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Local Policing Support Team

25th May 2021

Trevor Scrase
Senior Licensing Officer
Licensing
Environment & Place
Hastings Borough Council
Muriel Matters House
Breeds Place
Hastings,
TN34 3UY

Dear Mr Scrase,

RE: APPLICATION FOR SOUTH STAR, BASEMENT AND GROUND FLOOR, 20 ROBERTSON STREET, HASTINGS TN34 1HL, UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003.

I write on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police for Sussex to raise a representation against the grant of the above application on the grounds that it will undermine the Licensing Objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance and public safety.

Sussex Police object to this application for the establishment of a new nightclub style premises within the Castle Ward area. Pre-Covid 19 crime analysis shows that Castle Ward is amongst the very highest wards within East Sussex for both serious violence and knife crime. Our analysis demonstrates that the peak times for this offending is between 00:00 and 04:00 during the weekend and that the night time economy and alcohol is a key motivator for the high violence levels within this ward. Whilst we fully understand that the saturation policy is currently under review, this area has been within the local authority saturation area for many years due to the sheer number of licensed premises already operating.

If this license were granted then we firmly believe it would increase the levels of crime and disorder within the area. This would not only cause fear within our local population but also burden further unnecessary demand on our emergency services when they are still in the throes of managing a pandemic of unprecedented scales. This establishment would be located within the town centre and the further increase in violence is likely to deter vulnerable persons from wanting to access the town centre and the facilities that are being offered.

The applicant states that their aim will be a music, comedy and arts venue with a focus on showcasing and helping local talent. They have applied for the following licensable activities and timings;

- Plays and Films Monday to Sunday 1100-0300
- Live music and recorded music Monday to Sunday 2300-0300
- Late Night Refreshment Monday to Sunday 2300-0230
- Supply of alcohol On Sales only Monday to Sunday 1100-0230

Sussex Police Licensing sent an email to the applicant on 17th May 2021. Due to the high levels of crime and disorder within the night economy, we asked the applicant if he would reduce the operating hours and if he would accept a number of conditions we deemed necessary for this premises and which supported the Four Licensing objectives.

We requested the hours be reduced to the following;

Plays – 1100 -0200 7 days a week
Films – 1100-0200 7 days a week
Live music – 2300-0200 7 days a week
Recorded music – 2300-0200 7 days a week
Late night refreshment – 2300-0130 7 days a week.
Supply of alcohol – 1100-0130 7 days a week
Opening hours – 1100-0200 7 days a week.

The applicant was asked to accept the following conditions as those offered were not deemed strong enough for this type of premises;

CCTV:

- a) Digital CCTV and appropriate recording equipment to be installed in accordance with Home Office Guidelines relating to UK Police Requirements for Digital CCTV System (PSDB Publication Number 09/05), operated and maintained throughout the premises internally and externally to cover all public areas, including the entrance to the premises. The system shall be on and recording at all times the premises licence is in operation.
- b) The CCTV cameras and recording equipment must be of sufficient quality to work in all lighting levels inside the premises at all times.
- c) CCTV footage will be stored for a minimum of 31 days.
- d) The management will give full and immediate cooperation and technical assistance to the Police in the event that CCTV footage is required for the prevention and detection of suspected or alleged crime.
- e) The CCTV images will record and display dates and times, and these times will be checked regularly to ensure their accuracy.
- f) Subject to GDPR guidance and legislation, the management of the premises will ensure that key staff are fully trained in the operation of the CCTV, and will be able to download selected footage onto a disk (or other electronic portable device acceptable to Sussex Police) for the police without difficulty or delay and without charge to Sussex Police.
- g) Any breakdown or system failure will be notified to the police immediately & remedied as soon as is practicable.
- h) In the event of the CCTV system hard drive being seized as evidence as part of a criminal investigation by Sussex Police or for any other reason, the premises will be expected to install a replacement hard drive or a temporary replacement drive as soon as practicable.

Training/Authorisation:

- a) The Premises Licence Holder shall ensure that all staff members engaged, or to be engaged, in selling alcohol at the premises shall receive the following induction training. This training will take place prior to the selling of such products: *The lawful selling of age restricted products *Refusing the sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk
- b) Further verbal reinforcement/refresher training covering the above will be carried out thereafter at intervals not to exceed 8 weeks, with the date and time of the verbal reinforcement/refresher training documented.
- c) All such training undertaken by staff members shall be fully documented and recorded and signed by both the employee and the DPS. All training records shall be kept on the premises and made available to Sussex Police, officers of the local authority and officers from the Trading Standards team upon request.
- d) A list of staff members who are authorised to sell alcohol on the premises shall be kept. This shall be endorsed by the DPS with the date such authorisation commences.

Challenge 25:

- a) The premises will operate an **age verification** policy set at a minimum of 25 years (e.g. "Challenge 25") whereby any person attempting to buy alcohol who appears to be under the specified age e.g. 25 will be asked for photographic ID to prove their age. The recommended forms of ID that will be accepted are passports, official Photographic Identity Cards issued by EU states bearing a hologram or ultraviolet feature, driving licences with a photograph, photographic military ID or proof of age cards bearing the 'PASS' mark hologram.
- b) Signage advertising the age verification or 'Challenge 25' policy will be displayed in prominent locations in the premises.

Incident/Refusal Log:

- a) An incident/refusal log will be maintained by the premises showing a detailed note of incidents that occur in the premises. The log will be inspected and signed off by the DPS (or a person with delegated authority) at least once a week. The log book should be kept on the premises and be available for inspection at all times the premises are open by authorised officers of the Licensing Authority or the police. An incident will be defined as being one which involves an allegation of a criminal offence.
- b) Feedback shall be given to staff to ensure these are used on each occasion that a refusal or incident occurs at the premises.
- c) Any refusals made for alcohol service e.g. underage, will also be recorded (either in electronic or written form) and feedback given to staff as relevant. The log will be kept at the premises for a minimum of twenty four (24) months.

SIA:

Numbers:

SIA registered door staff will operate at the premises as follows:

- a) When the premises is operating after 2300hrs
- b) Two door staff from 20:00hrs until the premises has closed to the public, licensable activity has ceased, and the venue is completely clear of patrons.
- c) Fridays and Saturdays: two door staff from 20:00hrs and an additional one door staff from 22:00hrs (total three (3) from 22:00hrs until the premises has closed to the public, licensable activity has ceased and the venue is completely clear of patrons.

The applicant responded to the email on 25th May 2021. The applicant refused to reduce the operating hours and he requested that the SIA condition be revised. All the other conditions were agreed to.

With regards to the SIA condition, the applicant stated his intention was for bar staff to be SIA trained so he could use them.

The applicant's revised SIA condition is as follows;

SIA Numbers:

I fully understand where this is coming from and your reasons for the request. It is our intention to train all bar staff to receive their SIA qualification. In response may I request slight variations to help manage costs in light of the fact we will have SIA trained staff inside the premises at all times.

- a. ***Would you agree this to be when premises is open past midnight, a scenario could be we have a comedy evening on a Wednesday and the bar closes at 11.30 as the set over runs. As it is a sit down event the risk assessment would not require a doorman. You already have the Friday / Saturday protection in place in point c and the week time economy is such that we will risk assess each days anticipated trading and of course implement door staff if we feel the need but if it is a recital or a play or a jam night or comedy the risk would be different to a Friday night end of week crowd which we would certainly manage more robustly. Additionally due to training bar staff as SIA accredited we will always have professionals on site***


to deal with scenarios and being owner driven can vary our policies rapidly should we identify any need to.

- b. May we request 1 from 8pm with at least one additional SIA trained member of staff in support, economically the requested numbers would not work for all nights of entertainment. For example on a Tuesday if we have a jam night that finishes at midnight it would not be appropriate for 2 staff to be on the door, although one from 8pm would be relevant and with additional trained staff could manage different risk scenarios. The weekends as per point c are completely different from a risk profile point of view and would be managed accordingly. Also periods of increased activity, e.g. during Christmas holidays when students are home would see us alter our policy and use doorman much more frequently – effectively we are asking for a little autonomy to manage our premises according to the ebb and flo of demand and risk.*
- c. Agreed*

We will not agree to staff having a dual role as this could be detriment to the Crime & Disorder objective. Staff should be employed for one role or the other. Staff working behind the bar would not be deemed as one of their required SIA trained staff required at the time.

In light of the above together supported by our crime analysis data for the area, we invite the Licensing Authority to seriously consider refusing this application.

Yours sincerely,



Inspector Aidan Cornwall CC018

Please address all future correspondence to Licensing Officer Kirstie Rolfe, Bexhill Police Station, Terminus Road, Bexhill TN39 3NR email; kirstie.j.rolfe@sussex.pnn.police.uk and EastSussex.Licensing@sussex.pnn.police.uk

Licensing Police Staff are currently working from home, email is the preferred method of communication.