

SHUFFLE FESTIVAL

Shuffle Festival Ltd.
Second Home
68-80 Hanbury Street
London E1 5JL
Wednesday 2nd August 2017

Andrew Roberts



Dear Andrew,

I am writing to you in response to your recent comments on the premises licence for:

The Lodge, Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Southern Grove, E3 4PX.

I would like to address your comments in the hope of coming to a joint understanding of the positive impact of the Premises Licence and the project more widely.

Firstly, I would like to clarify why this licence has been applied for.

Temporary Use - August 2017

Shuffle Festival is an annual community-arts festival which is held in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park and the surrounding areas. The festival aims to showcase the kinds of cultural activities that can happen in Mile End, somewhere that is often seen as having high crime and poor access to art, food and culture. The festival programme both includes local community groups and artists, as well as a wealth of free and highly subsidised activities for families and all ages.

The Lodge Yard (the external space adjoining the building) has been used successfully as a bar service area for two consecutive years during our festival. This licence would allow Shuffle Festival to use the site as a bar service area between 4th - 27th August (Wed - Sun) until 11pm.

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Permanent Use - Post-Re-development 2018

The main rationale behind applying for this Premises Licence is to ensure that the Lodge, which is to be redeveloped into a cultural community hub, is to be a sustainable and useful community space.

The redevelopment will include an extension with ground floor wood-workshop and first floor events space (for up to 40 people). The main building will be redeveloped into a cafe space and offices for The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park. The outside space will include a decking area to serve the cafe.

The Premises Licence will allow the building and programme to be sustainable - by allowing groups to put on films, music and dance, and to allow the sale of alcohol in the cafe. We are not proposing to use the Lodge as an alcohol-led late-night bar, pub or nightclub.

In response to opposition of this licence we would like to make the following points:

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1. Temporary Use - August 2017

1.1 The use of the Lodge as a bar for the festival, between 4th - 27th August, is no different to previous years, which resulted in zero complaints or crime.

2. Permanent Use - 2018

2.1 The Premises Licence is to be obtained to ensure the sustainability of the building and the park in general. The mixed use space will be home to the office of The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, and artistic, educational and economic activities in the rest of the building, will ensure the park and can continue be used and protected by the local community as a nature reserve. This is not an unusual project as there are numerous examples of cafés and event spaces like this within nature reserves and residential areas in London and the UK. The Lodge aims to be a year-round hub of activity and design excellence - to host local people in its cafe, volunteer and educational groups in its workspace, and local groups and artists in its events space.

2.2 Alcohol will not be allowed off the premises, this means alcohol will be permitted within the building and on the outside decking area only.

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2.3 Licensable events will occur in the designated event space in the extension of the building which will be acoustically designed to house film and music events.

2.4 We have agreed a number of strict licence conditions with the Police and Environmental Health Department to ensure the use of the Lodge does not cause local residents public nuisance. We also hope that the use of the Lodge will help to establish a more permanent presence in the Park that will provide natural surveillance. This could help to make the park safer and reduce crime.

All of our events, activities' and ambitions for the local area are centered around our overarching commitment to making a positive change to the local area for the benefit of the community. We understand the importance of operating professionally and responsibly alongside local residents. We hope to continue this hard work at the Lodge under the safeguards and controls imposed by a premises licence. This has been recognised by a significant number of local people who have helped support us generally and written in support of our specific proposals at the Lodge.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. We hope it has helped to address your concerns. If you would like to discuss our proposals further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you and kind regards,

Lizzy Daish
Director
Shuffle Festival