

Committee :	Date	Classification	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Licensing Sub Committee	2 nd March 2021	Unclassified		

Report of : David Tolley Head of Environmental Health & Trading Standards Originating Officer: Lavine Miller-Johnson Licensing Officer	Title: Licensing Act 2003 Application for variation of a Premises Licence for London Cocktail Club Commercial Unit 12, 29 Sclater Street London E1 6LB Ward affected: Spitalfields and Banglatown
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1.0 Summary

Applicant: **The London Cocktail Club LTD**
Name and Address of Premises: **Commercial Unit 12, 29 Sclater Street London E1 6LB**

Licence sought: **Licensing Act 2003
To amend the hours for the Sale of Alcohol
To modify conditions**

Objectors **Licensing Authority**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Licensing Committee considers the application and objections then adjudicate accordingly.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT 2000 (Section 97)
LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE DRAFTING OF THIS REPORT

Brief description of "background paper"

Tick if copy supplied for register

If not supplied, name and telephone number of holder

File
Section 182 Guidance
LBTH Licensing Policy

Lavine Miller-Johnson

020 7364 2665

3.0 **Background**

3.1 This is an application within the Brick Lane CIZ for a variation of the premises licence for London Cocktail Club Commercial Unit 12, 29 Sclater Street London E1 6LB.

3.2 A copy of the existing licence is enclosed as **Appendix 1**.

3.3 A copy of the variation application is enclosed as **Appendix 2**.

3.4 The applicant has described the nature of the variation as:
To allow the retail sale of alcohol to commence at 10.00 hours rather than the current hour of 16:30 hours. Also, to modify existing condition 20.

3.5 Existing condition 20 of Annex 3 - Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority on 11th February 2014 when licence was granted.

- *Condition 20 reads, A minimum of two SIA door staff shall be employed at the premises from 9.00pm until closing on Fridays and Saturdays.*
- *To be modified to read, A minimum of two SIA shall be employed at the premises from 9pm until closing on Fridays and Saturdays.*

3.6 This condition shall be suspended until 1 October 2022 or until the premises are permitted to trade without social distancing measures in place, whichever is the earliest”.

3.7 The hours that have been applied for are as follows: -

Sale of Alcohol (on sales)

Monday to Thursday from 10:00 hours to 00:00 hours

Friday to Saturday from 10:00 hours to 01:00 hours

Sunday from 10:00 hours to 00:00 hours

Hours premises are open to the public:

Monday to Thursday from 10:00 hours to 00:30 hours

Friday to Saturday from 10:00 hours to 01:30 hours

Sunday from 10:00 hours to 00:30 hours

4.0 **Location and Nature of the premises**

4.1 Images and map showing the premises and surrounding area are included as
Appendix 3.

4.2 Other licensed venues in the area **Appendix 4.**

5.0 Licensing Policy and Government Advice

- 5.1 The Council has adopted a licensing policy and this is available from the Licensing Section, and at the hearing. The revised policy came into effect on 1st November 2018.
- 5.2 Relevant Sections of the policy are brought to the attention of Members within the Licensing Officers report.
- 5.3 The Home Secretary has issued Guidance under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003. This is available on the Government's website, www.homeoffice.gov.uk. It was last revised in April 2018.
- 5.4 Relevant Sections of this advice are brought to Members attention within the Licensing Officers report. Members should note however, that in some areas Tower Hamlets, after a proper consideration of local circumstances, has not followed the Government's advice, or has developed it further.

6.0 Representations

- 6.1 All representations have to meet basic legal and administrative requirements. If they fail to do so they cannot be accepted. When rejected the person sending in the representation must be written to, and an explanation for rejection given in writing
- 6.2 A responsible authority or other person can make a representation. There are two tests for other persons and only one for a responsible authority. The two tests are contained in Section 18 of the Act.
- 6.3 All representations must be "about the likely effect of the grant of the premises licence on the promotion of the licensing objectives." Likely means something that will probably happen, i.e. on balance more likely than not.
- 6.4 Representations by responsible authorities do not have to meet the second test of not being vexatious and frivolous. Other persons have to meet this test.
- 6.5 The Home Office recommends that in borderline cases, the benefit of the doubt should be given to the interested party making the representation.
- 6.6 All the representations in this report have been considered by the relevant officer (Team Leader Licensing & Safety) and determined to have met the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.
- 6.7 This hearing is required by the Licensing Act 2003, because relevant representations have been made by Responsible Authorities.

See **Appendix 5 – Licensing Authority Mohshin Ali**

- 6.8 All of the responsible authorities have been consulted about this application. They are as follows:
- The Licensing Authority
 - The Metropolitan Police
 - The LFEPA (the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority).
 - Planning
 - Health and Safety
 - Noise (Environmental Health)
 - Trading Standards
 - Child Protection
 - Primary Care Trust (Public Health England)
 - Home office Immigration Enforcement
- 6.9 In addition the application was required to be advertised in a local newspaper and by a blue poster. Only objections that relate to the following licensing objectives are relevant:
- the prevention of crime and disorder
 - public safety
 - the prevention of public nuisance
 - the protection of children from harm
- 6.10 The objections cover allegations of
- Anti-social behaviour on the premises
 - Anti social behaviour from patrons leaving the premises
 - Noise while the premise is in use
- 6.11 There are strict time limits to any representations. The time limits are contained in The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises licences and club premises certificates) Regulations 2005.

7.0 **Licensing Officer Comments**

- 7.1 The Business & Planning Act 2020 came into force on Wednesday 22nd July 2020 and provides a temporary permission for businesses that have a premises licence that permits them to sell alcohol in regards to the ability to sell alcohol as an off sale, i.e. for consumption off the premises. The permission will end on 30th September 2021 unless the legislation is changed by the Secretary of State.

It will only apply to businesses that hold a Premises Licence up to 22nd July 2020 and that in the last 3 years preceding 22 July 2020 those licences have NOT:

- had a premises licence application where permission for off sales was refused;
- had a variation of a premises licence seeking permission for off sales refused
- had a variation seeking to exclude off sales permission granted
- had a premises licence varied or modified by a review hearing to exclude off sales.

The new off-sales permission will permit off-sales to be made at a time when the licensed premises are open for the purposes of selling alcohol for consumption on the premises, subject to a cut off time of 11pm or the cut off time of the current licensed hours stated on the licence, whichever is earlier. Measures also temporarily suspend existing licence conditions in so far as they are inconsistent with the new off-sales permission.

Further Guidance on this can be found at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-temporary-alcohol-licensing-provisions-in-the-business-and-planning-bill>

7.2 The following is intended to advise Members of the relevant aspects of the Boroughs Licensing Policy, guidance from the Secretary of State, legislation and good practice. Members may depart from the Council's Licensing Policy and/or Government advice, provide they consider it appropriate to do so, and have clear reasons for their decision.

7.3 Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003

- ❖ As stated in the guidance it is "provided to licensing authorities in relation to the carrying out of their functions under the 2003 Act." It is a key medium for promoting best practice, ensuring consistent application and promoting fairness equal treatment and proportionality (1.7).
- ❖ Also "as long as licensing authorities have properly understood this Guidance, they may depart from it if they have good reason to do so and can provide full reasons. Departure from this Guidance could give rise to an appeal or judicial review, and the reasons given will then be a key consideration for the courts when considering the lawfulness and merits of any decision taken." Therefore licensing authorities will need to give full reasons for their actions (1.9).
- ❖ Also Members should note "A Licensing Authority may depart from its own policy if the individual circumstances of any case merit such a decision in the interests of the promotion of the licensing objectives." (1.12)
- ❖ Also, "The licensing authority may not impose any conditions unless its discretion has been exercised following receipt of relevant representations and it is satisfied as a result of a hearing (unless all parties agree a hearing is not necessary) that it is appropriate to impose conditions to promote one or more of the four licensing

objectives.” Therefore, conditions may not be imposed for the purpose other than promoting the licensing objectives and in some cases no additional conditions will be appropriate. (10.8)

- ❖ Necessary conditions should emerge from a risk assessment by the applicant, which should then be reflected in the operating schedule (10.4).
- ❖ The Guidance states: “Where there are objections to an application to extend the hours during which licensable activities are to be carried on and the licensing authority determines that this would undermine the licensing objectives, it may reject the application or grant it with appropriate conditions and/or different hours from those requested.” (10.14)
- ❖ Mandatory conditions must be imposed (10.25) and censorship avoided (10.17).
- ❖ The Guidance states: “It is still permitted to sell alcohol using promotions (as long as they are compatible with any other licensing condition that may be in force), and the relevant person should ensure that the price of the alcohol is not less than the permitted price. Detailed guidance on the use of promotions is given in the guidance document available on the Gov.uk website.” (10.58)
- ❖ Also, “Licensing authorities should not attach standardised blanket conditions promoting fixed prices for alcoholic drinks to premises licences or club licences or club premises certificates in an area.” (10.21)

- 7.4 The Licensing Act 2003 permits children of any age to be on the premises which primarily sell alcohol providing they are accompanied by an adult. It is not necessary to make this a condition.
- 7.5 In all cases the Members should make their decision on the civil burden of proof, that is “the balance of probability.”
- 7.6 In all cases Members should consider whether or not primary legislation is the appropriate method of regulation and should only consider licence conditions when the circumstances in their view are not already adequately covered elsewhere.
- 7.7 The Government has advised that conditions must be tailored to the individual type, location and characteristics of the premises and events concerned. Conditions cannot seek to manage the behaviour of customers once they are beyond the direct management of the licence holder and their staff and standardised conditions should be avoided where they cannot be shown to be appropriate. (1.16/1.17)

7.8 The Council's Licensing Policy generally expects applicants to address the licensing objectives and discuss how to do this with the relevant responsible authorities.

7.9 In **Appendices 6-9** Members are given general advice, and also have explanations of the Council's Licensing Policy, Government advice and other legislation relating to the matters previously identified.

8.0 **Legal Comments**

8.1 The Council's legal officer will give advice at the hearing.

9.0 **Finance Comments**

9.1 There are no financial implications in this report.

10.0 Appendices

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| Appendix 1 | A copy the existing licence |
| Appendix 2 | A copy of the application for variation |
| Appendix 3 | Images and map showing the premises and surrounding area |
| Appendix 4 | Other licensed venues in the area |
| Appendix 5 | Representation of Licensing Authority |
| Appendix 6 | Licensing officer comments on anti-social behaviour patrons leaving the premises |
| Appendix 7 | Licensing officer comments on Noise when the premises is in use |
| Appendix 8 | Licensing officer comments on Crime and Disorder |
| Appendix 9 | Licensing Policy relating to hours of trading |