

## **Licensing History from 2010**

## **APPENDIX 9**

24.6.10

Premises Licence transferred to Fabric Life Limited – Licence No. LN4086-240610

General Manager and DPS Nathan Leslie.

15.9.11

Minor Variation applied for to change Operating Plan in agreement with Police and Licensing Authority. Licence No. LN4086-051011 issued

18.12.12

Police raise concerns about high levels of drugs and crime incidents in Fabric and from the evidence they have form the view Fabric is a place where the use of drugs is accepted by staff and management, and patrons expect to be offered and dealt drugs. The Police decision was to issue a warning.

29.5.13

Nathan Leslie resigned as DPS and general manager to be replaced by Luke Laws. Premises Licence issued no. LN4086-030613.

21.8.14

Meeting with the Police, Licensing and Fabric to discuss management action following the death of customer on 26 July 2014 and 3 deaths and four near misses since 2011. Fabric agreed to look into use of drugs dogs and improve drug detection.

6.11.14

Police submitted an application to review the premises licence following drug related deaths and near misses over previous three years and 12 drug related offences within six months to October 2014. Representations received from the Licensing Authority, Noise Team, 14 local residents, 1 local business, the ward councillor and 6 representations supporting Fabric.

18.12.14

Licensing Committee hears the review application and decides to impose additional conditions on the licence – see Appendix 8 of the Committee report. Appeal against the decision lodged in the Magistrate Court on 21.1.15.

24.1.15

Licensing and Nightsafe Team visit to monitor external area. Door security had reports that medical room was busy that night with several people suffering effects of MDMA.

13.6.15

Licensing and Police inspection of premises revealed

- two young men receiving treatment in the medical room; one looked groggy and the other was conscious but agitated. One of the men said that he had taken something before entering Fabric as he was worried about search dogs.
- One of the metal detector arches was not in use.

10.12.15

Appeal against the decision to impose additional conditions on the premises licence following the police review in December 2014.

Appeal heard and conditions imposed.

29.1.16

Police and Licensing inspection of Fabric at 23.00 reported:

- two young males receiving treatment in the medical room,
- a smell of cannabis in the smoking area which had 3 security on duty
- searching signs were not prominent,
- blind spots on CCTV.

2.2.16

Meeting with Police, Licensing and Fabric to

- discuss the findings of the visit of 29.1.16,
- review queuing & security protocols
- searching procedure
- agree the wording of the conditions imposed by the District Judge.

New conditions agreed and Licence Number LN4086-230216 issued

Dec15/Jan16

Police and LBI operation to deter balloon sellers, also suspected of drug dealing and intimidation to people at cash points, who gathered outside Fabric and corner of Charterhouse Street and St Johns Street.

7.5.16

Licensing Team investigated complaint from resident complaint about loud music noise coming from Fabric and confirmed music noise was breaking out from rear of Fabric. Whilst the officers where in the area they were offered MDMA and "Coke" by two different drug dealers outside the premises between Smiths and the corner of St Johns Street. Both matters reported to the DPS.

21.5.16

Complaint from local resident to MP reporting regular drug dealing outside his home and expressing concern that drug dealers are attracted to the area attracted by the club. Parkguard Nightsafe Patrol tasked to monitor area and act as deterrent. Police informed. Residents letter attached.

30.6.16

Complaint received from local resident requesting that Fabric staff do more to keep customers under control so as to reduce noise and rowdy behaviour.

Fabric confirmed the incident was a staff party during the day and agreed to inform residents if they organised anything similar in future.

11.7.16

Complaint from resident that they are frequently woken up by Fabric customers leaving the club at 5am and congregating in nearby squares and open spaces, making noise and drinking alcohol.

Parkguard Nightsafe Team tasked to monitor area.

### **Parkguard Nightsafe Patrols**

Parkguard Nightsafe Patrol Team regularly patrols the Farringdon area of Clerkenwell area to prevent and respond to antisocial behaviour, alcohol related disorder including pre-loading, street drinking, urination and balloon (nitrous oxide) sellers. Since the team

started operating in December 2014 they have intervened or used enforcement powers in the area surrounding Fabric as follows:

- 85 occasions to deal with drinking in the street drinking
- 109 occasions to direct people to leave the area
- Issued 183 warnings for antisocial behaviour
- Intervened in 73 incidents of fights, assaults, or abusive behaviour
- Dealt with 4 drug related interventions and 29 occasions where drug paraphernalia
- 51 interventions directed at nitrous oxide balloon sellers.

12.8.16

Parkguard Nightsafe Patrol GNS and Licensing Team have visited the area and noted it has been quieter, a lot less footfall, cleaner, no sign of urination in the street and the public urinals were very clean. Street drinking has been minimal and balloon sellers and street sleepers not seen in the area. Local bars reported they were no busier than usual for the time of year.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: 21 May 2016 08:44  
To: THORNBERRY, Emily [REDACTED]  
Subject: The elephant in the room.

Dear Mrs Thornberry,

I've written to you in the past. You were prompt in your response, and the effect of your reply was helpful. At the time, I was thankful for this.

I'm writing to you today, in the hope that you might be able to do the same once again. However this time, I fear your response won't have the same effect. After all, big business often has its way in the Clerkenwell area these days. The fact that people live here has almost been forgotten. Their concerns trampled on, rather than tackled.

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This morning, I was awoken (again) by the idle chat of drug-takers, as they dealt outside my bedroom window. The time was 5:58am. I could be wrong though. These days it happens so often that I might have easily confused this time with another. However, I think I'm spot on. The people involved this Saturday made it rather memorable. They were particularly loud and oblivious to their surroundings. Undoubtedly an effect of the substances they are taking. Their senses, too muted, to notice. Their minds, too high, to care.

I am not simply emailing you though about those huddled outside my window. They are not the real 'villains' of this story. They are simply a passing anecdote. They will fly home next week. Only to be replaced by a new group. Instead, I believe the real 'villain' is Fabric itself. In my mind, it's this club that is the real ongoing issue for the area. A Pandora's box of problems that refuses to stop rearing its ugly head; no matter how hard its owners try to hide it. The recent debate around the use of sniffer dogs highlights this perfectly.

At the time, the use of dogs was a savvy short-term agreement that saved the club. [Great for the owners]. It reduced the heat on the club from the council and even (dare I say it) any potential liability that might crop up when drugs did sneak in further down the line. [Great for the owners]. Now though, the dogs can't even operate anymore because drug users can apparently "circumvent the dogs and the security" (Fabric's solicitors). [Even better for the owners]. One less cost and issue to worry about.

What the above debate brought to light though (and why I've raised it) is how the argument has cleverly been focused on the tail of the snake rather than the head. That is, that the council is currently trying to come up with solutions to stop drugs getting into Fabric. A solution that is only helpful to the club's owners. Instead of trying to stop drugs coming into the area full-stop. A solution that is helpful to the residents. The real issue here is not drugs sneaking into the club but the flooding of drugs into the area in the first place that ultimately then leads to the former.

By simply being here, Fabric is a magnet for drugs; drawing them into Clerkenwell. Yet, in some peoples minds, as long as they don't then get into the club and lead to a death inside of it, that's ok. Yet what they naively forget (or choose to ignore) is that the drug dealing and taking simply takes place around the area instead. The risk of drug related deaths is still there (e.g. bigger doses pre-clubbing). No matter whether you put dogs at the door or at the station entrance, the market for drugs simply replaces the local meat market. You only have to walk the area to realise this. It's amusing how in the very heart of one of the world's greatest modern cities, this culture is so obviously apparent and prevalent.

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So what's the answer to all of this? In my mind, Fabric needs to go. If you take the club away, the use of drugs here will diminish significantly. Yet clearly, the priority at the moment is not this. Instead, it is stopping drugs getting into the club. If that's the only thinking, let's move it somewhere else then where the residents don't have to put up with it taking place outside their front doors and windows every few days. We've got enough issues/bars to deals with anyway.

I look forward to hearing your response.



