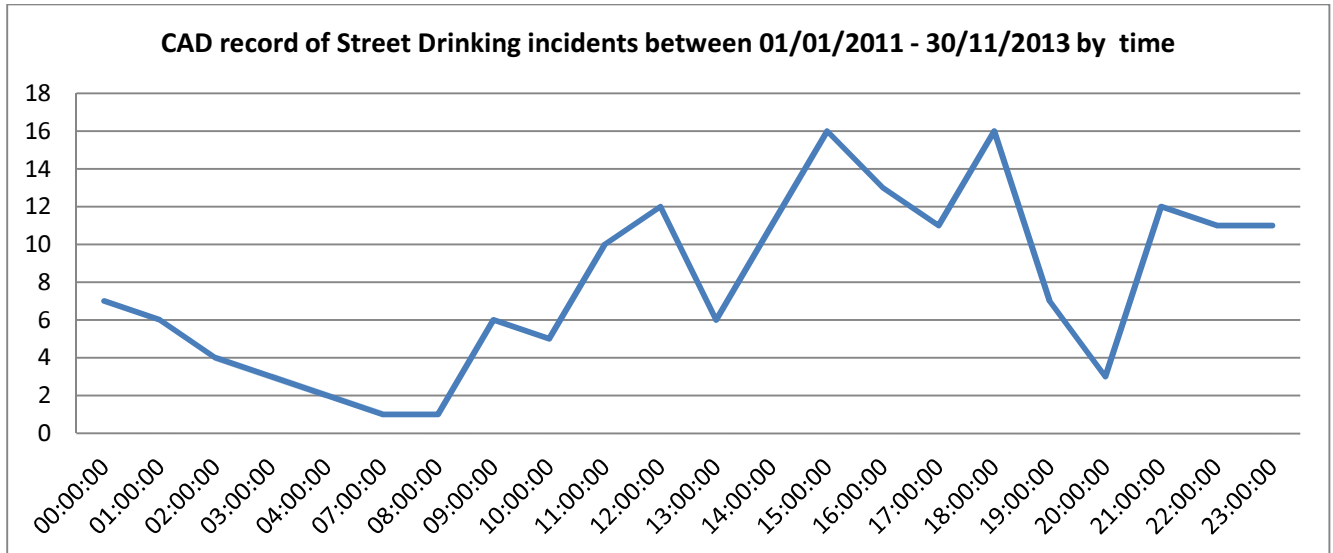




Street Drinking

The graph below is the number of Metropolitan Police CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) calls¹⁵ relating to street drinking, between 1st Jan 2011 to 30th November 2013





The above graph shows the number of the Metropolitan Police CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) calls¹⁶ of street drinking between 01/01/2011 – 30/11/2013

Conclusion

Alcohol does appear to be having a negative impact on the borough.

Changing the nature of where we buy and consume alcohol may have a positive impact on the risk of harms to people.

London Ambulance Service to enhance the process of recording alcohol-related admissions in hospitals and A&E departments, as this will create a clearer picture of the level of crisis caused by alcohol misuse and will improve in the under-representation of the true picture of harms impacting on people (especially under age) suffering from alcohol misuse.

References

¹ Mirror Newspaper website <http://www.mirror.co.uk/money/personal-finance/average-prices-pint-beer-across-2234409>

² My Supermarket website http://www.mysupermarket.co.uk/#/brands/stella_artois_in_tesco.html

³ British Beer and Pub Association <http://www.beerandpub.com/statistics>

⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London_Borough_of_Barnet

⁵ <http://www.barnetobservatory.info/> (user access is required, datasets from Change => Spatial Level)

⁶ <http://alcoholresearchuk.org/special-reports/licensing-statistics-2013/>

⁷ Data from Acolaid as at Apr 2014

⁸ Figures from Acolaid Apr2014 "Alcohol Licensing data.xls"

⁹

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/116655/dpr26.pdf

¹⁰ <http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk/campaign/statistics-on-alcohol>

¹¹ Data from Acolaid Report between 27/08/2011 – 28/08/2014. Filename "ASB.xls"

¹² www.lass.london.gov.uk London Ambulance Service data - filename - LAS_all_borough 0911.xls

¹³ www.lass.london.gov.uk London Fire Brigade data - filename - LFB_all_borough 0911.xls

¹⁴ Data obtained from Metropolitan Police Service

¹⁵ Figures from the Metropolitan Police Service

¹⁶ Figures from the Metropolitan Police Service