

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

MINUTES of the meeting of the LICENSING COMMITTEE, which was open to the press and public held on WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE 2020 and held remotely at 7.15pm.

Present

Councillor Stamirowski (Chair), Councillor Elliott (Vice Chair) Councillors Campbell, Hordijenko, Howard, Powell and Wise

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anwar and Handley.

Also Present

Lisa Hooper - Crime, Enforcement and Regulation Manager
Petra Der Man – Lawyer

Silks 177-181 Rushey Green SE6 4BD

Applicant

Jodie Mears, Obi Egwenu and Carlos Harris

Representation

No objectors were present.

1. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 4 and 10 December 2019 be confirmed and signed.

2. Declarations of Interests

None.

3. Badger Badger 139-145 Deptford High Street SE8 3NU

This application was withdrawn.

4. Silks 177-181 Rushey Green SE6 4BD

- 4.1 The Chair welcomed all parties to the first remote meeting of the Licensing Committee. She introduced those present, and outlined the procedure to be followed for the meeting. She then invited Ms Hooper to introduce the application.

Licensing Officer

- 4.2 Ms Hooper said that members were being asked to consider an application for a new premises licence for Silks 177-181 Rushey Green SE6 4BD. She outlined the application and said that representations had been received from two interested parties on the grounds of public nuisance. Conditions had been agreed between the Police, Crime and Enforcement Officers and the applicant in order to promote the four licensing objectives. No objection had been received from any responsible authorities. She outlined the options open to members of the Committee when making their decision.

Applicant

- 4.3 Mr Harris said that he had read the objections received from local residents and intended to address these concerns in his presentation.
- 4.4 Mr Harris said that he is aware of the history of Nuvo Lounge, which was, until recently, a nightclub at 177-181 Rushey Green. The business had not been run well; security was poor. Security will be paramount at Silks; this is highlighted as one of the major concerns for local resident and businesses. There will not be any violent crime at Silks because an in-house security firm has been engaged. There will be CCTV inside and outside the premises and there will always be security.
- 4.5 I.D scanners will be installed at Silks to act as a deterrent for those considering taking part in any crime and disorder. Management will work with the local authority and neighbours. Mr Harris said that it is important to know the local community well and be able to address any concerns that they may have.
- 4.6 Mr Harris said that there had also been complaints about noise. Security will ensure that there are minimal queues outside Silks, so noise will not be heard from patrons standing outside the premises. Advice will be sought from the local authority and a 'noise limiter' will be set at the recommended level. There will be staggered dispersal at the end of the evening managed by stewards and the security team.
- 4.7 Mr Harris said that Silks will not be just a night club; it will be a bar and restaurant and there will be something to benefit all members of the community. There will be classes and he wanted the premises to be multi-functional.
- 4.8 Councillor Elliot said that residents had referred to several incidents of noise nuisance. He asked about Silks' re-entry policy and how the sound of people outside, smoking will be managed. Mr Harris said that there will not be any re-entry after 1am, although he asked not to be quoted on this time. As a business, they prefer to have patrons inside where money is made.
- 4.9 Mr Harris said that there are plans to have the smoking area at the rear of the property, rather than the front. It will not be a social area and patrons will be encouraged to go back into the premises as soon as possible. Security will be policing this area, at all times.

- 4.10 Councillor Elliott asked whether the smoking area would be close to the flats. Mr Harris said he was not sure of the exact layout at the back because of lockdown following Covid-19 pandemic. However, from memory, he believed that the nearest property is 200 yards away not including residents directly above the premises. There is also a car park a few hundred yards from the flats.
- 4.11 Councillor Elliott asked Mr Harris whether he thought that residents above Silks would be affected by the smoke rising from the smoking area. Mr Harrison did not know the measurement but said that the premises are extremely tall with space between the two. He did not believe that residents would be affected by smoking unless their windows were open at night.
- 4.12 Councillor Campbell asked about the capacity of the venue. She also said that there had been fly-tipping in the area and asked how they could prevent the situation from worsening. Mr Harris said that the capacity of Silks would be between 500-700 patrons. The rear of the smoking area will be boarded up to ensure that no one could just jump over the fence. Their rubbish will be managed on a daily basis.
- 4.13 Ms Hooper said that in the conditions already agreed, re-entry would not be permitted after 2am. Mr Harris said that re-entry would not be after 1am. She said that members may wish to adjust the agreed conditions when making their deliberations.
- 4.14 Councillor Howard said that residential flats are close to the premises and there had previously been complaints about noise from patrons. Mr Harris said that he is familiar with the previous club and aware of the problems and issues they faced. He was not surprised at the objections because, unlike the proposals for Silks, they did not have strong in-house security, who know how the business should work and know the area well. He said that management want staff and residents to feel safe.
- 4.15 Councillor Howard asked what plays would be shown. Mr Harris said that there would be more music than plays. He said that he did not want Silks to be only a night club. He had experience managing many different events. He has managed corporate and social events and wanted to create a business that is multi-functional. He anticipated catering for short and feature films as well as a nightclub and bar and restaurant.
- 4.16 Councillor Wise said that in her opinion, the dispersal of patrons causes the most problems for residents. She asked Mr Harris what policy was in place for a smooth dispersal of patrons. Mr Harris said that there would be a staggered dispersal over a period of half an hour. There would also be a staggered queuing system as patrons leave, to ensure that they leave quicker.
- 4.17 The Chair asked Mr Harris what previous experience he has had managing events. Mr Harris said that he has 14 years' experience working within the events industry. He ran parties when he was 16 years old in night clubs. Since then he has been involved in the corporate industry arranging corporate meetings and award shows. He then arranged weddings, sales meetings and exhibitions,

corporate events and award shows. Mr Harris said that he has been running night clubs for 3-4 years.

- 4.18 Ms Mears said that conditions had been agreed with re-entry until 2am. Mr Harris said that re-entry would be 1am but he had been unsure. She asked members to grant the new licence with conditions as agreed with the Police and the licensing team.
- 4.19 The Chair said that the meeting would now go into closed session. All parties would be advised of the decision within 5 working days. She thanked the applicants for attending the meeting.

5 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) of the Act, as amended by the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (Amendments) (England) Regulations 2006 and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information:

4. Silks 177-181 Rushey Green SE6 4BD

6. FK Food Centre Ltd (Catford Food Centre)

The following is a summary of the item considered in the closed part of the meeting.

4. Silks 177-181 Rushey Green SE6 4BD

RESOLVED that the application for a new premises licence be **GRANTED** subject to conditions which had been recommended by the Police and licensing officers. Granting the application, subject to these conditions, would promote the four licensing objectives.

6. FK Food Centre Ltd (Catford Food Centre) 91 Rushey Green SE6 4JD

After having regard to the compromise agreement outlined in the consent order signed by the London borough of Lewisham and FK Food Centre, it was **RESOLVED** that the licence be reinstated subject to the conditions within the consent order and that these changes will take immediate effect.

The meeting ended at 7.55pm

Chair