



PL - Lewisham Borough

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Your ref:

Our ref:

14th March 2023

Dear Licensing Team,

I have received a Temporary Events Notice for an event to be held on the weekend of the Coronation of King Charles on dates 5th to 7th May 2023, outside the location at 12a Upper Brockley Road SE4 1SX. The Applicant is Stanford Brown who is a business owner of a Health Food shop, in Upper Brockley Road.

The Temporary Event Notice is for Regulated Entertainment Only.

I wish to object to this TEN. The event is being planned for the dates of 5th May, 6th May and 7th May 2023 and the request was to allow a gathering / street party event in a Public Road where General Public have complete access. The hours on the application submitted are between 10am to Midnight daily for the 3 days states that No Alcohol will be served and the application is for Regulated Entertainment Only.

Firstly, I am surprised that any event that is being planned to Celebrate a Coronation of a new King would seek Regulated Entertainment, without Alcohol being planned for.

Although the times stated are not deemed to be the biggest concern, control and formal planning for such an event that involves the possible Closure of a Road, such as Upper Brockley Road, without any Confirmation of permission from Land owner or Highways would impact the local community massively. Police at this time have not seen any permission from the land owners being submitted with this application to show permissions have been obtained correctly.

This event labelled as "Planning a street event outside my shop" has raised serious concerns around who this may affect and restrict. It is essential in any planned event such as this to ensure that Land owners/ Highways grant permission to use the street in such a way. There is no mention in the application of official road closures being in place or permission granted. This road is a very narrow one way street with very limited and tight areas in which to park for residents and may have a huge impact on the local residents and access to the properties. In being a one way road clarity is needed around

how emergency vehicles can get to residential properties in this road in the event of a call out.

The street is also predominantly a Residential street with a school to one side, and although the school will be closed for the time of the TEN, my concerns are for local residents to access their properties and limit the disturbances in this residential street. There is very limited parking in the road and surrounding streets making it cramped and tight when nothing is planned. With the possibility of 100's attending this would bring more traffic and parked vehicles to an already densely populated area.

Another major factor is reading the application that's been formally submitted it appears that no numbers of people have been written in or stated. Any Temporary Event Notice must conform to no more than 499 persons legally, and this has not been put on the application. In light of this, no such plans have been made for the events size or how to control the size of this event growing to unmanageable size. It's a residential street with no boundaries or fencing up and no way of restricting its numbers to give any assurances that numbers will not exceed the 499 permitted, impacting on police resourcing to control.

The weekend being a Bank Holiday to hold the Kings Coronation will see London placing unprecedented demands on all emergency services on the borough. Police will be vastly reduced numbers on boroughs with the amount of organised events taking place and demands for Police numbers in Central London being called for. In fact, the demand for all emergency services will be stretched to breaking point. It has to be factored in that any event being planned will require proper planning in order to control its numbers and reduce the possible demand on Police numbers, not addressed in this application.

It is Police opinion that the location is a very small compact area, a one way road off the main A20 trunk road into London, and the main road is always extremely busy. Any event that has a large number attending will blocking the one way access to residents and emergency vehicles and will cause a Safety risk to the local residents. It will in turn restrict the community and residents that this event is being held in.

The premises that is applying for this event is not a Licenced premises. Therefore, not practiced in managing such events. It is listed as a Health food shop and it is difficult to imagine with such celebrations, such as a Coronation, an application seeking to have just Regulated Entertainment and not stating numbers, but could potentially have large crowds gathering, and how Alcohol could not become an added issue. This location has various shops and businesses surrounding it that are authorised to sell alcohol and this may become problematic to control.

Police Licensing would need to be satisfied that as well as the permission to officially close the road, that numbers could be controlled to prevent them swelling beyond controllable amounts, impacting the area. This application has no mention of stewards or organisations to ensure safety of the public or show any control of its numbers if it was to get near to the maximum permitted of 499 persons. The application itself states it "Depends on how many turn up", is a comment made that also shows no idea towards planning for numbers or expectations in attendance.

The location of this planned event is predominantly in a residential area, that does have a large amounts of localised issues and Crime. Anti-Social behaviour, Thefts from motor vehicles, drugs and knife crime that already impact the local residents enough without introducing an event that could bring an increase in revellers that could increase problems around Crime and disorder. The road is surrounded by premises such as The Flower of Kent Pub, The Wickham Arms Pub, The Royal George Pub and Aces Lounge/J6, now known as Lounge 88 that have all impacted on the areas ASB.

Stating that it only requires regulated entertainment and not planning for Alcohol to be introduced is unrealistic and would suggest that the street party may cause reason for concern.

On conducting a check of the area over the last 2-3 months has highlighted various issues around Crime taking place and the list of Cads and incidents is clear that this is already suffering with a lack of Police numbers being put in to the area and adding events with more numbers will only increase this.

Cads –

3802/08MAR23 – Suspicious behaviour reported.

4005/16FEB23 – Suspect arrested possession of knife.

PLZS00102417 – Stop and search of suspect found in possession of drugs

Crime report 3204317/23 dated 15/02/2023 Criminal damage to vehicle.

Crime report 3203730/23 dated 11/02/2023 Theft of m/v

Crime report 3232293/23 dated 07/02/2023 Arrest handling stolen goods

Cad 6270/18JAN23 Theft of m/v

Cad 750/05JAN23 Suspicious Circumstances.

Crime report 3200607/23 drugs possession caution.

On top of the issues above relating to crimes that have taken place I am aware that the Local Authority have had reason to speak to the same applicant at the premises called Safika regarding issues around noise at some point LA Enforcement Officer Olaniran has served an Abatement notice on the applicant and the premises where there had been reported Noise issues and the same local was in Breach of a CPW. This also shows that colleagues from enforcement have had to deal with various issues relating to noise complaints and reports from neighbours, questioning the premise and the owner's general behaviour towards the local community.

I object on grounds of an increase in Crime and Disorder and Public Safety.

For your consideration

Regards

Simon Butler

Police Licensing Officer for Lewisham Borough

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