

Division/Station : Licensing Milton Keynes

From : Gemma McCormack
Licensing Officer

To : Licensing
Milton Keynes Council

Ref : Your Ref Club 124

Date : 9th August 2021

Tel.No. XXXXXXXXXX

Subject :

Representation

As licensing officer for Thames Valley Police, I am authorised to make representation in relation to applications made under the Licensing Act 2003 on behalf of the Chief Constable as a responsible authority.

In respect of the application for a new premises licence for Club 124, 140 Queensway, Bletchley, I have reviewed the application and am submitting a representation in relation to the application under the grounds of prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance and protection of children from harm.

The premises is intending to run as a members only club which allows sale of alcohol but wishes to run under a premises licence. The club itself is located on the first floor of the Agora building on Queensway. Surrounding the premises is a mix of commercial and residential properties. Within the commercial side, primarily made up of shops, there are 21 licensed premises, made up of 13 shops with off licence capability, 2 late night food premises, a cafe/restaurant, 1 entertainment venue, 3 members only clubs and 1 pub. The side and the rear of the premises, where access to the building will be obtained, is predominately residential.

The applicant has applied for a licence as follows:

Mondays to Thursdays

Live & Recorded Music & Anything Similar	18:00 to 00:30
Sale of alcohol (on sales only)	18:00 to 00:30
Late night refreshment	23:00 to 00:30
Opening Hours	18:00 to 01:00

Fridays

Live & Recorded Music & Anything Similar	18:00 to 03:30
Sale of alcohol (on sales only)	18:00 to 03:30
Late night refreshment	23:00 to 03:30
Opening Hours	18:00 to 04:00

Saturdays

Live & Recorded Music & Anything Similar	10:00 to 03:30
Sale of alcohol (on sales only)	10:00 to 03:30
Late night refreshment	23:00 to 03:30
Opening Hours	10:00 to 04:00

Sundays

Live & Recorded Music & Anything Similar	10:00 to 00:30
Sale of alcohol (on sales only)	10:00 to 00:30
Late night refreshment	23:00 to 00:30
Opening Hours	10:00 to 01:00

I understand from an e-mail received from Ed Fisher on 5th August 2021, that the live and recorded music and anything similar has now been withdrawn by the applicant, but the hours for sale of alcohol, late night refreshment and opening times are still as they were. My concern is in relation to the Friday and Saturday nights. This is later than any of their surrounding premises, they are also closer to the surrounding residential properties than their neighbouring pubs and clubs.

Although late night premises have only in the last few weeks started to reopen as per pre-Covid times, Thames Valley Police are already seeing an increase in incidents linked to violent offences and

anti-social behaviour from people leaving pubs and clubs. Within the immediate vicinity of Club 124, there is currently an ongoing investigation into a violent assault which occurred at a neighbouring venue just a week ago at 02:00. Even when premises were under restrictions due to Covid, 2 men were stabbed during an altercation after leaving a venue approximately half a mile away and at a separate premises within the same distance a male was a victim of being assaulted with a metal bar. It is my opinion that the later hours on a Friday and Saturday night that the applicant puts the venue at a higher risk of these incidents occurring.

I also note that there is no smoking area designated within the plans, I am assuming due to the entrance, this will most likely be in car park. People loitering in this area smoking, as well as people not leaving the premises until 04:00 is likely to cause an increase in anti-social disturbance to the neighbouring residents. I therefore recommend that on Friday and Saturday nights the premises limits its sale of alcohol and late night refreshment to cease at 01:00 with the premises closed to the public at 01:30.

Further to my concern in relation to hours, I have queries in relation to Section 18 of the operating schedule. I have been provided a copy of clarified version of this section by Ed Fisher.

Condition 1: The premises shall operate as a Members only premises with one guest allowed per member on any entry to the venue. Membership shall be via application and there will be a club constitution in place. There shall be no entry without valid ID. Members will be required to comply with the constitution. Members will need to provide a residential address and appropriate ID as part of an application process.

Will details of member's guests be logged. If so, how?
What counts as valid ID for entry – Membership badge (if so will this be a photo ID?) or will they be required to show a photo ID with Pass mark, i.e. passport, driving licence or similar?

Condition 4: The premises shall operate with door supervisors every evening from X. Door staff shall be clearly recognisable in terms of their clothing. A door supervisor register will be maintained detailing the names and licence number of all those working on what dates and what shifts

What time shall door staff be on duty from?
How many door staff shall be on duty?
Will the door staff register also incorporate checks that the SIA licence is valid?

Condition 6: A CCTV system shall be installed and maintained at the premises covering all internal areas, the entrance and all stairways. All CCTV images shall be retained for a minimum of X days.

How many days will CCTV images be stored for? I would recommend 1 calendar month. Is there CCTV covering the car park? I believe it should. Also I would recommend that this condition is expanded to incorporate: All images shall be of an evidential standard and date and time stamped. Recordings shall be made available upon request of the Police, Licensing Authority or Local Authority to view or remove for evidential purposes. Relevant staff are to be trained and able to use the system.

Condition 7: There shall be a no drugs policy including information to this effect in toilet areas. Security staff shall be trained to recognise signs of drug use

Will this be in-house training? Will training records be kept?

Condition 10: Staff shall be appropriately trained on the law relating to alcohol supply

Will this be in-house training? Will training records be kept? Will there be refresher training

Condition 11: Alcohol shall be by way of on supply only and no alcohol can be brought into the premises by patrons

Please can it be confirmed that this means no alcohol will be removed from the bar/main area, i.e. not brought downstairs and outside to the car park area

Condition 14: A secure storage facility shall be maintained for confiscated drugs

Will this be a physical drug safe? Who will have access?

Condition 31: No under 18s shall be allowed on the premises

How will this be ensured at weekends during the day, if door staff are only working in the evenings? I have been copied into emails between the applicant and Trading Standards, whereby additional conditions in relation to operating a Challenge 25 policy on entry to ensure no persons under the age of 18 will be admitted to site. Also that the only acceptable ID is a photographic ID that is accredited with the PASS Scheme (or similar) and a refusal log will be kept on site for both refusals of entry and refusals of alcohol purchases. I note that the applicant agreed to training bar staff but not to make it a licence condition, however he has offered training in relation to alcohol supply as a condition further above, this is a little confusing. Trading Standards have relented on the request of this final condition due to the applicant confirming that age verification would occur on the door by door staff, who would receive training on this from SIA. However it also appears that the premises would sometimes to be open without SIA door staff on duty (during the day at weekends, and possibly for part of the week day evenings – still be confirmed). If this is to be the case, then bar staff should be trained on Challenge policy as well as licensing law.

I have been away from the office for most of the consultation period, and so have at this point been unable to speak with Mr McManus directly. However, I am aware that I have raised many points, and he may already have the answers to what I have laid out. If you wish to discuss the above with me, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Gemma McCormack