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Your ref: Olivers food 4 life

14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Oliver's food 4 life 12 Brockley Cross Brockley SE4 1BE

Lewisham Police Licensing acknowledge receipt of an application for a new premises licence for a food takeaway and delivery with an events space in the basement. The proposed operating hours range from 9am through to 2am the following day. Alcohol will be on sale from 12pm to 2am. It is unknown what the proposed capacity will be for the basement area.

Police would like to object to this application under the following Licensing objectives:

Public safety  
Prevent Public Nuisance

After considering the application, conditions offered by the applicant and taking into account the proposed use for this venue it would appear that although the applicant is stating this is to be a take away restaurant they appear to place much more emphasis on the use of the basement as an events space.

The proposed use for this space is for live music, recorded music, late night refreshment, alcohol, films, later nights for Christmas Eve, New Years Eve, Easter Monday and Sunday, and Jamaican independence. With finishing times of 2am.

The police have concerns that the basement is not a suitable events space due to the size, lack of windows and doors and entry and egress routes. Also having a kitchen in an area with a lack of entry and egress routes and poor ventilation.

Police have been unable to view the premise in a timely manner as the applicant has been in hospital and was not available for a visit in the weeks suggested by the police. The local authority have however managed to visit and have stated the basement is not very big. Approximately 8 metres by 3 metres with stairs going down into the basement from the shop and another flight of stairs leading to the outside. The plans provided by the applicant do not show doors or windows and do show a kitchen in the basement.

Police have concerns that if there was a fire at the premise people would be trapped in the basement or trampled in a stampede to escape or overcome by smoke inhalation.

With regard to noise and nuisance the area is also densely populated with flats above the row of shops and terraced houses along from the venue on all sides.

The venue itself has a pedestrian crossing directly outside and this is a cause for concern with delivery drivers. Will they be on scooters? Where will they park? Will they be parking on the pavement directly outside the venue?

It does not appear the applicant has sought advice from The London Fire Brigade with regard to the use of the basement as an events space with a kitchen nor have they really explained how the basement will be used in terms of capacity.

Given the potential risk to life should there be a fire in the basement police believe both of these should be explored further.

Kind regards

PC Gillian Pearce  
Licensing Officer Lewisham

