

Sweet London, 62a Longbridge Road, Barking - Representation on Behalf of the Licensing Authority

PR Perkins Richard
To Taylor Rachel
Cc Lamprey Thom

Follow-up Start by 12 October 2021. Due by 12 October 2021.

Reply Reply All Forward

Mon 11/10/2021 15:05

Dear Rachel,

I write with regard to the application by Rraman Gjana for a variation to the premises licence in respect of the trading premises known as Sweet London at 62a Longbridge Road, Barking, so as to extend the existing consent for the retail sale of alcohol; the provision of associated regulated entertainments; and late-night refreshment to apply throughout the premises including the recently added rear extension.

Please accept this email as a representation on behalf of the licensing authority. This representation is made under the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of nuisance. The application proposes that the licensable activities continue within the rear extension through to 02.00 each day. It is proposed to stage occasional live and recorded music and belly dancing in this area. I believe this gives rise for the potential for disturbance and nuisance to local residents.

The rear extension was constructed intended for use as a smoking shelter and as a shisha lounge. Indeed, it currently operates in this way. As such, the rear extension has what I understand to be a 1.5 metre opening around the top of the three external walls. This design was intended to allow smoke escape and to enable the premises to comply with the smoke free regulations. However, in doing so, the integrity of the building is affected and there is potential for sound escape. There are residential properties within 25 metres in Cecil Road.

For this reason, I would propose that the licensed operation within the rear of the premises is restricted to 23.00 so as to reduce the potential impact on local residents.

In making this representation, I would note that my understanding is that although the premises were always intended to be used as a smoking shelter and shisha bar the construction of the building does not in fact meet the requirements for such. I believe this is due to a miscalculation which has resulted in insufficient open space being left to enable adequate smoke dispersal. I understand that the matter has been formally raised by the Council's Health and Safety Team, though it is currently disputed by the applicant.

As this is a public health matter and public health is not currently a licensing objective, I am unable to rely on this as a basis for my representation. However, I would not wish my acceptance of a limited use of this area for licensable activities to be seen as my condoning the use of the area as a shisha lounge or similar and I would wish the applicant to work with the health and safety team on this matter so as to ensure an agreed outcome and compliant use of this area.

I am also aware that earlier this year a direction notice was served upon the premises by the Council's enforcement team having found the rear extension to be operating in breach of the coronavirus regulations and failing to ensure social distancing. The notice required the closure of the premises for 10 days, from 27 April 2021, and the compilation of working policies enabling compliance with the requirements. A fixed penalty notice was also awarded. The fact that this action was necessary does give me reason for concern and must give rise to question as to whether the licensee is a responsible operator. While I do not suggest that this is reason for the extension of the

licence to be wholly denied I do believe that this further supports my proposal that the use of the rear extension should be restricted to 23.00 and that the licensee should demonstrate that this area can be operated in compliance with the law and without impact upon local residents before consideration could be given to any later use.

Best regards

Richard Parkins

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