



LICENSING TEAM
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Safer Communities Service
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Date 14th June 2022

Dear Licensing Team,

**RE: Representation to Review Application
Ace Lounge (Formerly J6 Restaurant) – 199-201 Lewisham Way, London SE4 1UY.**

The Anti-social Behaviour and Statutory Nuisance Team within the Safer Communities Service, is aware that a review of the premises licence for Ace Lounge (formerly J6) of 199-201 Lewisham Way SE4 1UY, has been sought by the Metropolitan Police under the following grounds;

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public Safety
- The prevention of public nuisance

The review has been requested following an incident on 23rd April 2022, when a shooting occurred and resulted in a patron being injured while leaving the premises.

During the course of the Police's investigation it was established that the incident is not connected to the premises. However, it has also been established that the premises was operating outside of their permitted hours, which in turn resulted in the late dispersal of patrons who were then present when the incident occurred.

Upon reviewing our records for the last 15 months, the ASB Team have not had much involvement with the premises due to a lack of reports made directly to our Service.

We are aware that the Police were looking into a report made by a member of the public regarding a fight near the premises on 14th March 2021. Although the premises was closed at that time due to the lockdown, we are aware that the licence holder cooperated with Police and provided CCTV footage to assist them with their investigation and confirm that the premises was not involved.

On 20th September 2021, officers attended a meeting with local residents, Lewisham Council's Environmental Crime Team and a local ward Cllr regarding Lucas Street. During this meeting a range of concerns were raised, some allegedly linked to the premises. Residents at the meeting were informed that without the reports and evidence, action could not be taken.

Nonetheless, the premises was subjected to ongoing monitoring by this Service during our out of hour's noise provision.

On 15th October 2021 my colleague Richard Lockett and I attended the premises to ensure that they did not exceed their hours following the objection made by the Police to their Temporary Event Notice.

While at the location we observed the following concerns that the premises should have acted upon;

- Patrons consuming alcohol bought elsewhere before entering the premises.
- Patron permitted to leave to smoke where congregating around the entrance of the premises, obstructing the pavement.
- Empty bottles left on the ground by the premises entrance.

These concerns were raised to the licence holder and his door supervisors, who immediately started requesting smokers to cross the street to smoke and were clearing up any discarded bottles around the vicinity.

We also observed the following concerns that were not connected the premises;

- The private car park at the rear of the premises is frequented by individuals who are homeless and have substance misuse needs.
- Abandoned vehicles being used for the purpose of taking drugs
- Groups of males loitering by the park and smoking what is believed to be cannabis.
- Additional cars parking up on Lucas Street to join the males loitering and playing music.

During our visit, none of the males approached the premises to gain entry, they were seen walking past to the off licence to purchase alcohol. When this was brought to the attention of the licence holder, he advised this happens regularly, however he is blamed for the behaviour of people that are not connected to his premises.

Following our observations, a meeting was requested with the licence holder to discuss our concerns. As a result of that meeting, the attached action plan (FO/1) was implemented for a period of 3 months.

The action plan covered areas raised within the complaints received about the premises, however not witnessed by officers from this Service.

On the 19th November 2021, a visit was conducted to inspect how the premises operated in accordance with the action plan. There were no concerns observed, and the licence holder was encouraged to keep adhering to the plan and report any issues to the Police.

On 21 November 2021, a report was received via email from a local resident detailing the ASB they experience from the premises regularly between midnight and 4am. The resident went on to state that on the 19th into the 20th November 2021, they were affected by issues of noise and disorder. This behaviour was not witnessed by officers during their visit.

I have been unable to secure contact with the resident to discuss their report and my observations.

Following a series of out of hour's visits and observation of the premises, the action plan was not extended as the Service did not possess evidence to justify such measure.

There has been a range of concerns raised surrounding the premises from people taking drugs to noise disturbance. This Service has been unable to confirm that the premises is the source of all the concerns, due to the other issues listed above that were observed taking place within area.

Notwithstanding the above, concerns have been observed regarding the licence holder's ability to manage the premises, In light of the most recent breach of their premises licence, I am of the view that the following actions and measures are required to safeguard key licencing objectives;

Recommendations

- Removal of the Designated Premises Supervisor.
- The premises licence to be suspended until an appropriate DPS has been found and added to the licence (following vetting of the application by the Police).

- The times for the sale of alcohol to change for the following days:

12:00 – 00:30 Friday

12:00 – 00:30 Saturday

12:00 – 23:30 Sunday

The times for Monday – Thursday to remain the same.

- The times for regulated entertainment to change for the following days:

23:00 – 00:30 Friday

23:00 – 00:30 Saturday

23:00 – 23:30 Sunday

The times for Monday – Thursday to remain the same.

- The removal of the seasonal variation

In addition of the above actions, we would like to see the following conditions added to the premises licence:

- All door supervisors must be employed from a company approved and accredited by the SIA.
- No patron under the age of 21 is to be allowed on the premises.
- A computer based identification entry system (ID scan system) shall be installed and maintained to the satisfaction of the Police.
- When the premises is open beyond midnight all persons (including promoters and DJ'S and staff) entering the premises after 22:00 hrs and when the premises are conducting licensable activities must have their personal details recorded by the ID Scan system. This condition applies whether the premises are open to the public or in use for a private event.
- The ID Scanner must record a visual image of the person producing identification, an image of that identification, and the time of entry. This information must be made available to police or any authorised Officer of the Council on request.
- In the event of a system malfunction, action must be taken immediately to rectify the fault.
- Any person wishing to re-enter the premises after leaving (for whatever reason) shall be subject to these Entry and ID Scan conditions.

These measures are considered proportionate, as this Service has exhausted all advice and guidance that can be provided to premises.

Should the Committee agree with the above recommendations, it will equip the establishment better in taking a proactive approach to sustaining their business and mitigating further concerns around their ability to safeguard licensing objectives.

Yours Sincerely

F. Olaniran

Frank Olaniran

Safer Communities Senior Officer

Anti-Social Behaviour and Statutory Nuisance

Safer Communities Service