

Press release

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[Demonising Manchester's drinkers](#) **Wednesday 22 September 7:30pm**

Manchester Councils are taking the lead in the fight against sales of cheap drink in a bid to cut down on anti-social behaviour and a steep rise in alcohol consumption by young people.

The move has won backing from the Prime Minister – and now a Manchester discussion group is inviting people to have their say on the contentious issue.

Calling Time on Choice: Minimum Pricing of Alcohol is a discussion organised for 22 September by The Manchester Salon, at which local councils' proposal to fix a minimum price of 50p per unit of alcohol will be debated.

Would these measures tackle problem drinking, or are there bigger issues behind the riotous scenes we see in town centres? And even if these measures worked, do they threaten civil liberties: should it be for politicians or doctors to tell shops what price they can sell at?

Leading the case against a minimum price is journalist and writer Josie Appleton, a member of the Manifesto Club, a civil liberties group that campaigns against vetting, booze bans, photo bans, and other forms of state hyper-regulation of everyday life.

Leading the case for the prosecution will be Mike Jones, alcohol programme manager for the Greater Manchester Public Health Network. For the last 10 years he has worked in the drugs and alcohol field and has gained first-hand experience of alcohol related harm. He feels we should all understand that alcohol is a harmful drug and should recognise the damaging effects that this has on individuals in our communities.

Date: Wednesday 22 September, 7.30pm (£5 charge to cover costs)

Venue: The Shakespeare pub, Fountain Street, Manchester

For further details on the event and Manchester Salon's activities, contact Simon Belt at events@manchestersalon.org.uk