

London Borough of Islington

Licensing Sub-Committee C – 18 April 2013

Minutes of the meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee C held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 18 April 2013 at 5.30 pm.

**Present: Councillors:** Raphael Andrews, Mouna Hamitouche and Claudia Webbe.

**Councillor Claudia Webbe in the Chair**

**181. INTRODUCTIONS AND PROCEDURE (ITEM A1)**

Councillor Webbe welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked members and officers to introduce themselves. The Chair outlined the procedures for the meeting.

**182. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM A2)**

Apologies were received from Councillor Spall.

**183. DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (ITEM A3)**

Councillor Hamitouche substituted for Councillor Spall.

**184. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM A4)**

None.

**185. ORDER OF BUSINESS (ITEM A5)**

The order of business would be as on the agenda.

**186. URGENT NON-EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS**

The Chair ruled the following matter as urgent as the Sub-Committee must hear an application for a temporary event notice, which is subject to representation, prior to the event being held.

**187. CLUB AQUARIUM, 256-260 OLD STREET, EC1V 9DD  
APPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICE (Item C1)**

The licensing officer reported that there had been two objections to this application, one from the police and one from the noise team.

The police reported that there was a high level of crime at this venue. The police had held meetings with the designated premises supervisor on the 29 November and the 12 December regarding their concerns. Since the December meeting there had been two further incidents at the premises involving door staff. Violent incidents took place in the early hours of the morning. He did not consider that enough steps had been taken by the licensee and this had been borne out by recent events.

The noise officer reported that the applicant had undertaken to apply noise controls to Singer Street and as a result of this agreement would be withdrawing their objection.

In response to questions the Sub-Committee noted that the police did not see the same level of violence in other nearby clubs. Clients, when refused entry, were hanging around outside the premises. This was the first application for a temporary event notice following the March incident.

Onur Siroren, the events manager, attended the meeting on behalf of the applicant. He accepted that the door staff had previously acted unprofessionally. The last incident had involved a guest who had been ejected but had returned. The door staff in this case had dealt with the incident themselves. All door staff except for the head of security had been completely changed. There

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had been a drop in pick pocketing. They had spoken to Fabric regarding their training system and had spent more time on hospitality and customer care. Singer Street was being monitored and they were not using external promoters except for a 70/80s evening. They had applied for a TEN as there was a local event which would accommodate around 400 to 500 people and their premises could then accommodate this crowd after the event had finished as well as to celebrate the birthday of a colleague. He considered that the management of the premises was improving.

In response to questions, Mr Siroren stated that over the past six weeks he was no longer using external promoters and door staff had been changed. He remained on the door every Friday evening as a door picker to ensure the right crowd was present. Internal theft incidents had been drastically reduced.

Members of the Sub-Committee left the room to deliberate before returning to announce their decision.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the temporary event notice in respect of **Club Aquarium, 256-260 Old Street, EC1V 9DD** be refused and the licensing team be directed to serve a counter notice..

### **REASONS FOR DECISION**

The Sub-Committee listened to all the evidence and submissions and read all the material. The Sub-Committee reached the decision having given consideration to the Licensing Act 2003, as amended, and its regulations, the national guidance and the Council's Licensing Policy.

The Sub-Committee considered the representations made by the applicant and his reasons for wanting the extended hours on a temporary basis. The main reason appeared to be to assist the community in providing an establishment for customers to frequent after 3am on the particular day. The Sub-Committee further took into consideration the objections to the granting of the temporary event notice from the police and submissions made by the noise team. Of particular concern to the Sub-Committee were the levels of crime in the area some of which had emanated from the premises concerned as recently as December 2012 as well as emanating from other premises in the vicinity. The applicant submitted that measures to curb criminal activity at the premises had been put in place for the last six weeks, however it was conceded that a serious criminal incident occurred on the 30 March 2013, after the measures had been put in place by the applicant.

The Sub-Committee was not satisfied with the proposed control measures that would be put in place to mitigate the objections by the police. The Sub-Committee was of the opinion that the granting of the temporary event notice on this particular occasion given the high level of crime in the area, the hours requested and the acknowledgment by the applicant of the high level of crime and disorder in the area that the licensing objectives would be undermined by the granting of this temporary event notice and it should not take place.

In reaching their decision, the Sub-Committee took into particular consideration Licensing Policy 027 and 028 relating to temporary event notices.

The meeting finished at 6.40 pm.

**CHAIR**