# Forty men brawl sparks street closures and renewed safety fears in Norwich Riverside



The recent brawl at Lady Julian Bridge in Norwich, which reportedly involved at least forty men, has highlighted continuing concerns about violence and disorder in the area. The confrontation erupted shortly before 10pm on a Friday evening, with witnesses recounting a chaotic scene characterized by men in balaclavas, one of whom was wielding a baseball bat. As police arrived, the group scattered, later regrouping on nearby Prince of Wales Road where another violent altercation occurred, prompting the closure of the street.

Witnesses described the sheer scale of the fight, with one resident expressing disbelief at the numbers involved, stating, “It was shocking. There was a huge group of men, too many to count, on the bridge, all going after one another.” Local reports indicate that even patrons at the nearby Queen of Iceni pub, a Wetherspoons establishment, were on high alert. According to a security guard, there were plans to lock down the venue if needed, though a spokesman for Wetherspoons claimed there had been no such discussions despite the tense atmosphere.

The Riverside area of Norwich has gained a reputation for violence, with local security personnel noting an increasing trend of disturbances. “The Riverside area has become a magnet for trouble,” said a security guard, reflecting a growing concern over the safety of both patrons and staff in local establishments.

This recent burst of violence is not an isolated incident. Just last year, four men were charged following another brawl on Prince of Wales Road, which included assaults on police officers and bouncers. In an earlier case from 2013, authorities highlighted CCTV footage showing alarming street violence, prompting discussions by local councillors about the potential for imposing restrictions on alcohol sales during late hours to combat rising crime rates associated with binge drinking.

The ongoing issues in the area have compelled law enforcement to increase their patrols, particularly as local businesses express frustration over a surge in anti-social behaviour. Reports of harassment and abuse directed at staff, as well as rising incidents of theft and public disturbances, have led business owners to urgently request more frequent police presence.

The situation reached a critical point during the latest incident, with police tracking several men who fled from the brawl only to engage in further violence on Prince of Wales Road. This resulted in injuries to at least one individual, who was taken to the hospital for treatment. The police subsequently arrested three men on suspicion of violent disorder, underscoring the persistence of these issues within Norwich's nightlife and street culture.

There is a palpable fear among residents and business owners alike that unless decisive action is taken, the cycle of violence may continue, further destabilising the community. Investigations into the recent incidents are ongoing, as authorities seek to identify all those involved and address the underlying problems contributing to this unrest.

The call for a concerted effort to tackle such violence is growing. Whether through policy changes, increased policing, or community initiatives, it is clear that Norwich has reached a pivotal moment regarding its efforts to maintain public safety and harmony in its social spaces.

### Reference Map

1. Paragraph 1: [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25147706.forty-men-fight-lady-julian-bridge-norwich/?ref=rss)
2. Paragraph 2: [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25147706.forty-men-fight-lady-julian-bridge-norwich/?ref=rss)
3. Paragraph 3: [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25147706.forty-men-fight-lady-julian-bridge-norwich/?ref=rss)
4. Paragraph 4: [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25147706.forty-men-fight-lady-julian-bridge-norwich/?ref=rss), [[2]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/23167055.norwich-four-men-charged-prince-wales-road-fight/)
5. Paragraph 5: [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-23555396), [[7]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/24166312.yobs-targeting-businesses-prince-wales-road-norwich/)
6. Paragraph 6: [[2]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/23167055.norwich-four-men-charged-prince-wales-road-fight/), [[4]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/crime/21013467.men-sentenced-prince-wales-road-fight-dead-rat/)
7. Paragraph 7: [[6]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/24298784.police-arrest-two-men-prince-wales-road-norwich/), [[7]](https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/24166312.yobs-targeting-businesses-prince-wales-road-norwich/)
8. Paragraph 8: [[1]](https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25147706.forty-men-fight-lady-julian-bridge-norwich/?ref=rss)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/25147706.forty-men-fight-lady-julian-bridge-norwich/?ref=rss> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/23167055.norwich-four-men-charged-prince-wales-road-fight/> - In September 2022, four men were charged following a brawl on Prince of Wales Road in Norwich. The incident occurred on September 11, 2022, at approximately 2 am, when police responded to reports of a group fighting in the street. After breaking up the altercation, three bouncers and two police officers were assaulted. The arrested individuals were charged with affray and, in one case, additional charges related to assaulting emergency workers and grievous bodily harm. They were released on bail pending further inquiries.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-23555396> - In 2013, Norfolk Police released CCTV footage depicting street violence in Norwich's city centre, particularly on Prince of Wales Road. The footage highlighted mass brawls and was presented to councillors considering proposals to restrict alcohol sales in the area. The police suggested a ban on alcohol sales between 3:00 and 6:00 am to address the significant increase in violent crime associated with early-morning drinking. The council was considering implementing early morning restriction orders (EMROs) in specific areas, including Prince of Wales Road.
4. <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/crime/21013467.men-sentenced-prince-wales-road-fight-dead-rat/> - In 2012, six men were banned from Prince of Wales Road in Norwich after being involved in a fight sparked by a dead rat. The altercation occurred outside a nightclub when a dead rat was thrown at Barrie Franklin, leading him to chase three men down the road while armed with a metal pole. The incident resulted in affray charges, with some defendants receiving suspended sentences and community orders. The court emphasized the impact of such violence on the public and the importance of custodial sentences for such offenses.
5. <https://www.norfolk.police.uk/news/norfolk/news/news/2025/april/appeal-following-serious-assault-in-norwich/> - In April 2025, Norfolk Police appealed for witnesses following a serious assault in Norwich's Prince of Wales Road. The incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday, April 6, 2025, when two teenage boys assaulted two men using knives. Both victims were hospitalized with serious but not life-threatening injuries. A boy in his late teens was arrested at the scene on suspicion of grievous bodily harm with intent. Two other boys, also in their late teens, were arrested subsequently on similar charges. The police sought public assistance in identifying witnesses or obtaining relevant mobile phone footage.
6. <https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/24298784.police-arrest-two-men-prince-wales-road-norwich/> - In May 2024, two men were arrested in Norwich's Prince of Wales Road following police patrols. One man was arrested for theft and robbery, while the other was arrested for theft, being drunk and disorderly, and assaulting police. A section 35 notice was also issued to another man for anti-social behavior. The arrests were part of increased police efforts in response to a wave of anti-social behavior reported by local businesses in the area. Staff in venues and shops had reported harassment and abuse by a small group of individuals.
7. <https://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/24166312.yobs-targeting-businesses-prince-wales-road-norwich/> - In 2024, businesses in Norwich's Prince of Wales Road reported a surge in anti-social behavior, prompting calls for increased police support. Staff in venues and shops reported being harassed and abused by a small group of individuals at all times of the day. Incidents included shoplifting, racial slurs, and fighting outside local establishments. Business owners expressed concerns about the safety of staff and customers and called for more frequent police patrols to address the ongoing issues.