

News

www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/s/1006/1006876_shopkeeper_given_booze_ban.html

Shopkeeper given booze ban

Neal Keeling

14/ 5/2007

A PIONEERING `people's court' has banned a shopkeeper from selling alcohol for six months after his staff sold booze to children.

Rustham Khan Hussain, who owned the former Multisavers shop on Worsley Road, Winton, Eccles, was also fined £750.

He has since sold the business which is now under new management.

Hussain pleaded guilty at the Community Justice Court in Salford to three counts of selling alcohol to minors.

Trading standards officers used youngsters working undercover to make test purchases in the shop. The sales took place on three separate occasions in June, September and October last year.

Even though Hussain was not present when any of the sales took place, he accepted staff had not been properly trained.

In addition to his fine and six-month suspension from selling alcohol, Hussain was also ordered to pay £525 costs. The Community Justice Court, which was launched two years ago and sits at Salford magistrates court, deals with offences occurring within Eccles.

Based on a justice centre in New York, it is one of a number of pilot schemes across the country to encourage local people to get involved in resolving community concerns.

Action was taken against Multisavers after local people called for measures to reduce the number of young people drinking irresponsibly. They also wanted to deter businesses selling alcohol to those under age.

One resident reported up to 50 youngsters congregating outside Multisavers on weekend evenings and in the summer holidays. Community Justice chairman Jeanne Jones told Hussain: "We view these offences very seriously because you have contributed to alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour."

The hearing followed Salford council's review of the store's licence. Despite Hussain selling the business, at a separate hearing the store was banned from selling alcohol after 6pm on Fridays.