

Wentworth St. Report.

Wentworth Street Report by Andy Newman (Andy Newman Consultancy Ltd)

Independent Licensing consultant.

Introduction

I have been instructed by the Applicant, to provide my independent opinion and recommendations to ensure the premises licence application for the premises will promote the four licensing objectives.

The application is in connection with the application for a new premise license for 79 Wentworth Street seeking authorisation for the sale by retail of alcohol from 10.00 to 23.30 Monday to Thursday, Friday and Saturday till 00.00 and Sunday till 22.30; Late Night Refreshments from Monday to Thursday from 23.00 till 23.30. Friday and Saturday 23.00 to 23.59.

Premise will be empty of customers 30 minutes after any Licensable activity every day.

The application is for the premises to operate as a restaurant sourcing seasonal ingredients, local suppliers and focussing on an established clientele seeking a relaxed, mature and gentle environment.

Personal Summary – Andy Newman

I retired from the Metropolitan Police Service as an Inspector on the 29th September 2016 having completed just over 30 year's Exemplary service.

I had the privilege of serving as Hackney Licensing Sergeant for four and a half years between 2007 and 2011. This involved derogated responsibility for over 1,000 premises. I Chaired LOEG (Licensing Officers Engagement Group) consisting of Statutory and Non-Statutory Partners. I participated or Chaired Cross Border Meetings and led initiatives. I co-ordinated and led many Licensing Operations. I engaged with many licensees focussing on Engagement, Environment and Education and promoting the four licensing objectives. I attended many training seminars including those for Hackney Council.

I devised a Protocol for Best Practise for Summary Reviews that was submitted via the then Borough Commander Alun Goode (now head of Hackney Community Safety) to ACPO licensing lead Simon O'Brien. This was accepted as National Best Practise. I initially devised this Protocol specifically for Hackney and Tower Hamlets where it was implemented.

I was selected as one of the best licensing Practitioners' to advise MPS licensing Commander Mak Chishty

I founded Andy Newman Consultancy Ltd in 2006. I am an active member of The Institute of Licensing (IoL) and of the British Institute of Innkeepers (BII & member of the London Committee) both of which support my continued commitment to continual professional development and best practice. I am also a member of the FSB and Associate Member of the Institute of Directors (IoD) and London Brewers Alliance (LBA)

Background

I have been provided with documentation relating to this application which consists of the proposed licence application, conditions and plans. I have also been provided copies of all the representations and note that the Applicant has adopted the conditions requested by the M.P.S. and has amended the hours to fit Tower Hamlets Framework hours.

I have been instructed to provide an independent assessment as to the local area and to provide any recommendations that can promote the licensing objectives. I would then report back my findings and whether I consider the premises can promote the four licensing objectives, and the Tower Hamlets Licensing policy in order to assist the Licensing Committee.

Observations

1. I conducted observations and enquiries on Saturday 5th June 2021 between 23.35 and Sunday 6th June till 01.20 It was a reasonably warm, dry, and clear night. I visited outside the proposed Premises, other premises in the vicinity and the local area.

2. There was a nice atmosphere in the area with people either going about their business or enjoying their night out. This changed slightly in Commercial Street from about 01.00 with three males worse the wear for drink and a homeless beggar. I went into the Som Saa to avoid the three males as one of them was beginning to focus his attention on me and I was glad to have a means of avoiding them.

Wentworth Street was quiet except for an open door leading to a basement at "Discount Suit Company" 29A Wentworth Street. This is a Cocktail/Finger food basement bar. There was a gathering of about 12-15 people outside from 0.15 till 01.00. These people appeared to range from mid 20's to late 30's. Quiet and well behaved. Their impressive Website shows summer opening hours Tuesday –Thurs. 5pm till Midnight. Fri & Sat 2pm till Midnight.

3. I noticed that at the end of Wentworth in Commercial Street there is the "Culpeper" at 40 Commercial Street, Spitalfields, E1 6LP. Described as a Pub/Casual Dining venue. This is a relatively large, stylish, and appears to be a well -run premise. I spoke with the manager who told me that during these Covid times they choose to close: Mon-Thurs 22.30, Friday & Saturday at Midnight. They do however have a Licence as below:

Late Night Refreshment

- Monday to Wednesday, from 23:00hrs to 00:30hrs
- Thursday to Saturday, from 23:00hrs to 04:00hrs
- Sunday, from 23:00hrs to 23:30hrs

Supply of Alcohol and Regulated Entertainment (plays, films, indoor sporting events, recorded music, performance of dance, provision of facilities for making music and provision of facilities for dancing)

- Monday to Wednesday, from 07:00hrs to 00:00hrs (midnight)
- Thursday to Saturday, from 07:00hrs to 03:00hrs
- Sunday, from 10:00hrs to 23:00hrs

4. At no 44 Commercial Street was a Turkish restaurant “The Space”
The manager told me that they had a Licence till 23.30 every day and that they shut at Midnight. I had approached her and the staff as they were sweeping up outside and ensuring that everything is tidy. These two prominent Venues definitely gave a positive impression.
5. The “Som Saa” at 43A Commercial Street was open with food and drinks. I was told that there was a private party at the venue.

Register for Som Saa shows:

On & Off Sales opening & Closing Hours.

Mon-Thurs.	10.00 – 23.30
Fri & Sat	10.00 to Midnight
Sunday	12.00 to 22.30

LNR	Mon –Thurs till 23.30
	Fri& Sat till Midnight.

The Apples and Pears 26 Osborne street 4 minutes’ walk away (3mins by car) has On and Off sale of alcohol

Sun- Thurs	11.00 to 23.30
Fri & Sat	11.00 – 00.30 the next day.

LNR as above as well as music & dancing.

6. Wentworth Street was quiet on this evening (Covid restrictions were in place). The street is a mixture of businesses and residential. I understand that the Proposed Premises is inside the CIZ.

I am aware that Tower Hamlets Framework hours are Sunday 06.00 - 22.30 Mon- Thurs 06.00-23.30 Fri & Sat 0600- Midnight.

That said, there are exceptions to this rule, one of which would cover this Application which is for relatively small numbers (less than 50). There appear to be well run premises with later hours in the CIZ. This site is to be a professionally run upmarket Venue, with CCTV which should help prevent and deter any Criminal/ASB. During the visit, I

would have welcomed the availability of such a Venue in this exact location to be available as a safe place if needed. Safer Neighbourhoods and Broken Windows theories demonstrate that having a clean premise with CCTV and staff in identifiable clothing, help make Safer Spaces. Should the committee be so minded it would seem reasonable for this type of Operation to be granted their modest Application within Core Hours.

I understand that my duty is to the Sub Committee and this report has been prepared in compliance with that duty. I believe the content of this report to be true to the best of my knowledge and belief. My expressed opinions are correct to the best of my judgement. The fee for this report is not conditional on the outcome of this case in any way whatsoever.

Andy Newman

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A.P. Newman". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Independent Licensing Consultant

Sunday 6th June 2021