



PL - Lewisham Borough

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Your ref:

Our ref:

18th August 2023

Dear Licensing Team,

I have received a Temporary Events Notice on 15th August 2023 for an event to be held on the 27th August 2023 at Deptford Market Square outside The Albany, Douglas Way SE8.

This Ten is asking for Alcohol and Regulated Entertainment for 400 persons for a community event to take place between 1100hrs and 2300hrs on 27th August 2023.

Police wish to object to this TEN on the grounds of

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

Preserve Public Safety

Prevention of Public Nuisance

This event is planned for Sunday August Bank holiday weekend when Police resources on London boroughs will be at its minimum due to Policing the Notting Hill Carnival. This is the biggest street Carnival in the capital and requires a considerable police presence, meaning that policing numbers on local boroughs will be at its worst levels during a year.

This event planned in the application makes no reference to any Land owner granting permission for the event on the intended site where the festivities are to be held. The application makes no reference to Highways, Council departments or any private Land owner granting use of the land for the festivities to take place.

On 18th August at lunchtime a call was made to speak to the events organiser, Mr Owen George Baker to ask who owns the land and he replied the council, yet having spoken to the processing officer they didn't believe that Council owned this piece of land intended to be used. This makes this matter very difficult to support this application as it currently stands.

The application also makes no reference to how numbers are going to be controlled and any possible stewarding for such a crowd of 400 that may attend. Police point out that this area in Deptford is an extremely popular walk through from housing estates to all the business's and shops in Deptford High street and it is also unknown if the market will be operating at the times this function will be operating.

Due to the market squares openness and position it is unclear how numbers would be controlled with No reference to stewards, SIA or written in the application of fencing that will be used to cordon off for the event. It is a concern for Police that numbers could swell to exceed the 400 planned and even over the permitted maximum of 499 for a Temporary Events Notice to be legally authorised.

Again a phone call was made to Mr Baker asking him about stewards and he stated that he thought 12 stewards would be in attendance. The application does nothing to support that any control will be in place, no mention of SIA security and training that any stewards may have. This being the case and with concerns around safety with numbers and people attending and adequate control over exact numbers and security in place this application cannot be supported by Police at this time. This event in its location requires better planning and security/stewarding and some kind of invite system or ticket selling that appears to have not taken place.

It appears to be depending on people randomly turning up and into a location that would be causing concern and increase the noise levels that again have not been stated will be controlled.

Although police wish to support what has been described as a cultural event, for the community and celebration of music, this timing and location would appear to be unsuitable with a lack of planning for safety taken into consideration. Events already being held over this weekend in Notting Hill itself.

As with any event police have concerns over pushing crowds and gangs of people wishing to join in without proper forms of safety for the numbers being introduced.

An increase in Ant-social behaviour permitting 400 to drink Alcohol in a confined area with possible inadequate toilet facilities or even first aid being mentioned at all.

Market Square and Douglas Way have always been a problematic area for street drinkers, beggars, drug dealing and police believe this event will do nothing to assist with the issues this area already have, over a weekend when police numbers will be woefully low. In the event of any problems starting with fights it would leave a lack of policing resources to put into this event when the eyes will be on policing Notting Hill street festival, and with no exact numbers of adequate stewards or SIA being put into this application there is no evidence that this event has been planned sufficiently to be supported by police at this time.

Police believe it will increase calls to authorities in noise nuisance complaints, increase alcohol consumption with no controls into an area suffering very badly with these issues already. Permitting this event to run alongside all the licenced premises over a Bank holiday weekend is asking for a situation that could easily get out of control.

One situation that had occurred to Police licensing that within a 2-3 minute walk Market yard itself is licenced with controls already in its licensing conditions could have been considered.

Although the times stated are not deemed to be the biggest of concerns, control and formal planning for such an event that involves the possible Closure of Douglas Way and access for residents to its high street with large crowds is not a good idea, without any Confirmation of permission from Land owner or Highways would impact the local community massively.

While speaking to Mr Baker he has suggested that he has worked with Police in times gone by with events he has arranged in the community. He stated he has worked with Sgt Jim Abbot when he was Police Licensing. However, I have to take the application on its face value and deem this too much of a risk a lack of information in order to support this event on many grounds. Sgt Abbott was Police Licensing Officer some 9-10 years ago and I have no records for any previous work that Mr Baker may have done to support such events.

In the current climate with the application with too many issues that concern public safety, noise nuisance and the increase in possible crime and disorder at this stage Police have to put these concerns above history in previous events going back over a decade.

As Police have to draw a balance of what is considered safe and the application has many points highlighted in this Objection that raise concerns police that committee members need to consider.

For your consideration

Regards

Simon Butler

Police Licensing Officer for Lewisham Borough

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