

16th August 2019
Martin [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Lewisham High St
SE13 5JH

Dear Licensing,

I wanted to write to you to make formal representation in regards to the Review of the premises licence, under the Licensing Act 2003, of:

Alpha Lounge
1st Floor
100-104 Lewisham High Street
London
SE13

I live at the same address as Alex [REDACTED], whose representation letter is entirely in accordance with my opinions on the matter. I don't need to repeat it in the same detail but the salient points are that:

- Since January 2019 and the new sound system in Alpha, along with the later licencing hours, the local noise levels and antisocial behaviour have been out of control
- Abatements and breaches have been served as evidence of the unacceptable noise level
- The daily and late-night nature of their activity has attracted unwarranted and increased levels of antisocial behaviour (urination, random drunks around the residences, drugs, etc.)
- The regularity of the 7 days a week 5AM operation time is unacceptable
- This is an area with the elderly and young children living in it and the living conditions for all have worsened significantly since the venue has opened
- When patrons leave the venue, the streets turn into absolute bedlam and the clubs seem to take no responsibility for managing the noise and regular fights that break out as a result

All residents have noticed the environmental change since the beginning of the year, in regards to the new sound system from Alpha, the lateness with which its music goes on, and the pairing of this situation with Vibes. All residents are deeply affected by the regularity of noise and knock-on antisocial behaviour that has occurred as a consequence of this club's opening. Even though similar licences have been granted to other operators in the past, the difference in this instance is massive and the change is of great detriment to the lives of those who live here. There has been a fundamental change of usage and this needs to be addressed.

Crime enforcement are aware of all of this but I now appeal to you to take some definitive action to regulate all of this antisocial behaviour, and to compel the first step in this regard to be taken. The treatment of the alleyway is terrible, but the music issue is horrifying. It is incomprehensible how these licences have been granted in the first place. There are times

when the music plays five nights in a row. It blasts through the wall. Their dampening is sub-par. It is terrorising and horrendous. It is sleep deprivation and is affecting everyone's mental health. Children and the elderly live in this newly chaotic environment. There are apparently no control methods in place to manage this and it has all come to a point recently and needs to be taken very seriously indeed. It is a serious issue and it is having a serious affect on my and others' lives.

With that in mind, the problem areas can be boiled down to:

- The noise alone produced by this venue is inherently antisocial and a violation of human and statutory rights
- Their licence to produce this noise seven days a week until 5AM is completely unacceptable
- The regularity of their opening regularly attracts a spectrum of antisocial and criminal behaviour locally – drugs and vehicles and drunks in the alleyway, people making noise in the streets after closing, etc.

The biggest issue is that a respectful living environment should be created for the residents. In my opinion this should be:

- Absolutely ZERO noise and antisocial chaos during the working week/evenings before weekdays
- This means Sunday night, Monday night, Tuesday night, Wednesday night and Thursday night the venues should be SILENT and there should be *nobody* loitering in the alleyways as consequence of their visitation of the venue
- In the absence of the venue's willingness to enforce this themselves (as they have proved themselves incapable over the last five months) I would suggest a licence to play until late ONLY Friday and Saturday night
 - Of course, all residents would prefer that the entire venue and club gets shut down entirely given the lack of respect or control they seem to have, but it is not clear if such extreme action is realistic
- A Friday/Saturday-ONLY licence is *normal* for a club venue, especially in a residential area
- Given the venue's proven inability to be respectful during the week, I would suggest either *complete removal* of a weekday licence, or that they must be shut *by 11PM*, which is again normal for a venue in a residential area (Sunday – Thursday)
- Having a potential 5AM end time *every night in a residential area* is wholly unacceptable. 3AM is normal and more than a compromise
- There should be on-going observation of the venue to ensure that they adhere to respectful operation in regards to residents. This means that they must keep the noise to a respectful level *even on Fridays and Saturdays*. This could even entail compelling them to use different and quieter/smaller equipment/speaker systems, given their current setup is excessively loud and regularly prevents sleep for residents.
- Enforcement of prevention of antisocial behaviour locally, including but not limited to:
 - Keeping people, drugs and vehicles out of the alleys and away from residents

- Controlling the exit procedure of patrons at the end of the night so they disperse away from the local high street area and don't create a loud commotion which wakes residents

Kind regards,

Martin

