



Ian and Kathleen Smith of Stockton, say they are fed up with prostitutes in and around the Bowesfield Lane area

PETER REIMANN

Sex workers 'moving on to quieter streets'

By IAN JOHNSON

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A DAD claims prostitutes have invaded his street - and are making his life hell.

Disgusted Ian Smith said sex workers have even started banging on his window asking: "Do you want some business?"

The 53-year-old claims street walkers have migrated to his Stockton street from nearby Yarm Road, exposed in The Gazette as Teesside's main vice hotspot.

"I'm sick of it," said the family man, from Ellicott Walk, off Bowesfield Lane.

"I've been approached six times in the last couple of days by different girls.

"As soon as you get out of your car they are there asking for business.

"I've said 'I'm married and sick of you asking.'

He claims the girls take to the streets from 6pm and stay until the early hours in his street as well as neighbouring Bowesfield Lane.

In one incident, a girl knocked on his car window at 1am after he had given his daughter a lift and asked him if he was a customer.

The problem has become so bad, Ian claims rumours are swirling around the estate that a legal red light district could open.

A Stockton Council spokesperson shot down those rumours, adding the authority hadn't even had any complaints of sex workers in those streets in recent weeks.

However in the area surrounding Yarm Road, the problem hasn't disappeared with four complaints in the first few months of 2017 alone.

For Ian, he believes many of those sex workers are now changing their patch and moving into other, quieter, areas.

And he said it isn't just prostitutes who have taken up residency near his home.

"Since then there's now a crack house nearby," said frustrated Ian, who has lived in the street for the last three years.

"We can't even sit in our living room as there are addicts talking to lamp-posts outside off their heads.

"We have to live with this and we are sick of it."

A Cleveland Police spokesperson said: "There do not appear to be any complaints specifically from any resident of Ellicott Walk however if anyone has concerns or information they should contact Cleveland Police on the 101 number.

"We have received four calls regarding sex workers from members of the public in the wider Yarm Road and Yarm Lane areas so far this year from January

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Ian Smith

2017.

"Cleveland Police also continues to work with partner agencies regarding sex workers."



Ian Smith with wife Kathleen