



Licensing Authority  
London Borough of Barking & Dagenham  
1 Clockhouse Avenue  
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IG11 7LU

PC Owen DUNN 3326EA  
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Your ref:

11/10/2021

**Police Objection - Premises Variation - Sweet London, 62a Longbridge Road, Barking IG11 8RT**

Dear Licensing,

I acknowledge receipt of an application for a variation of the Premises Licence number 6974.

On behalf of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis, I wish to make a representation on the grounds of the following licensing objectives:

- **Prevention of Crime & Disorder**
- **Public nuisance**

The above name premises has submitted plans to vary their premises licence to include an extension of their premises which has been erected at the rear of their current premises.

The venue seek to supply alcohol, provide late night refreshment and regulated entertainment in this structure, along with using it as a Shisha Lounge.

This premises was subject to a COVID-19 Fixed Penalty Notice by Metropolitan Police Licensing on 23/04/2021 at roughly 2000 hours, when all restrictions hadn't been lifted at the time and the premises were using the newly formed structure to provide alcohol, food, shisha and regulated entertainment. All of which was not covered under their current premises licence.

As a result of the venues actions the Local Authority issued a Direction Notice to the venue. This notice indicated the venue had to remain closed between 1500 hours on 27/04/2021 and 1500 hours on 11/05/2021.

Should this structure become licenced, the venue will increase its capacity roughly 3 or 4-fold. An addition in their capacity of this magnitude will potentially cause a detrimental effect on the licensing objectives of Prevention of Crime & Disorder and Public Nuisance. Due to an increase in footfall and intoxication for the local area at such a late hour. There has been no mention of door staff or staffing levels to help control the increased numbers of intoxicated patrons the venue will have to deal with and therefore adds to the concern that crime and disorder will be able to take place.

The structure of the additional building erected by the venue at the rear of their current premises is of a rectangular shape, with a gap between the ceiling and the walls, cited for ventilation purposes due to their desire to have Shisha smoked inside (roughly 1.5 metre gap, exact dimensions unknown to Police).

These dimensions and the structure itself were the matter of a dispute between Health & Safety from the Local Authority and the venue's architect. It was suspected that the structure would not be deemed 50% open as per the Smoke Free legislation, however the architect believed it would be.

Police have yet to be provided with an update regarding the outcome of the discussions as to whether the structure would permit the act of Shisha smoking inside the building as per Smoke Free.

Should Shisha be allowed and it be deemed that calculations amount to 50% open or more for ventilation purposes, then this poses a further concern to Police that regulated entertainment and people being served alcohol and dining inside a building with 50% or more open space, will disrupt the local community as the venue is located adjacent to residential properties. This will have cause for sound travel into the residential area, particularly as the application states that the premises intends to have live music performances too.

Venue would be opening from 0800 hours. This is a long period for local residents to have to endure regulated entertainment. In a time where a lot of people work from home, it could cause disruption to their work life as well as personal life.

Therefore a terminal hour of 0200 hours will only create tensions within the local area against the venue and increase of noise complaints.

There is a venue with a similar structure within Barking, which has the aforementioned issues and has resulted in confrontation between residents and the business. Due to this being something which can be avoided, this application is therefore not supported by Police in its current state, to allow licenced activities to take place till 0200 hours in a structure which could be deemed as "open air".

This venue make reference in their conditions that there would be engagement and communication with Police in various aspects of their licence, however the venue has not contact Police regarding this application to discuss the matter till the time of writing this document. The application also states under Prevention of Public Nuisance, that staff will not serve someone who is drunk. This is not a condition to be factored under that heading, it is what is expected of all licenced venues.

There is no confidence from the Police at this point that the venue will be able to run this establishment without breaching the licensing objectives given the vision they appear to have for the building.

It is felt that if the venue want to proceed with the structure being a Shisha Lounge, they would require a reduction in hours in order to avoid breaches of the licensing objectives.

I object on the grounds of the above.

**Regards,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Owen Dunn', with the alphanumeric code '3326EA' written in smaller text to the right of the signature.

**PC Owen DUNN 3326EA  
East Area Licensing Team**