

Chris Hills

From: Julie Oates
Sent: 24 March 2022 15:54
To: Licensing (SBC)
Cc: licensing.north.division@kent.pnn.police.uk; Sharon Honey
Subject: RE: Life Nightclub, 77/78A High Street, Sittingbourne

Categories: Jo

With regards to Life Nightclub, I can confirm that the Environmental Protection team received a number of complaints about loud music from the premises and anti-social behaviour from customers out on the street during the summer of 2021. Anti-social behaviour on the street falls outside of our remit, and the complainants were advised to contact the police regarding this issue.

Our investigations into noise nuisance did give rise to concerns that the volume of music emanating from the premises was too loud, particularly late at night/early hours of the morning. Evidence was gathered by way of recordings on our specialist noise recording equipment (02:00 to 03:10 on Saturday 4th September and 00:10 to 03:00 on Sunday 5th September). In addition, an out of hours officer personally witnessing loud music on Saturday 21st August 2021. Unfortunately, our main complainant withdrew their complaint and did not want us to use any evidence gathered on their premises for fear of repercussions from staff at Life and its customers. Without the use of this evidence or the principle complainant, we were unable to progress the matter further. However, a meeting did take place on 28th September 2021 with Police Licensing Officers, an SBC Licensing Officer, a member of the Environmental Protection team and Mr Pearton of Life to discuss the concerns.

I support the Review being called by the Police. In terms of the licensing objective of 'the prevention of public nuisance', our evidence indicates that this objective is not being complied with. This area of Sittingbourne has changed since the Premises License was first granted and there are now a number of residential flats in the vicinity, with potentially more being introduced by way of the derogation in planning which allows for the conversion of offices to residential.

I agree with the additional conditions put forward by Kent Police in an attempt to alleviate the issues. The Licensing Committee may also wish to consider the late-night opening hours of the premises. Currently, the premises is licensed to open until 04:00 Monday to Saturday as 00:30 on Sundays with additional later opening on Banks Holiday Sundays until 03:00. With an increase in residential premises in the vicinity, these hours are excessive and are likely to be contributing to the issues outlined by the Police.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to discuss the matter further.

Kind regards

Julie

Julie Oates
Mid-Kent Environmental Protection Team Leader

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From: Licensing (SBC) <Licensing@swale.gov.uk>

Sent: 08 March 2022 12:16

To: Planning Area Team - Sitt & Sheppey (SBC) <AreaTeam-Sitt@swale.gov.uk>; EH Admin <EHAdmin@MidKent.gov.uk>; Julie Oates <Julie.Oates@MidKent.gov.uk>; 'Canterbury Building Safety' <BuildingSafety.Canterbury@kent.fire-uk.org>; 'trading.standards@kent.gov.uk' <trading.standards@kent.gov.uk>; 'phbusinesssupport@kent.gov.uk' <phbusinesssupport@kent.gov.uk>

Cc: Licensing (SBC) <Licensing@swale.gov.uk>

Subject: Life Nightclub, 77/78A High Street, Sittingbourne

Good morning

Kent Police have submitted an application for a review of a premises licence granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of Life nightclub, 76/78A High Street, Sittingbourne on the grounds of all of 4 of the licensing objections i.e:

Prevention of crime and disorder
Protection of public safety
Prevention of public nuisance
Protection of children from harm

This review follows multiple recent incidents at the premises which have identified premises failings and raised concerns. Also, a breach of the premises licence conditions.

I attach a copy of the application for your information. Please note that there are ongoing police investigations which mean that only members of the Licensing Sub-Committee can have full knowledge as to the incidents but you have been provided with a redacted copy which gives an overarching view of the incidents.

There is a statutory period of 28 days which ends on 5 April 2022 and I would be grateful for any comments you may wish to make by then.

Best regards

Chris

Yours sincerely

Christina Hills

Christina Hills

Licensing Officer

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