

BATH NIGHT LIFE

Research Summary - October '07
by Daniel Wiles



RESEARCH SUMMARY

Purpose of the research

To research and compile a report into the needs of those young people who use the city centre (Bath) night life facilities with a view to determining the best strategy for the church community to employ in the future, in order to engage with these people in a meaningful way which reflects the love of God.

Summary of Main Findings

A researcher spent three weeks conducting interviews with people who worked for, or were part of the many agencies and organisations involved in the Bath night life. Questionnaires and interviews were recorded with young people that use the night life facilities. Consideration was also given to the research of others regarding the night time economy of Bath. The major findings were an exposure of the many issues that arise over the course of the evening. These issues often relate to the consumption of alcohol and range from low level littering to large scale brawls. Many young people and a majority of those employed in night life related jobs thought that it would be good for the church to be involved in this culture and that more could be done to tackle the related issues. Initiatives were discussed aiming to establish the best way for the church to have a role alongside other agencies in the context of the night life of Bath. Conclusions were drawn and some key recommendations are suggested.

Summary of Recommendations

The primary recommendation is that patrols should be set up on the busiest night of the week, with the aims of serving those that use the city centre at night in whatever way they can beneficially. This maybe best done under the auspices of 'Street Pastors,' and would certainly need to work alongside Street Marshals, Bouncers and the other organisations and agencies.

Furthermore alongside the street patrols it is recommended that a 'Safe Haven' should be established, perhaps this should be sometime after the 'patrols' are established. This could be used by anyone who is in need of a neutral and safe venue either as an alternative to local night life facilities or when they close. This would provide a kind of 'sanctuary area'.

It was concluded that these two recommendations are the best way to engage with those that use nightclubs and a service of being present to those people would be of most benefit to everyone involved in Bath's night life.

It is worth noting that the recommendations above are primarily based on an overwhelming response from other related agencies that the church does have a role in this area and should co-operate with others who are already involved. Those young people who thought that the church might have a role in this area were in a minority and it is therefore suggested that PR amongst young people be given some attention in either of the developments.

More detailed comments and ideas are contained within the following, more comprehensive, report on the research. A full copy of the report can be downloaded from www.fyt.org.uk

Introduction

Background

This research was envisaged by Rob Trickey (Hay Hill Baptist Church) and Martin Lloyd Williams (St Michael's Church) who approached the YMCA (Bath) and Frontier Youth Trust (national voluntary organisation) to act as partners in exploring the issues and needs of night clubbers in Bath. Funding was found to appoint a researcher for one month to develop and initiate the research process that this report covers.

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Research Process

The purpose of this research was to explore the issues involved in the night life of young people and the design of the research was based around an investigation into the surrounding issues. This was achieved by speaking to those people that use the night life facilities, speaking to those that work in the 'night life industry' and also considering other relevant research.

Young people were approached by the researcher in pubs, clubs and as they walked around the city centre and asked if they were willing to complete a questionnaire (Appendix 1). This was done between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m. on different days over a two week period and 84 questionnaires were completed. Further details of the young people can be seen in the ***Findings from Young People's Questionnaires*** section (p. 5). The answers to the questionnaires were brought together so that an analysis of the findings could be conducted, based on 'text analyses' of the issues that were raised and which were most consistently identified.

Some young people volunteered to have a more in-depth survey of their views conducted by the researcher and four young people were interviewed (see Appendix 2). The purpose of these interviews was to explore further issues raised and to record personal experiences whilst asking the young people what they thought of the different ideas and responses/initiatives the researcher was developing. Further details can be seen in the ***Stories from follow up Interviews with Young People*** section.

Interviews (Appendix 3) were also conducted with 26 different organisations and agencies involved in the night time economy of Bath. These included 8 club managers or assistant managers, 2 landlords, 2 bar managers, 2 bouncers, a taxi company supervisor and a taxi driver, a police beat manager, the head of the community safety drugs partnership, a community safety research manager, a representative of the Bath bar charter group, a representative of Baths residents association, a street marshal, a youth worker and a music promoter. The procedure for analysis was that the responses were brought together so that

they could be compared for consistent and common issues raised and solutions offered; see ***Findings from Interviews with Agencies and Organisations (p.6)***. Secondly, some responses, which clearly emphasised certain issues, were referenced and these can be seen in the ***Key quotes from Interviews with Organisations and Agencies (p. 6)*** section.

Wider local and national related research was considered (see references); this was done to incorporate common key themes and issues relating to this research. This is recorded in the ***Findings from other Relevant Research (p. 16)*** section.

Quantitative Findings

Findings from Young People's Questionnaire

1. 84 questionnaires were distributed, completed and returned in a number of locations (night clubs, street, pubs etc).
2. 9 respondents were under 18, 36 respondents were 18 – 19 years old, 19 respondents were aged 19 – 21 and 20 were over 21.
3. 24 respondents said that they were students. It is worth noting that the timing of the research may have underestimated student numbers as many would have been on summer vacation.
4. There were 42 female respondents and 42 male respondents. 71 described themselves as white British and 13 respondents were non white British respondents. 56 respondents lived in a home that they or the person they lived with owned and 28 respondents did not live in owned property. 57 respondents were residents of Bath and 27 did not have residency in Bath. 53 respondents lived within Bath and 31 lived outside of Bath, the majority coming from villages to the south of Bath.
5. In terms of the frequency of use of night clubs the following was found:
 - Once a month – 20 respondents
 - Once a week – 37 respondents
 - Twice a week – 13 respondents
 - More than twice a week – 14
6. Friday and Saturday are the most used nights by respondents; however, Tuesday is also a popular night
7. In terms of why young people use night clubs the most frequently mentioned is friends. Other factors that were mentioned reasonably frequently were: drinking, dancing, atmosphere, music and opposite sex.
8. 45 respondents, just over half, mentioned that they had experienced trouble when clubbing. The most frequently mentioned problem was fighting (28 of the 45 respondents mentioned this). There is perhaps a predictably strong correlation between 'getting wasted' (alcohol consumption), males and fighting. Other problems that were mentioned quite frequently were with sleazy men, too much drink, bouncers, homophobia and under age clubbers.
9. A significant proportion of respondents (54) said that they 'got wasted' (6 + drinks) when clubbing and only 3 respondents said that they did not drink. 2 respondents said that they had 1 or 2 drinks and 25 respondents drank between 2 – 6 drinks.
10. 39 respondents felt that there was a need for support or help for those people that use night clubs and of these the highest proportion said that what was needed was water, first aid and support with transport. 45 respondents did not feel that support or help was needed.

Findings from Interviews with Agencies and Organisations

Questions 1 to 4:

These recorded the date of the interview, the person being interviewed, the organisation/agency they were employed by and their role in their organisation/agency.

Responses to Question 5:

When considering the ways in which their agency/organisation came into contact with young people that use night clubs, replies varied based on the nature of the work carried out amongst those young people. For example, club and bar managers suggested ways such as through socialising, drinking, entertainment pursuits whilst offering a safe environment. Council, community and police agencies described their contact as engagement and research focused; to respond, to tackle and prevent crime, and also to deal with anti-social problems in their respective roles. Residents noted contact was through noise disturbance and street fouling, while youth workers came into contact through differing projects. Bouncers came into contact through young people's entry and exit to pubs and clubs with I.D. checking a key aspect. Street marshals provide an incident response unit, while taxi supervisors and drivers come into contact through travel.

Responses to Question 6:

The extent of contact was described as 'frequent' by a majority (21 of the 26 interviewees). 2 said they came into 'regular' contact and 1 said 'occasional.' The other interviewees described non-direct contact with young people through statutory services or research. Additional comments were made about contact being highly frequent on Friday and Saturday nights by some of the interviewees (4), and similarly one interviewee spoke of the rise in contact over the Christmas period.

Responses to Question 7:

Lots of issues were suggested as being important in relation to working with young people that use night clubs, and varying issues were also described as being most important by differing interviewees. Alcohol use, abuse, and misuse were by far the most prominent though, with 17 out of the 26 noting it as a key issue. Linked to alcohol, 6 interviewees pointed out drinking capability being a key issue, generally they pointed out that the closer night club users were to the age of 18 the more likely they were to not know their limits and the more likely they were to get drunk quicker.

Issues of street fouling were also suggested as a problem, with litter, broken bottles and people being sick on the streets (3/26) alongside people urinating (3/26). This linked to one response which pointed out the lack of respect young people have for others. Furthermore noise at night as people leave clubs (4/26) was a behavioural issue and when this is considered in reference to the issue that Bath has a high concentration of residents living in the city centre (about 500) compared to many other cities (2/26), it can be seen as a real nuisance.

Violence and assaults were also considered as important issues by 5 of the interviewees. This issue linked in with others such as differing types of offending behaviour (3/26) and also criminal damage (2/26). 2 interviewees suggested that the rest of society was fearful of this behaviour. Safety of the young people and also those that work in the night time economy was also pointed out as an important issue by 4 of the interviewees.

Under-age drinkers were pointed out in terms of being an issue by 5 of the interviewees though some suggested that this was due to national problems and press coverage. It was also pointed out that in Bath recent testing has shown underage drinkers fail to get served in licensed premises.

Transport was another issue raised by 2 of the interviewees. Also the issue of people hanging around on the street was raised by 2 interviewees.

The issue of drugs was touched upon by the interviewees, though only 1 of 4 that spoke about it considered it as a problem in Bath, the other 3 said that either it wasn't prevalent or that alcohol was a bigger issue. One interviewee gave an insightful account of how Bath is now a lot safer and has a lot less trouble than it had done in the past.

From the interviews it can be suggested that the most important issues of concern in relation to working with young people that use night clubs would be alcohol and drinking capability, street fouling and high levels of noise, violence, criminal behaviour, safety concerns and under age drinkers. Whilst minor issues include transport, drug usage and street loitering.

Responses to Question 8:

In thinking about the issues and needs that young people have, the interviewees covered many issues. Alcohol problems were again high on the agenda with 10 of 26 pointing it out as an issue for young people; again references were made to them being vulnerable and less likely to know their limitations (2/26).

Safety was pointed out as an issue and a need of young people that use night clubs by 8 of the 26 interviewees. Also the young people's own problems with their aggression were covered as an issue by 3 of the 26 interviewees. Another dangerous issue that was identified was that some individuals can get split up from their friends at night and left on their own; this was especially a concern regarding females.

A major need for young people that was discussed was that of having a fun time (5/26). This linked to the need of socialising (4/26) and also to be entertained (3/26) of which music is an aspect (1/26) and a good atmosphere (1/26).

Travelling into and out of the city centre by taxi, public transport or foot was suggested as another issue that young people have when using the night clubs in the centre (4/26). The price of alcohol and entry to clubs was also covered by 3 of the 26 suggesting that this is a further issue that young people consider in their use of night clubs.

Drug use was covered as an issue for young people by one interviewee whilst two suggested that it was not a prevalent issue for young people that use night clubs in Bath. People's drinks

being spiked was touched on by 3 interviewees - one said that it could be an issue, one that it was an issue in the national press, and one that crime figures suggest it is not a problem in Bath. The need for water when young people use night clubs was pointed out by one interviewee.

Further interesting insights were offered by interviewees such as the need for young people to be integrated into an adult environment as they become involved in the night time economy (2/26). Furthermore it was suggested that some young people may have issues of self-esteem and peer pressure (1/26).

Alcohol and safety issues were frequently expressed by the interviewees. Whilst need for fun and a good time was also a consistent response. The issues and needs of travel, prices, drugs, drink spiking and water were also covered. A degree of overlap can be seen with these responses to those of question 7.

Responses to Question 9:

When asked if they thought that the church had a role in responding to the needs and concerns relating to young people that use night clubs 15 interviewees said that they did, and 2 said that they did not. The other 9 did not say either way but their response tended to be that everyone in society should have a responsibility for these concerns and also that if the church was to offer support it would be beneficial for all concerned.

Responses to Question 9 (I):

Varying responses were given to the ways in which the interviewees thought the church should respond.

The first major initiative that was suggested was to have a safe haven in the city centre which young people could use; this was put forward by 8 of the 15 who said the church did have a role. Individuals suggested that this could offer a toilet facility, a relaxed atmosphere, and a safe place for people on their own to wait for a taxi, somewhere to go if they were in trouble. One interviewee suggested that a safe haven would not work on the basis that people would not come in and use it of their own accord. It was also suggested that young people would abuse the initiative in a similar way to the way that staff in hospitals are given trouble after people have been drinking.

The second major initiative that could be used as a form of response was to have people out on the streets patrolling in a similar way to the street marshals; this was put forward by 6 of the 26. It was expressed that these people could keep an eye out for trouble and be a calming response for people who were walking around the centre during the night. One interviewee did query the safety of those doing this type of work.

The third major initiative that could be used as a form of response would be to have a van that could be used in the centre that would offer a presence and could be used to support the night clubbers. 4 of the 26 mentioned this as a possible idea. An interviewee suggested that this might have the facility of a public toilet to tackle street fouling, whilst another interviewee mentioned that this also might have an issue of safety for those working in the environment.

Minor initiatives that were suggested by individuals included having an outreach programme to those using the A and E, offering advice and support in an informal café styled meeting where people who are not alcoholic but concerned about their alcohol consumption could go and chat and also to refer young people onto other services after coming into contact with them.

Some general unspecific responses suggested by individuals were for churches to come to the level of young people, to catch up and re-brand themselves. The benefit of having publicity if an initiative is set up was mentioned and the need for a willingness to engage with young people. It was also suggested that it would be important to work alongside the two universities Christian unions and that working inside a club would not be practical or allowed by staff. It was also suggested that it will be important to consider the safety of volunteers in any development.

Other responses highlighted the importance of working alongside existing organisations (7/26). A key to success in this area is to fully understand what is already going on in the situation so that the response can work alongside existing partners, this mean things running smoothly and success is a lot more likely.

Further more responses pointed out that any actions taken by the church should not be with evangelical 'conversion' in mind (6/26). This was due to the nature of working alongside many intoxicated people meaning that it would not be beneficial to anyone as it would likely cause more trouble, rather the church should be there to support and serve the nightclub users ('presence evangelism').

Responses to question to Question 9 (II):

Some advice that was frequently given to the church when responding to needs and concerns relating to the young people that use night clubs included making sure there was sufficient security (4), not to be overly evangelical (3), to consult and involve partners (2), to link with the street marshals (2), and to expect abuse (2).

Some individual responses:

- Shake off the middle age, middle class persona that the church has, you need to find a middle ground when working with these people.
- There is a contrast in church between those that are overly reserved and those that are overly evangelical; a middle ground is also needed for this.
- Do not take this lightly.
- Have a battle plan, have confidence; anything half hearted will not work.
- You need credibility and expertise, understand the scene and talk the talk.
- Be trendy.
- If people are working on the street being on the community radio is vital.
- You will have to deal with intoxicated people.
- Will someone need medical training? One of the street marshals is a trained paramedic.
- A one-on-one basis when working with young people is a lot more likely to be successful as when they're in a group you will get abuse.
- Individuals are all different so consider this when responding to them.

- Do not make anything pressurised, make people feel comfortable.
- You will get your hands dirty and it can be messy.

A further possibly separate point that was raised by 2 interviewees was that there is not enough for those that are under the age of 18 to do in the city during the evenings.

Responses to Question 10:

At this point interviewees were asked if they would like to add anything. The majority did not but a few reiterated major points such as to importance of involving partner initiatives, addressing the issues which were raised, that Bath is a lot safer than in the past and that there are lots of people living in the city centre. The police openly expressed their support for initiatives which improve safety and reduce crime.

Qualitative Findings

Stories from follow up Interviews with Young People:

Two males and two females were selected for follow up interviews, one of each gender was aged over 21 and the other male was aged 21 and other female aged 18.

One of the girls described herself as mixed race and the other interviewees were white. One of the males did not own or live with the owner of the house he lives in the others did.

Three of the participants were permanent residents of Bath and the other lived in a town outside of the city. Two of the interviewees said they were students but both noted that they were not in full time university education.

One of the interviewees went to night clubs twice a week, one would go once a week, one would go between one and two times and the other would go once but noted that they used to go out a lot more in the past.

One of them said they had been using Baths night clubs for 3 years, two said they had been using them for 5 years and one said they had been using the clubs for 7 years.

Responses to being asked why they went to night clubs:

I.2. (Interviewee 2 etc.) – *‘To have a dance and keep the night going, and to keep drinking, something different to mix it up.’*

I.3. – *‘To keep on drinking it’s the only reason in Bath’*

Favourite night club experiences:

I.1. – *‘One night on new years, dancing with guys and wrapping my cardigan around their facial area and terrorising, being picked up by guys, and mid air grinding is always good.’*

I.2. – *‘Dancing with friends, not caring and getting carried away and not being self-conscious in a fun way.’*

Least favourite night club experiences:

I.1. – *‘when I drank sambucca and felt really ill, bad music, bad venue, I might have been sick. And abused by blokes (in a club)’*

I.2. – *‘When I fell I fell down the steps in po’s. I was drunk; I got injured and felt embarrassed as I couldn’t go in. I’ve probably been sick in a club.’*

I.3. – *‘I’ve been followed home and things like that, I had to wait for a friend to walk me back.’*

1.4. – *‘When I told a girl I fancied her and then started crying because she rejected me. My friend also fell over and cracked his head open as he was too drunk. A girl also puked all over the inside of my car when I gave lift home.’*

What they thought the needs of night clubbers were:

1.2. – *‘Good friends to look after you if you have too much, or not even friends someone to recognise and help you out. You need to know when to stop.’*

1.3. – *‘the amount of times you see girls wandering off, on their own – they need a cab, it’s also good to have bouncers as people like to fight.’*

What kind of support they thought night clubbers in bath might want or need:

1.2. – *‘safety reassurance’*

1.3. – *‘If they’re sick they just get chucked out (of a club), it’d be good if someone could help those people, especially younger ones.’*

1.4. – *‘Something to get drunks from hanging around outside clubs after closing, there’s not too much trouble in Bath but people loiter a lot.’*

What they thought a venue (safe haven) for night clubbers could provide and do:

1.1. – *‘Foil blankets, paramedics, water a very good idea.’*

1.3. – *‘Great idea, sit and chill, especially if you don’t want to wait in the taxi rank on their own. Water and coffee excellent.’*

1.4. – *‘Water, somewhere to sober up before going home, if people are left on their own, especially girls they could go somewhere safe with a phone facility so they can keep in touch and go home. Also have taxis for people when they need them. Also if they’ve fallen out with friends they can make up, it should be a place for people who want peace and quiet so don’t let drunken young people in who will be noisy. Good to have marshals linked to a safe haven as it’s hard to talk to people on the street.’*

What they thought a van on the streets for night clubbers could provide and do:

1.3. – *‘If in conjunction with street marshals they have a better chance.’*

1.4. – *‘Same as above (safe haven) – not sure what else.’*

What they thought volunteer patrols could provide and do:

1.1. – *‘Dressed – themed. Handout lolly pops. Has to be fun not just doom and gloom.’*

I.2. – *‘Maybe try and talk to aggressive/lairy people. Calm them down – reassure them, look out for people who are vulnerable – make sure everyone is safe. They have to be recognisable as a friend and someone who can help.’*

I.3. – *‘Don’t know if you would trust them. Why are they doing this? Cautious in terms of are you trying to convert me – are we going to get a philosophical debate at 3 in the morning. Need to play down church involvement – sad but due to the way young people might react.’*

I.4. – *‘Someone who would actually listen – bouncers don’t they just want to get rid of you. But you might get drunk people crying at them.’*

Key quotes from Interviews with Organisation and Agencies

Responses to question 5 (Can you tell me about ways in which your organisation/agency comes into contact with young people that use night clubs and describe the overall nature of your work with those young people?):

Interviewee 3: *‘Entertainment business deals with vices of human nature’*

Interviewee 18: *‘In a negative way – large amount of noise disturbance around home. People are also sick, vandalise, brake glass outside home’*

Responses to question 6 (How would you describe the extent of contact that you have with young people that use night clubs Occasional/Regular/Frequent – any additional comments on extent of contact below?):

Interviewee 22: *‘every day, every night’*

Responses to question 7 (What issues do you think are of most concern in relation to working with young people that use night clubs and which issue do you see as **most** important?):

Interviewee 8: *‘There is now less trouble on the streets and in premises than in the past. Due to: the door staff being a lot better trained... The night watch radio, 90 % premises use radio. Plus the use of CCTV by the police. Friday and Saturday the street marshals are around and they sort out a lot of different issues, as well as taxi marshal at the rank... 49% of the issues they’re involved in are medical issues, and one is a trained paramedic so if there is trouble detected on CCTV on foot they can get there quicker than an ambulance, in some cases.’*

Interviewee 10: *‘Alcohol brings out the respect issue, it brings out the idiot, literally fuels the issue.’*

Interviewee 11: *‘Young people are naïve in their alcohol consumption, they don’t know their limits. Especially 18 and 19 year olds, they don’t know how to handle their drink and how to pace themselves. The young people go out to lose themselves.’*

Interviewee 12: *'Binge drinking, alcohol gets stronger and is changing and we don't quite keep up. The average consumption since the 1970's has now doubled.'*

Interviewee 17: *'Young people don't have enough to do, to keep themselves entertained, without taking a taxable drug. Fundamental need socialising in this environment. They crave something, but there is no modern sense of community.'*

Interviewee 21: *'Not much of a problem with on licenses, more so with off licenses. E.g. older kids buying for younger kids, peer pressure when those trying to buy are known to staff.'*

Interviewee 24: *'They try and be someone they're not in a group. They give aggressive talk; it's one up man ship. There is a lot of respect between them they have to be seen to be looking out for each other.'*

Responses to question 8 (In thinking about **young people** that use night clubs what issues/needs do you think they have?):

Interviewee 1: *'(they need to be) Integrated into an adult environment – without alienation, but they're more vulnerable as they don't know their limitations as well.'*

Interviewee 6: *'Safety in night clubs and also in the city centre.'*

Interviewee 8: *'People are out for good times, friends, meet new people and celebrations'*

Interviewee 9: *'18 to 30 (age) are most likely to be victim and offender, shown in lots of national studies. There's significant alcohol use at that age and following behaviours. Safety is a risk, by nature you're more likely to be at risk when in the night time economy.'*

Interviewee 24: *'Issues come out from the drink they have a sort of split personality... often we have to deal with that for example they say 'if you knew what I had to deal with.' And they bring out issues like bereavement.'*

Interviewee 26: *'Self esteem, peer pressure.'*

Responses to question 9 (Do you think that local churches have a role in responding to the needs and concerns relating to young people at night clubs? Yes/No):

Interviewee 2: *'church doesn't have a place other than for moral support.'*

Interviewee 5: *'One time church did have an influence as it was community led, it now needs to catch up. The evolution side of religion hasn't happened it hasn't kept up. It should be trying to re-brand itself not just evangelism but ask them what they want, whilst also mentioning to the people we are doing so and so if you are interested.'*

Interviewee 25: *'Society lacks the sense of community that church could bring, but from a young age people are brought up not caring about community.'*

Responses to question 9 (i) (How do you think they should respond?):

Interviewee 1: *'Build links between young people and churches – which is difficult but churches need to come to the level of the young people.'*

Interviewee 6: *'In kind contribution. Utilising premises, crime isn't high in bath but representatively for the centre which is a small area it is. Need to link in with initiatives, think what's suitable by considering what's all ready in place in BANES. Need to be consistent in working and you don't want to conflict with things that are all ready in place. Things need to be co ordinated together, but at the same time we don't want to hold back creative ideas.'*

Interviewee 13: *'Everybody has a responsibility, youth workers, church and police to make sure people are safe. It does depend on how much alcohol people have had, sober people can be very nice and what sort of person they are without religious views. An initiative is a good idea to assist and help people.'*

Interviewee 16: *'Somewhere to go after the clubs stop, 2000/3000 come out after closing time, there's lots of trouble at taxi ranks, more marshals are needed on the rest of the streets, for example at the weekend at kingsmead square (Appendix 4). A café with a late license where people stay and feel safe is a good idea... they'd be safe and secure rather than on the street.'*

Interviewee 18: *'making church a community resource, having people out and about and involved who aren't wasted, keeping an eye out for there peers in clubs and on street e.g. volunteers. Need people who can set an example, going around clubs mingling in but just on soft drinks.'*

Interviewee 22: *'People's own views are jaded about religion and once they've had a load of drink they get it into their head a negative view of the issue which could lead to a risk in the safety of the people talking to them.'*

Interviewee 24: *'A van in Kingsmead Square might not work as you need somewhere private.'*

Interviewee 26: *'simply having a willingness to engage with this group would be a start, we hear of the occasional brave nightclub chaplain around the larger cities but not a lot else. Partner with Christians already in clubs – notably students.'*

Responses to question 9 (ii) (What advice would you give them?), also see individual responses in *Quantitative Findings*:

Interviewee 1: *'Shake off middle age/ middle class persona, which is difficult as it maybe hard to find a middle ground. There's a problem with the contrasts of reservations in the Church of England and the happy clappyness of over the top evangelism – need a middle ground which will support young people.'*

Interviewee 4: *'Not to be taken lightly – especially with young kids. Activities for young people under 18 as they get to the age where not old enough to drink but they want to go out and not stay at home. They're lost and misguided.'*

Interviewee 5: *'Need to have a battle plan, what they want to tackle. Need confidence that you can take on the issue. A half hearted attempt wouldn't work; confidence is needed to take on what people are confident with. What would be successful is a facility that will always be there. All good intensions can start but can fail until they are taken up by someone else in another 10 years time. One success is better than 10 half efforts. Need to have credibility and expertise. Credibility as have to be part of it and understand it (the nightlife), can't just get someone who isn't involved. Need to be able to talk the language e.g. badass have ex addicts working. Leaflets advertising a trendy church day (with trendy leaflets) with someone with experience of the night club scene to put on coffees to chat about the issues for an hour or something would be good. This could be aimed at someone who is concerned about how much they are drinking but knowing they aren't necessarily an alcoholic, where else can they go to address this and other issues, this would be great opposed to something evangelical, then could give the offer of coming along to church on a Sunday. Something informal that could be put on monthly and advertise through clubs and pubs with an attractive flyer.'*

Interviewee 24: *'St Michaels is a good place to escort wasted people. Good and can do a better job inside especially with girls. Maybe wouldn't need a door person but someone who could handle a situation.'*

Interviewee 26: *'Think about the vision of any ministry to clubbers – is the aim simply to demonstrate Jesus or conversion. E.g. street pastors in Kingston who do not verbalise the gospel but go round looking after those who are drunk, cleaning up sick, calling taxis for people; presence evangelism for want of a better expression. Be prepared to get your hands dirty.'*

Responses to question 10 (Do you have anything else that you would like to add?):

Interviewee 5: *'Need to start realising there are issues. It's time that organisations, churches, started building bridges instead of frowning. The solution is addressing what is causing/aggravating social issues and what can be done to help.'*

Interviewee 6: *'You can't control people behaviour but you can try to design it out with initiatives etc. it's about prevention, enforcement and engagement.'*

Findings from other Relevant Research

Night Vision (2005) was a study into alcohol related behaviour and physical features that resulted from people going out at night. Surveyors walked around Bath city centre following two different routes and recorded specific incidents. The major findings were that 'nuisance noise' was highest recorded behavioural issues. Whilst the most recorded physical features were 'dropped litter/food' and 'bottles/can and broken glass on street.' The most number of events were recorded during Saturday night and Sunday morning. 'Hot spots' were identified

where a large number of the behaviours and physical features were recorded, these include 'the passageway between Walcot Street and The Paragon,' 'the area surrounding the Abby and Orange grove,' 'the Bus Station' and dropped litter was primarily concentrated around fast food establishments. This research highlights the type of incidents that those involved in the night life will encounter and the 'hot spot' areas, this should be considered when forming a response to this research.

Night Vision 2 (2006) was a follow up study to the initial Night Vision (2005) and was conducted in a consistent way to its predecessor. One of the nights that the research was conducted saw significantly above average levels of anti-social behaviour and this was thought to correlate to the fact that it was the first weekend after payday as well as televised international sport. The findings were that 'obviously intoxicated persons' and 'nuisance noise' were the most commonly recorded behavioural issues and 'dropped litter/food' and 'bottles/can and broken glass on street' were the most commonly recorded physical features. Saturday night and Sunday morning contained the greatest number of incidents. Further 'hot spots' were identified as 'the Terrace Walk/Pierrepont Street.' 'George Street/Milsom Street,' and 'Kingsmead Square.' While the passage way between Walcot Street and the Paragon remained 'a consistent hot spot.'

Violent Crime in the Night Time Economy (2005) suggests that between April 2002 and September 2005 34% of violent crime relates to the night time economy in BANES. Also white males under the age of 30 are the most notable offenders for violent offences as well as being the most victimised. Just over half of the recorded incidents occur over the weekend and between 11 p.m. and 12 a.m. and between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. incidents rise linking with the closure of licensed premises.

Alcohol and Crime Cumulative Impact Assessment (2006) offers further findings such as 'Bath City Centre can be defined as containing a significant amount of alcohol related crime.' Also that the 'Bath City Centre Zone' contained all the principle hotspots for alcohol related crime in the area and that a 'defined cumulative impact of licensed premises can be attributed to that geography.' Trends by hour for offence profiling can be seen to rise from 9 p.m. and peak at 12 a.m. to then drop between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m. then further drop by 3 a.m. Also trends for offences by day can be seen to be highest on Friday and Saturday.

Drug Use and Young People (2001) is concerned with young people and not necessary night clubbers. Some statistics are of interest from the research:

- 78% of those aged between 11 and 19 years had had an alcoholic drink.
- 16% of 11 to 15 year olds had tried an illegal drug in the previous year.
- 24% had tried one of the listed illegal substances.

Good Practice in Managing the Evening and Late Night Economy (2004) suggests that the most successful responses to hotspots in the night time economy are multi agency, public/private and holistic strategies that incorporate a variety of measures, that address late night transport and waste management, include environmental improvements, and that reduce crime and disorder in conflicts between residents and revellers. The key problems in the night time economy are suggested as a lack of transport, litter/rubbish on streets, street fouling, area feels threatening or unsafe, noise disturbing local residence, rowdiness and fighting in the streets, vandalism and drug dealing. Examples of good practice responses that

relate to the purpose of this research include dealing with litter, prevention of street fouling, providing a welcoming environment including public art and live events, noise prevention and providing a refuge. This research emphasises the importance of being proactive in responding to the night club culture.

Night Vision, Town Centres for All (2006) suggest there should be a reduction in crime, noise, street fouling and drink and drug A and E admissions. What they want is for shops to be open in the evening, venues that cater for families and older customers, more special events and festivals that add life to town centres, innovative use of public buildings in the evenings, an increase in non alcohol related activities at night, an improvement in public spaces and lighting, better night time public transport and an increase in a responsible adult presence like street wardens. Principles that are necessary to change town centres at night include embodying the community and health agenda in policy and transforming behavioural norms, collecting basic data to gain understandings, promote local choice (ownership and distinction), create family and child friendly centres, improve accessibility, raise standards in customer care, good planning in the evening economy, centre designing with the night time economy in mind, flexible hours and multiple uses of public buildings and to extend shopping and other services into the evening. These principles should make the night time economy appealing to the wider part of society. An issue that arose relating to Bath from this research is that currently the bottom end of the city centre is under major redevelopment. This has an influence on the night life in a few ways, currently people have a lot less space than they used to in the city centre and groups of young people who used to congregate in this area have now been dispersed into other parts of the centre where they may clash with night club users, also it does not look as nice so peoples perceptions of the city and thus respect is altered.

Summary and Impressions

Many issues were explored in this research as well as similar issues being implied by other research. They range from the high levels of alcohol consumption to fighting to littering and these are undoubtedly interwoven. There are many groups involved in this 'night life' with many different roles, views, intensions and experiences. However, there are so many issues it can be concluded that there is a space for an agency to get involved and offer services to improve, tackle and resolve some of the issues. It is worth noting that vulnerability is a key concept that emerges frequently, both from interviews with young people and agencies

The major issue is the impact of alcohol in Bath's night life. People go out to drink and lose themselves and this clearly leads to many of the other issues which would be unlikely to be problems if alcohol was not initially consumed. It is not possible to control how much people drink but it is possible to interact with them, to be a presence to them and to support them. A lot of people are not involved in the night life culture and though there are some well-run initiatives there is a space and need for people to step in and play a role for the benefit of the rest of the community in Bath.

Recommendations

1. To have people out on the streets patrolling, with the aims of serving those that use the city centre at night. This maybe best done under the banner of 'Street Pastors,' and patrols would certainly need to work alongside Street Marshals, Bouncers etc.
2. To have a 'Safe Haven' which can be used by anyone who is in need of somewhere detached from the standard night time facilities as a form of sanctuary.
3. To have a staffed van that can be put in 'Hotspots' to reinforce positive aspects of community in the area and could possibly offer facilities such as a refuge area for intoxicated individuals.

Priority or Recommendations

When considering what is best for Bath the ideal response would be a combination of recommendations 1 and 2 the reason for this is that it has been shown in this research that a lot of people do encounter problems when using the night life in Bath and to have people who were trying to support them at the time and on the streets would be a constructive service. This would be even more productive though if those out on the street had a 'Safe Haven' where they could direct people who might want to talk to someone, or want support/advice or even just somewhere to relax. Recommendation 3 would also be a useful response, but it would not necessary offer anything that could cover as many broad issues as a combination of recommendations 1 and 2 could (see Appendix 5). Further consideration of recommendation 2 is that it would not have a significant impact if it was set up independently from another initiative. This was underlined throughout the research process by some of the people who work in the night time business as they thought that people probably would not just walk in to a centre based service without encouragement. Also having people on foot (recommendation 1) would mean that they could move around to different 'hotspots' and have more of a role over the city than would be possible with recommendation 3. Therefore the priority of the recommendations coincides with their numerical order.

Further Research

A relevant exercise which would be beneficial to the leadership team would be for them and those that are interested in forming a response to visit an initiative which is already in place. The researcher has contact with 'Street Pastors' in Portsmouth and it may be a valuable learning experience to spend a Friday night on a patrol in Portsmouth to gain a greater understanding of how they tackle the many situations they come up against. They would also be able to get feedback from those with experience of doing street work and explore preparation, recruitment, training and support needs.

Also a special amount of time should be invested in publicising a response to the research in Bath, and in volunteers getting to know the other agencies and organisations on a personal basis so that a response occurs in collaboration with all who are involved in the Bath night life. Networking and co-operation are key to success.

A side issue which was raised during the research was that for those aged between 14 and 17 there is little to do in Bath during the evenings. The Researcher spoke to some young

people as well as informed adults who expressed concern that there was not enough to keep them entertained leading them to congregate sometime en-mass in the city centre. It is suggested that research should be conducted aiming to understand their needs and how they might be supported.

Concluding Comment/Reflection

I would like to end this report with an analogy of the need to send out 'Shepherd's to a flock' both as a proactive response to expressed need and as a faithful willingness to 'get involved' in the Bath night life scene. In a speech given before the Provincial Synod of the Southern Cone of the Anglican Church in 2002, the then Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey warned that it is all too easy to merely talk about mission. He noted that in his diocese of Canterbury there is a, "wonderful, ancient Church where there is an innocent sign in the Church porch. It reads, 'Keep door firmly shut, sheep may enter'. And, for too many years, this has been the unspoken view of many Anglican Churches – this church is not for you, keep out!" It is my firm belief that church doors need to be wide open with a healthy flow in and out and where faith involves active service to others, especially those with the kind of needs and issues that this research has uncovered.

Daniel Wiles (October 2007)

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Night Vision (2005), *A visual audit of alcohol related incidents in Bath city centre*. Community Safety & Drugs Partnership, The Bath Bar Charter Group, Government Office For The South West.

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Appendix 1 Example of Questionnaire

LOCATION: po na na

DATE: 14th

TIME: 11.30

Questionnaire to young people that use night clubs (give card to participants):

Brief introduction: This research is being carried out on behalf of youth agencies and churches in Bath who are interested in understanding and supporting those that use the night clubs in the city. Your responses will be **completely confidential** and no future contact will be made with you unless you are interested in helping with a follow up interview. If you have any questions about the research or want to talk about any issues that it raises please contact YMCA or Frontier Youth Trust on 01225 480973. **Thank you for your help.**

1. Age: select one of the following: under 18 , 18 – 19 , 19 – 20 , 20 – 21 , over 21x ,
2. Gender: Male/ delete as appropriate)
3. Race: How would you describe your racewhite british.....
4. Do you, or the person you live with, own the house you live in Yes (delete as appropriate)
5. Are you a permanent resident in Bath: Yes (delete as appropriate)
6. If you live in Bath, which area do you live in.....oldfield park.....
7. Are you a student living in Bath? no
8. If you do live outside of Bath – where do you live?
9. On average how often do you go clubbing in Bath:
 Once a month
 Once a week
 Twice a week
 More
10. What night/s of the week are you most likely to go clubbing in Bath...friday.....
11. What do you most enjoy about going clubbing in Bath:

Cheese (music)

12. Have you or your friends ever experienced trouble/problems when you were clubbing? Yes/ (delete as appropriate)

If yes – can you briefly describe the trouble/problem you experienced below please:

Getting far too wasted and getting injured, falling over etc.

13. When you are out clubbing in Bath on average (in one night) how much alcohol do you drink

- None
- 1 or 2
- 2 – 4
- 4 – 6
- get wasted

14. Do you think that there is a need in Bath to offer any kind of support or help to those who use night clubs?
Yes/ (delete as appropriate)

If yes – can you briefly describe what kind of support or help would be useful (E.g. a safe haven offering bottled water, coffee etc., a first aid section, an advice centre, a free phone taxi line.):

Some kind of bus/shelter for people to go to chill before going home

ONLY If you would be willing to have a follow up interview about this in the next few weeks please supply your name and a mobile phone number below:

Name:

Mobile phone number:

Appendix 2 Example of follow up Interview

Follow up interviews with young people that use night clubs (note if the person did a questionnaire these details should be available on that)

Message to be read to participants (and give card): Thank you for offering to see me for this follow up interview. This research is being carried out on behalf of youth agencies and churches in Bath who are interested in understanding and supporting those that use the night clubs in the city. Your responses will help us to understand what the issues might be and how we might respond. If you have any questions about the research or want to talk about any issues that it raises please contact Frontier Youth Trust on 01225 480973. **Thank you for your help.**

Questions:

1. Age: select one of the following: under 18 , 18 – 19 , 19 – 20 , 20 – 21 x, over 21 ,
2. Gender: Male/ (delete as appropriate)
3. Race: How would you describe your racewhite british.....
4. Do you, or the person you live with, own the house you live in Yes/ (delete as appropriate)
5. Are you a permanent resident in Bath: Yes/ (delete as appropriate)
6. If you live in Bath, which area do you live in...southdown.....
7. If no are you a student living in Bath? /No (delete as appropriate) or do you live outside of the city - /No
8. If you do live outside of Bath – where do you live?
9. On average how many nights a week do you go clubbing in Bath.....1.....
10. How long have you been using night clubs in Bath? ...5 years.....
11. How frequently do you use them on average?
12. Why do you go to night clubs?

To have a dance and keep the night going, and to keep drinking, something different to mix it up.

13. Can you tell me what your favourite night club experience/s has been?

One of the first nights at uni, had a really great laugh and dancing to YMCA. Also dancing with friends, not caring and getting carried away and not being self conscious in a fun way.

14. Can you tell me what your least favourite night club experience/s has been?

When I fell I fell down the steps in po's. I was drunk, I got injured and felt embarrassed as I couldn't go in. I've probably been sick in a club.

15. Our research is trying to understand what the needs of night clubbers are – what do you think they are:

Good friends to look after you if you have too much, or not even friends someone to recognise and help you out. You need to know when to stop.

16. What kind of support or help do you think that night clubbers in Bath might want or need?

A lot of clubbers just need reassurance that they won't come up against lairy drunk. As they're worried they might not want to go out on certain nights anyway. – safety reassurance.

17. If a venue for night clubbers was established what do you think it should provide and do?

Provide access to water, would be a good thing. Like a quiet space to hang out in a shelter and sit down. Give themselves to sober up instead of wondering around aimlessly.

18. If a van was set up for night clubbers in the city centre what do you think it should provide and do?

Similar thing – water.

19. If volunteer patrols were started in the city centre what do you think these people should provide and do?

Maybe try and talk to aggressive/lairy people. Calm them down – reassure them, look out for people who are vulnerable – make sure everyone is safe. They have to be recognisable as a friend and someone who can help.

Thank you very much.

Appendix 3 Example of an Interview with an organisation or Agency

Interview schedule for those adults and agencies who might have an interest in the night club scene

Introduction message to be read to participants (and give card): Thank you for offering to see me for this interview. This research is being carried out on behalf of youth agencies and churches in Bath who are interested in understanding and supporting those that use the night clubs in the city. Your responses will help us to understand what the issues might be and how we might respond.

1. Date of interview: 11th September
2. Name of person interviewed:
3. Organisation/agency: night club
4. Position in organisation/agency: manager
5. Can you tell me about ways in which your organisation/agency comes into contact with young people that use night clubs and describe the overall nature of your work with those young people:

Entertainment led venue and late night venue. Music, singing dancing etc.
Alcohol – it is a night club.

6. How would you describe the extent of contact that you have with young people that use night clubs
Occasional/Regular/Frequent – any additional comments on extent of contact below:

Average Saturday 500 people, rest of the week depends if the students are around, but around a 1000. contact through providing entertainment don't see social side issue.

7. What issues do you think are of most concern in relation to working with young people that use night clubs and which issue do you see as **most** important

Definition of binge drinking!?! He described it as lots of alcohol over a short space of time and these people only do this once a week.

Word may have originated in the 80s when people would take advantage and drink as much as they could during happy hours.

People have drinks through out the evening – nothing wrong, there's the issue of people drinking at home, some people drink at home and then go straight to a club missing out the pub completely this maybe due to money.

There has been social issues since society began.

Social bonding will occur in good venues – people seeing friends, this isn't at all unlike in church 100 years back except now we have music and dancing etc.

8. In thinking about **young people** that use night clubs what issues/needs do you think they have?

There's a level of people wanting to communicate e.g. on the internet mass communication is everywhere – facebook etc. there's interest and intrigue with people meeting. As well as venue offering a great chance for people to see musicians etc. music lyrics can be bad though which influence young people – for example fashion. And normal people can be intimidated by the young people who are trying to define themselves, people are intimidated by hoodies which maybe due to them hiding part of their face part of the fashion, music etc.

9. Do you think that local churches have a role in responding to the needs and concerns relating to young people at night clubs? Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

One time church did have an influence as it was community led, it now needs to catch up. The evolution side of religion hasn't happened it hasn't kept up. It should be trying to re-brand itself not just evangelism but ask them what they want, whilst also mentioning to the people we are doing so and so if you are interested. If they got it right then they could have a following of young people who would want to use the church for things like internet access – instead of going home to empty homes where they might not be so privileged. Are the churches involved in sports? Getting young people involved in a football team is a good way of installing discipline from a young age.

How do you think they should respond?

Depends on the message, to build up a relationship you need foundations, and you have got to have vision. The police encourage other agencies to do things so they have less to do. Is it the churches job then? I can't see the church has a part to play if it stays open till 3 it just becomes an usable feasibility. What would a drop in centre do? Wounded people could walk in – I think they'd come in to abuse it. E.g. staff in hospitals getting assaulted. Its out of hours for church to operate an early evening would be more valuable. I'd like to see pop up toilets/water fountains in the centre but is the councils agenda to take away facilities in the centre so that people leave town quicker. Leaflets could be put in clubs showing where public toilets are so people know as they leave the club.

What advice would you give them?

Need to have a battle plan – what they want to tackle. Need confidence that you can take on the issue. A half hearted attempt wouldn't work, confidence is needed to take on what people are confident with. What would be successful is a facility that will always be there. All good intensions can start but can fail until they are taken up by someone else in another 10 years time. One success is better than 10 half efforts. Need to have credibility and expertise. Credibility as have to be part of it and understand it (the nightlife), cant just get someone who isn't involved. (flyer nightclubs asking for people willing to help as well as church volunteers). Need to be able to talk the language e.g. badass have ex addicts working. Leaflets advertising a trendy church day (with trendy leaflets) with someone with experience of the night club scene to put on coffees to chat about the issues for an hour or something would be good. This could be aimed at someone who is concerned about how much they are drinking but knowing they aren't necessarily an alcoholic – where else can they go to address this and other issues – this would be great opposed to something evangelical, then could give the offer of coming along to church on a Sunday. Something informal that could be put on monthly and advertise through clubs and pubs with an attractive flyer.

10. Do you have anything else that you would like to add?

Need start realising there are issues. Time that organisations, churches, started building bridges instead of frowning.

The solution is addressing what is causing/aggravating social issues and what can be done to help. But it can become a wasted exercise if your opening a church till 3 in the morning.

If you have any questions about the research or want to talk about any issues that it raises please contact YMCA on Tel: 01225 325900. **Thank you for your help.** Would you like to be kept in touch with the progress of this research and any future actions? If yes – contact details:

Drop a report in to the club.



Mass brawl

A GANG of 30 yobs used chairs and bikes to attack each other during a mass brawl in the city centre.

Pub-goers and passers-by ran for cover when the fight broke out between teenagers in Kingsmead Square in Bath.

In shocking CCTV footage – exclusively

EXCLUSIVE
By Polly March

released to the Chronicle by Avon and Somerset police – a group of up to eight youngsters are seen kicking and beating a young man as he lies next to a parked car.

A 19-year-old man from Melksham was later taken to Bath's Royal United Hospital with facial injuries. Two Bath teenagers have

been arrested by police who want to track down the others involved.

The film shows a girl trying to protect the man on the ground as youths continue to rain blows on him and chairs and bikes are thrown through the air. A girl in white hotpants is then seen slamming a wooden chair into another girl as she passes.

Police released footage in an attempt to hunt down those responsible for the brawl,

which has

Andrew nearby T frightened outside in

"It scare trade for a

"One of pregnant "

CONTINU

Appendix 5. Examples of Issues and how the Recommendations might tackle them

Key: 1 – Street Patrols, 2 – Safe Haven, 3 – Van.

- Intoxicated people – 1 and 3 can look after those people and if needed direct them to 2.
- Litter – 1 and 3 can discourage and remove broken bottles/glass.
- Street fouling – 2 possible toilet uses for people, or look after those being sick. 1 and 3 can watch out for people and direct them to 2.
- Transport – 2 people can wait for a taxi. 1 and 3 could work in conjunction with 2 and also the taxi marshals.
- Unsafe areas – 1 can be a presence.
- Noise – 1 and 3 can discourage.
- Fighting – 2 can be a safe place and 1 and 3 can directly intervene and try and calm and resolve issues.
- Vandalism – 1 and 3 can discourage.

To tackle these issues you would need 1 and 3 to direct people to 2 and some 1 and 3 could tackle, though 1 would be able to cover more of the city as they could move around on foot opposed to having a van (3) set up in just the one place.