

## **Objection 1**

### **J6 Restaurant 199-201 Lewisham Way SE4 1UY - Notice of Application for a Review of Premises Licence**

I wish to make a representation regarding the above application, as per the notice that has been posted on the door of the premises known as Ace Lounge, on the corner of Lewisham Way and Lucas Street.

My husband and I have lived nearby for the last few years and have suffered from endless disturbance from the premises in question throughout that time, up until very recently and including during the height of the Covid lockdown, when Ace Lounge shouldn't have been open and encouraging people to gather.

Over and over again customers of this business have woken us and our children in the early hours (after 1am, long after closing time for most local pubs and bars), screaming and carrying on in the street and parking here, there and everywhere and showing not the slightest consideration for residents.

On numerous occasions there have been brawls and altercations. The police have been called upon regularly and multiple people in the local area have made multiple complaints to both the police and the council about both the excessive litter and behaviour of those who patronise the venue.

The licensee of the premises seems to change periodically but the problems remain the same. Their opening hours and the behaviour of their clientele are simply not compatible with a residential area, especially not one with a primary school. The recent stabbing was the final straw.

I would strongly urge that no licence whatsoever be granted to these premises.

## **Objection 2**

Hello

I am writing in regards to the restaurant/ night club by the name of Ace lounge on the corner of Lewisham way and Lucas street.

We are residents on Lucas street and are very concerned about the effects the establishment has on our local community.

We are regularly disturbed at night time by noise coming from people who park on the road and visit ace lounge. Alcohol bottles, cans and other food rubbish being left on the pavement.

This is a residential area with no other night time establishment nearby except for local pubs which close at 11pm.

A night club which ace lounge is, is definitely not appropriate in this family friendly and otherwise quiet area.

In the last few years we have witnessed the aftermath of a stabbing and recently a shooting right outside ace lounge.

I have 3 school aged children, and worry about their safety and the scenes they might be exposed to when passing the area on a Sunday morning.  
I also worry about myself walking home later at night and having to worry that there might be a fight on my road.

I hope you will take mine and other residents views into account when deciding whether to grant a new license.

### **Objection 3**

I would like to congratulate and support The Metropolitan Police for calling this licensing review of the premises at 199 Lewisham Way.

The management have consistently and repeatedly shown a total disregard for the safety of their customers and the public by not providing appropriate security or crowd control at the entrance of the 'club'. The name of the establishment has changed several times and used the word 'restaurant' but I am under no illusion that a nightclub is being run there. Before opening large crowds often gather on the junction of Lucas Street and Lewisham Way without any security staff, barriers or queuing system being implemented. I have seen young people spill onto Lewisham Way causing normal motorists to swerve, stop or honk their horns. This is not upholding Public Safety, it is creating danger and a nuisance. This lack of oversight encourages and contributes to a sense of disorder and there is nothing in place to prevent petty crime. When this crime escalated to five shots of gunfire on 23rd April 2022 I was not surprised.

I have been disturbed numerous times by shouting, swearing and fighting outside the venue. I have never seen staff intervene or encourage customers to leave quietly. This raucous noise in the middle of the night constitutes a public nuisance which the management of this establishment do nothing to prevent. They show no regard at all for their neighbors or local residents.

Customers park on residential streets nearby and often stand by their cars smoking, drinking and chatting with their car engines running and stereos playing loudly. This public nuisance is compounded by the cans, bottles and empty cigarette packets found outside my house on a Sunday morning after the club has been open.

The licensee has made no effort to prevent crime and disorder, encourage public safety or prevent public nuisance. There has been no investment made to manage his customers either before or after their time in his premises.

My wife has suggested that I include her observations from the night of the shooting. As a medical professional she left our house just after 3am fully expecting to administer CPR based on the screaming and confusion on Lewisham Way. She asked crying and distressed girls nearby if they were ok and noted that several of the girls appeared to be under the age of 18. The bouncer crossed the road from the club and told my wife and the shocked, shaking girls that it was a car back firing and there was nothing to worry about. My wife is concerned that the licensing objective of 'protecting

children from harm' is being ignored and IDs and ages are not being checked on the door prior to entry.

To conclude I would strongly support the license being revoked completely.

#### **Objection 4**

I wish to let you know that I support The Metropolitan Police for the licensing review of the venue at 199 Lewisham Way.

Me and my family gave found this venue to be a dangerous area that we avoid when it's especially open.

We have walked past and seen strange going's on such as what appears to be drug dealing. One early evening my young niece saw a car door open with what looked like someone passed out or what she thought looked dead, not s nice image for a child!

The people who run it appear to have absolutely no disregard for the safety of their young customers and the public by not providing appropriate security or crowd control at the entrance of the 'club'. There always seem to be fights or ties outside keeping locals wanting to avoid the area

My family have numerous times heard shouting, swearing and fighting outside the venue. I have never seen staff intervene or encourage customers to leave quietly.

From my personal observations the club and bouncers are not checking IDs thoroughly and are not concerned about under age youngsters being allowed entry

To conclude I would strongly support the license being revoked completely.

#### **Objection 5**

I am writing in regards to the club on 199 Lewisham Way review.

Observing from outside there is often overcrowding, pushing, shoving and loud shouting at the door. There is never sufficient security staff or management so that young people spill onto the main carriageway of Lewisham Way causing the traffic to swerve or stop, which can be very dangerous . There is often screaming, throwing things around, fights break out and with the shooting in April it is simply frightening,

The presence of this club is disruptive , scary and we really do feel unsafe. I was even wary of writing this email for fear of retaliation by the owners of the club

#### **Objection 6**

Review J6 199 Lewisham Way

I am writing to address the licensing review of 199 Lewisham Way. As a member of the local community I am troubled by the issues surrounding this establishment. First of all, on Fridays and Saturdays there is a certain level of disorder and disruption that is dangerous on that busy road and negatively affects the other businesses that are adjacent.

There are reports of criminal activity surrounding this business, lax security that allow underage patrons within the property and a general disregard for respectable noise levels in a public space. Large fights and arguments regularly spill from the establishment in question.

So in summary I support the revoking of the licence of 199 Lewisham Way due to their failure as a licensed club to upkeep the basic licensing objectives of 1. The prevention of crime and disorder. 2. Public safety. 3. The prevention of public nuisance and 4. The protection of children from harm!

### **Objection 7**

**From:** Penfold, Cllr Stephen

**Sent:** 11 June 2022 11:37

**To:** Licensing

**Cc:** Eiles, Cllr Sian; Lahai-Taylor, Cllr Ayesha; Wise, Cllr Susan

**Subject:** Ace Lounge 199 - 201 Lewisham Way SE4 1UY Premises Licence PL 1255

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am one of the three councillors for Brockley Ward. The Ace Lounge, situated on the corner of Lewisham Way and Lucas Street is within my ward. I was first elected in 2018. The other two councillors for Brockley ward were elected in May 2022 and so I am the only Councillor who was in office during the period relevant to this matter.

The Ace Lounge was, when I was first elected, known as the J6 restaurant. It changed its name a couple years ago.

I believe that the owners are the same and its Facebook page continues to use the J6 name and logo.

The Ace Lounge is a late night entertainment venue. It has various forms of entertainment, parties, strippers and musical acts. I don't particularly have any issue with what goes on within the Ace Lounge providing it is within the terms of their license. I support the night time economy and I strongly believe that people should be able to go out and have a good time and let their hair down. The problem for the Ace Lounge is that it is located in a residential area. This means that the right to have a good time and party has to be offset against the effect it has on the neighbourhood.

The Ace Lounge is either unwilling or unable to do anything to control the behaviour of their customers. This has the effect of making a misery of the lives of the people who live nearby. There is a row of maisonettes above the parade of shops in which the Ace Lounge is situated and there are residential blocks of flats to the north and the east of the Ace Lounge.

The problems occur on a Friday and [Saturday night](#), going into [Saturday](#) and [Sunday morning](#). Customers leave the Ace Lounge between about [1.30am](#) and [3am](#). They make a huge amount of noise in the street, there is; shouting, music blaring from car radios, cars driving off loudly, people urinating on the street and even fighting. People in the maisonettes and other blocks are regularly awoken in the early hours of the morning by this behaviour. There is also a private car park behind the row of shops which the customers of Ace Lounge use, which is right underneath the maisonettes.

I first became aware of Ace Lounge, then J6 Restaurant, in 2019 when constituents raised with me overflowing bins from the restaurant spilling out onto the public highway and waste food, believed to be meat, being thrown in to an area gated off by the restaurant but causing liquid, believed to be

blood, onto the street. I understand that the restaurant was fined as a result of this behaviour.

I first became aware of issues with the behaviour of the Lounge's clientele in 2021. I understand that the issues have gone on for many years, but it was only brought to my attention in 2021. Since that time I have been sent photos and video footages and crime reference numbers evidencing acts of antisocial behaviour by Ace Lounge customers on at least 20 different dates.

I also understand that the Lounge repeatedly opened in contravention of the lockdown regulations, resulting them in being fined.

Matters continued in 2022 and I believe this has been extensively detailed by one of the residents of the maisonettes who has made a submission against the Ace Lounge's licence being reinstated.

Matters finally came to a head on the early morning of 23 April 2022 when a teenage girl was shot in the street next to the Ace Lounge. The involvement of Ace Lounge is unclear, but I understand that the woman had visited Ace Lounge earlier that evening. Certainly, the existence of Ace Lounge and its laissez-faire attitude towards its customers behaviour, encourages and facilitates antisocial behaviour, to a level which is completely unacceptable. In short, without Ace Lounge, none of this would be happening.

There is a balance to be struck between the right of people to have a good time and the right of people to be able to live in peace and quiet. I believe in this case the detriment to the residents living around Ace Lounge is so extreme that it outweighs the right of people to enjoy themselves.

I'm coming to this conclusion, I'm taking into account the fact that this antisocial behaviour has gone on for years, that it occurs most weekends and that the restaurant has been fined and warned and yet has done nothing to rectify the situation

I understand that when deciding whether to grant or refuse a licence, the decision maker has four criteria to consider:

1. Prevention of Crime and Disorder
2. Prevention of Public Nuisance
3. Public Safety
4. Protection of children from harm

I believe that over the last few years the Ace Lounge being licensed has resulted in crime and disorder, there has been public nuisance on an almost industrial scale, and there has been public safety issues. Therefore, after considering this matter and considering all the evidence I ask that Ace Lounge's licence is not reinstated.

Kind regards,

Stephen Penfold

One of 3 Labour Councillors for Brockley Ward

## Objection 8

Re: Review of Premises Licence PL 1255 in respect of J6 Restaurant, 199-201 Lewisham Way, London, SE4 1UY (now called Ace Lounge)

I am writing to object to Premises Licence for the J6 restaurant (Ace Lounge). I am aware my objection must promote one of the 3 stated licencing objectives and the ones I base my objection on are:

1. The prevention of crime and disorder
2. The prevention of public nuisance and public safety

I live extremely close to the Ace Lounge. I have lived at my current address for 8 years now and this premises brings nothing but violent crime and anti social behaviour to the area when it is open. I am sure you are well aware of the of the multiple complaints and calls to police over the years regarding the behaviour of the people that attend this premises. Over the years there have been stabbings, countless fights and most recently a young girl was shot!! I have called the police too many times to mention regarding this issues from this premises. I even called several times during lockdown when it was open.

When this club/restaurant is open I know for a fact that I will not get a good nights sleep. I am a disabled resident and on lots of medication which helps me sleep every night except the nights when this premises is open. The people who attend this venue make so much noise from about midnight to 4.30am some mornings when they leave very drunk. They park in the private carpark at the side of my building/bedroom window and in front of my block, so I am surrounded my by their cars from which they blast their music with the doors open, it seems like in competition with each other to see who can play the loudest music with the most base. The behaviour of the people who attend this premises is despicable. they are on the street and in the car park still drinking, taking drugs and urinating all over the place. I cannot continue to live like this every weekend as it is having such a negative effect on my health. I wouldn't even feel safe enough to approach the attendees to ask politely of they could keep the noise down as they are so intimidating in their groups.

The small block I live in has several families with young children and they are all disturbed by the noise every weekend. I have spoken to the manager of this premises and his security staff several times asking them to try to control the noise levels when the venue closes but the security staff have said that it is not their job and that once the people are out of the club they are not their responsibility. The manager of the club can be very aggressive calling me racist and telling me to live somewhere else. So I no longer try to communicate with either of them as I feel intimidated and unsafe. On lots of occasions the management and security have gone home and the attendees are still in the street causing havoc.

When the Ace Lounge is not open this is such a peaceful area to live. We have no issues with noise or violent behaviour outside our homes. I believe with certainty that the patrons of the Ace Lounge are responsible for the anti-social behaviour.

When the club closes and the attendees eventually leave the street they leave such a mess behind of broken bottles, loads of laughing gas canisters and not to mention the stench of urine. Next to my block is a primary school and with all this mess left behind this is not a safe environment for young children to be walking through to go to school on a Monday morning. This causes an issue with public safety and public nuisance.

Based on all the issues that have been raised by myself and other residents in the area I urge the committee to reject this premises licence.

## **Objection 9**

We have received a petition signed by 12 resident

The petition is signed and dated on each page and shows the premises address

Each page states the following:

We, the undersigned occupants of the residential accommodation in the immediate vicinity of the Ace Lounge, 199 – 201 Lewisham Way London SE4 1UY, note that the Ace Lounge has been a cause and hub of anti-social behaviour for many years now. This anti-social behaviour usually occurs in the early hours of a Saturday or Sunday morning, causing us anxiety and depriving us of sleep. The Police have been called and attended on numerous occasions.

Matters came to a head on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 when at about 3am a young woman was shot in Lucas Street.

We call on the Council to liaise with the Police to apply for a closure order, so that the Ace Lounge is shut down with immediate effect.

## **Objection 10**

I am writing to oppose the (re-)granting of a licence to the Ace Lounge at 199 Lewisham Way.

I live nearby and the premises are a nuisance. They do not take seriously their responsibility to their clients or the wider community, with people often hanging out in the street and spilling out drunk into the middle of a busy road. There is frequently noise and congestion outside as people park their cars illegally outside the premises with the apparent approval of the proprietors. Every weekend the road outside is littered with rubbish, bottles, plastic, that are a public nuisance. The premises have been the site of violence and the risks of crime mean that members of the public are put at risk.

## **Objection 11**

Re: Review of Premises Licence PL 1255 in respect of J6 Restaurant, 199-201 Lewisham Way, London SE4 1UY (now called Ace Lounge).

We are writing to once again object to the possibility of a new Premises Licence for the J6 Restaurant. The basis for this objection is that granting a licence for this premises may not promote one of more of the 3 stated licencing objectives which are: the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance and public safety.

We are close neighbours of J6 Restaurant, which is now called Ace Lounge. Since moving above this "restaurant" in 2015, there has been a history of violent crime and anti-social behaviour which we have voiced in letters to the Licencing Department

dated 22-11-2016 and more recently 6-8-2018. In 2016, the restaurant was called the Curve Bar. In 2018 the name had been changed to J6 Restaurant and now it is The Ace Lounge.

Each time, the complaints are the same, the restaurant operates as before, and it is only the name which changes.

In the last 2 years alone, we have rung and complained to the police 20 times. The dates and details are at the bottom of this email. Where either G or R is mentioned after the date, it relates to either R or G who have called the police on that occasion.

We are both exhausted by the ongoing situation relating to this premises. The number of incidents shows that management fail to protect public safety while door staff are woefully ineffective in calming down noisy revellers when they leave the restaurant thereby waking up the entire neighbourhood, usually at around 2.30 or 3am on a Friday and Saturday night.

The managers of the venue itself do not seem to care what happens in the immediate area once their patrons have left the premises. In fact, there seems to be a total lack of responsibility on their part or whether they even have the capacity, desire, or willingness to address these types of anti-social behaviour demonstrated by their patrons as they arrive but more so when they leave.

When the Ace Lounge empties out, drunken noisy youths sit in their cars in Lewisham Way in the bus lane with their doors open and music blaring out, honking their horns, shouting, and sometimes fighting. Young women scream and laugh loudly egging these men on. This regularly goes on for around an hour and nearly always wakes us up although we are many floors above the disturbance.

It is worth mentioning that on other nights of the week (when the Ace Lounge is closed), neither we, nor our neighbours, are bothered by any of this type of behaviour, leading to my certainty that it is the patrons of the Ace who are responsible for this anti-social behaviour.

Not only are the patrons noisy and inconsiderate, but they are rather intimidating in their behaviour. .... and when I am walking home on a weekend evening around 11.30pm, I dread passing the corner of the venue as it feels unsafe for single women to pass as there are often groups of young men loitering rather aggressively.

There have been many incidences where there have been repeated failures to prevent public nuisance. These regular occurrences mean that empty wine and beer bottles are discarded outside the premises.

In the private car park area directly behind the premises, cars park inappropriately blocking access. In this car park also, people urinate (and worse) take drugs and create noise.

Cars are also parked up and down Lucas Street and on Lewisham Way, in the bus lane.

As there are regular tussles, broken beer bottles and laughing gas canisters have been found around the vicinity of the premises.

The laughing gas canisters cause a danger also to the recycling team who are at risk of serious harm if they collect bins with empty canisters inside as these could result in an explosion.

Broken glass obviously poses a serious health hazard to all concerned especially to young children as there is a local primary school nearby in Lucas Vale. There is also a park locally (Friendly gardens) where young children play. Of our immediate neighbours in the maisonettes above the shops where we live, there are families and 5 young children who should not have to grow up around these dangerous conditions. To protect children from harm, the licence must be rejected due to the similarity of the business being operated to previous incarnations.

More seriously, the area around the Ace was cordoned off in April 2022 as it had become a crime scene when a young woman ended up in hospital. The local police can verify as to how many times they have attended and the Licencing Dept can check their own records as to how many reviews have taken place.

We urge the committee to reject this premises licence based on the representations made above. We are happy to discuss this in person if it helps.

## **Objection 12**

We have personally witnessed the following:

- People urinating up against the wall at the top of Lucas Street and just round the corner into the car park.
- Cars parked dangerously up on the pavement and on the red route markings at the top of Lucas Street, or driving onto the pavement (to park) while pedestrians are there.
- Vast amounts of rubbish left in the immediate surroundings the morning after parties there, including laughing gas canisters and broken glass. This is just where primary school children have to pass through.
- The aftermath of the shooting on 23 April which caused considerable anxiety for residents about safety, as well as inconvenience due to the roads being closed afterwards.

Thank you for your consideration.

## **Objection 13**

I would like to congratulate and support The Metropolitan Police for calling this licensing review of the premises at 199 Lewisham Way.

The management have consistently and repeatedly shown a total disregard for the safety of their young customers and the public by not providing appropriate security or crowd control at the entrance of the 'club'. The name of the establishment has changed several times and used the word 'restaurant' but I am under no illusion that a nightclub is being run there. Before opening large crowds often gather on the junction of Lucas Street and Lewisham Way without any security staff, barriers or queuing system being implemented. I have seen young people spill onto Lewisham Way causing normal motorists to swerve, stop or honk their horns. This is not upholding Public Safety, it is

creating danger and a nuisance. This lack of oversight encourages and contributes to a sense of disorder and there is nothing in place to prevent petty crime. When this crime escalated to five shots of gunfire on 23rd April 2022 I was not surprised but deeply worried for my young family trying to sleep nearby.

Early in the morning between 2-4am I have been woken numerous times by shouting, swearing and fighting outside the venue. I have never seen staff intervene or encourage customers to leave quietly. This raucous noise in the middle of the night constitutes a public nuisance which the management of this establishment do nothing to prevent. They show no regard at all for their neighbors or local residents.

Customers park on residential streets nearby and often stand by their cars smoking, drinking and chatting with their cars engines running and stereos playing loudly. This public nuisance is compounded by the cans, bottles and empty cigarette packets that my young daughters find strewn outside our house on a Sunday morning.

The licensee has made no effort to prevent crime and disorder, encourage public safety or prevent public nuisance. There has been no investment made to manage his customers either before or after their time in his premises.

#### **Objection 14**



6 June 2022

Angela Mullin-Murrell  
Safer Communities Officer  
Lewisham Council

Dear Ms. Mullin-Murrell,

I am writing on behalf of St. Peter's Brockley church, in my role as Love Brockley lead and as a representative member on the Brockley Ward Panel.

As a church community we have become aware of some of the anti-social behaviour occurring on Lucas Street and in and around the Tanner's Hill Estate and we have been investing time speaking to residents and other stakeholders in the area. We are also formed a group beginning to look at what we can do to positively impact young people in our area, and to have an influence on youth violence in Lewisham.

As such, we would support the Metropolitan Police's review of the premises license for J6 Restaurant at 199-201 Lewisham Way, SE4 1UY. We have been concerned about the influence this premises has been allowed to have on the young people in our community and we would be very interested to see the space used in a way which benefits them instead.

In speaking to the Chair of the Tanner's Hill Residents Association and to a teacher at the Addey and Stanhope school, we understand that there was once a youth club operating in the area but that it had its funding withdrawn. We would love to see there be a provision of a safe and nurturing place in which young people in the area could receive mentoring and support. A shop on the high street would be a wonderful place for something like this to happen.

Thank you for taking our concern into account. We would welcome further discussion on the matter.