

Hastings Old Town Residents Association

East Hill House 13 Tackleway Hastings TN34 3DE dick@hotra.org.uk 18/5/12

Bob Brown, Licencing Manager
Town Hall, Hastings TN34 1QR

Application for a Premises Licence for Georgies Night Club, 39-41 George Street, Hastings.

This Association wishes to object to the proposed variation of the license because

- There will be an increase in Crime and Disorder. At ground level this street is mostly commercial but at 1st floor level and above it is substantially residential. There will be an impact on the quality of local residents lives caused by noise and disorder.
- The presence of large numbers at the hours requested will obstruct access for emergency public service vehicles. The street is already of restricted width and presents problems for all emergency services. Ambulances called to local people have been delayed in the past when intoxicated individuals will not move out of the way.
- Operation Blitz is designed to prevent public nuisance but is only operational for very limited hours due to Police resource constraints. The need to control clients using the club either on their way there or when emerging cannot be met by the Police or the proposers. The inevitable impact is unacceptable.
- There are many families with children living in George Street and the High Street whose lives will be affected by any rowdy behaviour.

Hastings Council has a duty of care under Environmental legislation. The cost of implementing a long monitoring period and bringing a case to court is prohibitive, especially when the resources available to the Council are significantly reduced.

The Saturation policy applies to George Street and needs to be upheld. The Police were not able to provide sufficient officers for the period after 5.00 pm on Monday 7th May. Drunken and disorderly behaviour continued until after 01.00 on Tuesday 6th May. This is further evidence of the lack of resources available to deal with alcohol related behaviour.

I am happy to present the above points at any hearing.

R. Edwards

Miss S Masters
3b Sturdee Place
Hastings
East Sussex
TN34 3AJ

19th May 2012

HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL
21 MAY 2012

F.A.O. Mr B. Brown
Licensing Manager
Environment and Safety Directorate
Aquila House
Breeds Place
Hastings.
East Sussex, TN34 3UY

Dear Mr Brown,

RE: Application for the grant of a premises licence 39-41 George Street, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3EA

I am writing with regard to the application that Mr. William Neech and Mr. Peter Harper have made in obtaining a premises licence relating to Georgies Night Club, formally known as Waves and Saturdays at the above address.

I had observed the notice in my local observer and since then arranged an appointment to see Mr Trevor Scrase at 10.00 on Tuesday 8th May 2012.

Upon looking at the application it stated that they would like to use it for entertainment similar to disco, comedy nights, karaoke, live music, recorded music, provision of facilities for dancing, performance of dance and supply of alcohol, Monday to Sunday 12.00 – 03.30. In addition the supply of late night refreshments, Monday to Sunday 23.00 to 03.30. The premises being open to the public, Monday to Sunday between the hours of 12.00 to 04.00. The license also states about using the premises for dance classes, martial art and wedding receptions.

Before writing this representation I have had a look at the Licensing Policy and the Amended Guidance Issued Under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003

I have lived in Hastings all my life and have been a resident at my current address for some 3 years. My flat is located no more than 40 metres away from the premises. Whilst living at my current address, my partner and I have experienced many aspects of anti social behaviour, which can be associated with the existing licensed premises in the area of George Street. We have been woken in the early hours of the morning as a result of fights and other disturbances which have resulted in the Sussex Police attending. We have suffered males pushing each other against the security shutters of the business premises located adjacent to our flat at all times of the evening and early morning. We have endured persons urinating against the communal front door as well as vomiting in the same area, which is very unpleasant to clean

up. Due to the times these incidences occur we are of no doubt that they are connected with persons leaving the licensed premises in George Street on the way to the town centre.

I am not in a position to evidence any of my comments.

I am aware that the premises has a large capacity and the application states that they would like to accommodate some five hundred (500) people, subject to approval. To have such a venue operating in this area will undoubtedly cause additional violent disorder and anti social behaviour. In the application it also states that they will be turning the balcony at the back of the premises into a smoking area. This could also cause a problem to my family as any noise in the vicinity of the back of the building emanates through the back of the buildings at Sturdee Place due to the high building on one side and the cliff on the other. In addition the loading bay in Sturdee Place, outside our premises will likely become a taxi rank causing additional noise of persons shouting and slamming of doors.

I have read the Hastings Borough Council Licensing Policy and its contents relating to the Cumulative Impact Policy. I understand that the premises are within Area 2A of that policy. On page 12 of the Hastings Borough Council Licensing Policy it make mentions of the following.

'Where relevant representations are received in relation to applications for the grant of a new premise licence, club premise certificate or provisional statement; there will be a presumption against the grant of such licence or certificate unless the applicant, in the operating schedule, can rebut the presumption that the granting of such a licence or certificate would undermine the licensing objectives.'

It is mine and my partners belief that the premises due to its size, licensable activities and requested times will cause addition negative impact on the policy.

I therefore ask that Hastings Borough Council refuse this application for a premises licence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miss S Masters', written over a horizontal line.

Miss S Masters.

Re. The application for a licence for Georgies Night club 31-41 ,George Street , Hastings TN34 3EA.

There are a lot of residents in the vicinity of these premises. George Street is a mixture of residents and businesses. I don't think that the majority of business owners live in the area. When I moved into my flat in January 2004 noise was not a big issue in the evenings apart from a Thursday night when this venue was open. At about 2am onwards people came down George Street and up Light Steps on their way to the West Hill. They made considerable noise, banged on doors ,rang bells, damaged postboxes, generally disturbed everyone and often left a mess including vomit, bottles,cans, urine etc. This could go on intermittently for a couple of hours. I believe there were some problems with the club and it was eventually closed. Thursday night was peaceful again. In 2007 noise and behaviour issues started to occur in George Street particularly after the smoking ban and change in clientele. The licencing hours had already changed. In 2008 Reviews of six premises licences were instigated. During this process Venuu at 10, George Street was granted a late licence until ,I believe,3a.m. It was one of the premises under review! Surely this should not have been allowed until the reviews had been decided. The problems with all the premises in George Street including these night clubs is when people stand outside to smoke and when they hang about after closing. They are generally drunk and very loud and out of control. They they hang about interminably. Nobody asks or tells them to be quiet, to go away and leave quietly. The residents have a legal right to live in a peaceful environment. The streets in the Old Town are narrow with high buildings which trap noise. If the proposed hours are accepted it means that people will be wandering around until approximately 5.am for seven nights a week if they are fully implemented. Then the street cleaners start at about 6.30.am. When exactly are the residents meant to get any sleep? The pubs and bars start getting busy at about 7.pm and close at about 11pm-12 midnight and then the clubs take over. If the club proprietors , the police and the council could unequivocally guarantee that the residents are not disturbed then that would be acceptable I am sure. Taking and dealing drugs is common in George Street. Binge drinking is rife and unsocial behaviour seems to be the norm. The majority of 'clientele' do not live in

George Street. They cause havoc and then eventually go away leaving many of the residents in distress. Unfortunately many of them do not complain for various reasons . Having two nightclubs in one small street is totally unfair . I have kept a diary of the happenings in George Street since 2007. I write it as it happens. I would urge the Old Town Councillors and those on the Licencing Committee to visit the area on Friday and Saturday nights at approximately 10 pm -12.30am to give them a little idea of what goes on at the moment. The police will be stretched more and more to deal with George Street as well as the town centre. Most of the licencees try hard to adhere to the conditions imposed. I appreciate it can be difficult. Sometimes, however, doors are left open allowing music and noise to escape. I believe that the conditions on the licences of the six venues should apply to all the premises selling alcohol in George Street so that there is an even playing field. This is ,of course , another issue. The residents already have enough to deal with , without it being added to.

I am speaking from past experience and can foresee what will happen again.

M. C. Murphy

16.5.12.