

News

How safe is York's nightlife?

The picture of crime in York city centre after dark has been revealed to show numerous incidents occurring near the city's clubs such as Salvation, Society, Mansion, Vodka Revolution and Willow.

Between October 2012 and February 2013, 6464 crimes have taken place in the city centre throughout the day, with many assumed to have occurred at night.

These figures, compiled from police.co.uk, are shocking considering that York has been voted as UK's 4th safest city in 2013. Nearly half of these were cases of anti-social behaviour, standing at a staggering figure of 3023.

More alarming, however, is the 481 cases of criminal damage and arson, and the 164 drug incidents that were reported. There were also 791 cases of theft, including mugging, and 146 cases of public disorder and weapons.

Statistics have shown a total of 856 crimes around York clubs, between October 2012 and February 2013, but numbers vary hugely between clubs.

Of these, 444 were anti-social behaviour, 29 involved drugs, 115 were theft, 43 were public disorder and weapons, and 130 cases of violent crime.

The area around Salvation and Society (Rougier Street and the bottom of Tanner Row) had 239 crimes reported.

In total, this amounts to 126 cases of anti-social behaviour along with 48 cases of violent crimes and three cases of criminal damage and arson.

Of the 116 crimes around Mansion (Micklegate area), 65 were anti-social behaviour, four were criminal damage and arson, and four were drugs.

There were also 15 incidents of theft, three of public disorder and weapons, and eleven of violent crime.

Around Vodka Revolution and Willow (Coney Street), 155 of the incidents reported were anti-social behaviour.

12 were criminal damage and arson, and three were drugs. There were also 37 incidents of theft, 16 of public disorder and weapons, 35 violent crimes and four cases of other crime.

Kuda and its surrounding area had 125 cases of anti-social behaviour, five of criminal damage and arson, and 18 of theft.

There were eight cases of public disorder and weapons while there were 21 violent crimes.

The Tokyo area (top of Tanner Row, Bar Lane, Barker Lane, and Toft Green) was the scene of 23 cases of anti-social behaviour, 15 cases of violent crime and one case of public order.

There was also three cases of criminal damage and arson, five of drugs, and ten of theft.



LUCY DIXON



Proposed alcohol levy on pubs and clubs

YORK CITY Council are to consider introducing a levy on alcohol for bars and clubs.

The idea was proposed by Daffyd Williams, Councillor, at the York Annual Crime Summit, two weeks ago.

The proposal would introduce restrictions on the price of alcohol in all places of entertainment after midnight.

The proposal aims to tackle high levels of alcohol related admissions to York Hospital, and alcohol related offences.

The specific details of the proposal have not been outlined yet but it is set to go out for consultation next month.

YUSU are hoping to get a seat on the consultation.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare

Officer, who was present at the crime summit says he is undecided on the proposal.

He said there also needed to be a focus on tackling the binge drinking culture and that he would take into account the concerns of students.

Hughes commented: "Although I think this levy has some very positive potential benefits for York and its residents, I think we need to ensure that more information about this is given to students, so that their views form part of the consultation and response. I will make sure I bring these up with the student body before the consultation."

The city council aim to tackle drinking problems amongst students and residents.

Ambulances called 380 times

Between 2011 and March 2013, ambulances have been called out 380 times to all of York's main nightclubs in the city centre, with Club Salvation topping the number of call-outs consistently for all 3 years.

Kuda comes in second, although some of the call-outs were made when it was still known as Gallery. This is followed by Tokyo, the Willow and Vodka Revolution which had the least call-outs of all the clubs.

The figures also include locations such as 'outside nightclub' or 'near nightclub'.

The 380 call-outs to York clubs breaks down to 158 in 2011, 211 in 2012, and 46 in 2013 up to March. This means that the city's clubs are on course for nearly 190 call-outs in 2013.

In total, Club Salvation and Society have had 192 call-outs since 2011.

This peaked at 108 in 2012 and, although it cannot be distinguished how many of these are student call-outs, it was when Salvation still had an official YUSU club night.

They have had 18 call-outs up to March, putting them on course for 72 in 2013.

In total, although Tokyo have had only 57 call-outs, it has witnessed a massive rise from 2011 to 2012, increasing from 7 to 41.

They have had nine this quarter, putting them on course for 36 this year.

Kuda have had 77 call-outs since 2011, with 51 in the first year. Despite the number falling to 16 in 2012, there have already been ten this year, which means that they could be on course for 40, nearer to the 2011 level when they faced warnings from the police over behaviour related to alcohol around the club.

Neil Johnston investigates the unreported dangers of York's nightclubs



Legal dispute led to broken fire regulations

It has been revealed that the generator recently used by Tokyo broke several fire precautions.

Information obtained by *Nouse* shows that of all the clubs inspected, three clubs were issued with reports meaning they have room for improvement on their fire safety records.

Nouse was refused the full reports due to a commercial interest clause in Freedom of Information Act.

Tokyo were forced to switch to a generator after a dispute with an electricity supplier, which led to concerns from the fire service.

This also led to them having to close their doors for one of their official YUSU nights last term, and move it to Fibbers, its smaller sister venue.

Tokyo was issued with an enforcement notice by the Fire and Rescue Authority on the sixth of March 2013, after it was suspected to have failed to comply with any provision of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and was given time to comply with the regulations.

This report which was issued by the North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service on the 15th of March 2013 is fairly recent.

The fire service raised concerns about the use of the generator in the club, which Tokyo has claimed is a result of a dispute with an electricity supplier, who were trying to charge the club for bills, from when the previous owners Luminar who own Kuda, owned the club.

As a result, Tokyo failed to comply with articles 08, 09, 11, 13, and 17 of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. These included Duty to take fire precautions, Risk Assessment, Fire Safety Arrangements, Fire-fighting and Fire Detection and Maintenance.

Article 08, Duty to take general fire precautions, means the responsible person must take general fire precautions, as far as is practical, and take care of safety for employees. The responsible person must "take such general fire precautions as may reasonably be required in the circumstances of the case to ensure that the premises are safe" for

customers.

Risk Assessment of article 09 stated that there should be sufficient assessment of the risks to relevant persons for the purpose of identifying general fire precautions needed to take to comply with the requirements and prohibitions imposed on him by the order.

This assessment must be reviewed regularly particularly if there is any change to the building and the information has to be recorded and this is deemed more important when the venue employs more than five employees.

Article 11, Fire safety arrangements, states that the owner must have effective arrangements appropriate to the size of the undertaking

call-outs to Tokyo for special service, one call-out to Mansion for a False-Alarm, and 12 call outs to Gallery/Kuda for false alarms.

Since 2010, Mansion and Tokyo have had four fire inspections each, Salvation and The Willow two and Kuda/Gallery one.

Aaron Mallor, Tokyo Director, said that "it is no secret that Tokyo York has had a tough couple of months, we've had & eventually won a massive legal battle with our electricity provider - who were attempting to recover just under £100,000 in connection with dated issues relating the previous occupier Luminar who went into administration in 2012.

"The energy company was attempting to leverage that debt from ourselves which although legally is totally incorrect these energy giants operate under an Electricity & Gas Act which affords them some legal curious rights that wouldn't exist in commercial law.

"Our refusal to pay these insane historic costs lead to the disconnection of energy supply and us running off a generator for six weeks or so. Its this generator that promoted concerns from the fire service & required us to place temporary actions and adapt emergency strategies whilst on a generator supply.

"Tokyo Industries operate venues all over the UK and at no point was any public safety compromised. Thankfully having won the legal battle with the energy giant they where forced to reconnect us and we are now back on mains power & fully fire compliant - but yes a testing couple of months... Tokyo is here is stay & back on top of out game.. We thank everyone at York University for sticking with us.. We have some great nights lined up this final term - Lets Rock York (with Electric)". [Sic]

William Proud, a second year maths student commented: "It is interesting how something such as a dispute like this can lead to fire risks at one of our main nightclubs.

"However the club did seem to handle the situation quite well which is very encouraging."

"I do wonder what ther risks there could be though."

“Our refusal to pay these insane costs lead to the disconnection of the energy supply. and us running off a generator that promoted concerns from the fire service.”

Tokyo Director
Aaron Mellor

of activities for the "effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective measures."

Fire Fighting and fire detection constitutes article 13 and states that the premises must be equipped to an appropriate extent with fire-fighting equipment, fire detectors and alarms. These must be easily accessible and indicated by signs.

Article 17, on maintenance states that equipment and devices for fire safety must be maintained and kept in working order and in good repair. The building and facilities must also be maintained in a state approved by the fire service.

Call-outs to clubs were rare but from 2010 there was one call-out to Salvation for an accidental fire, two



to clubs since 2011

Willow has had 54 call-outs since 2011, with 25 in 2012.

There have been seven this year putting them on course for 28 call-outs.

The statistics for this venue are perhaps most concerning since they only let in students during term-time.

Finally, Vodka Revolution have had 35 call-outs since 2010, peaking at 21 last year, but only two call-outs up until March which means that it could be predicted to have less than ten call-outs this year.

Bob Hughes, YUSU Welfare Officer, commented on the num-

ber of call-outs: "It is quite a high number, and although ambulances should absolutely be called in case of serious emergencies and for any causes of concern, students should be aware of the effects that non-serious call-outs can have on local police and health services.

He added: "Also, if you are worried about your safety on a night out, there are plenty of local services, from the door staff in bars and clubs, and local police officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who can help you and, if necessary, guide you towards other support."

Call-outs by numbers

	2011	2012	2013	Total
Salvation	66	108	18	192
Kuda	51	16	10	77
Tokyo	7	41	9	57
Willow	22	25	7	54
Revolution	12	21	2	35