

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 8 October 2020	Meeting Name: Licensing Sub-Committee
Report title:		Licensing Act 2003: Alexis Suya Grill (formally Samkal), 165 Southampton Way, London SE5 7EJ	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		St Giles Ward	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure6.	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the licensing sub-committee considers an application submitted by Madeline Moxham and George Foster under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) for the review of the premises licence held by Sohail Khan in respect of the premises known as Alexis Suya Grill (formally Samkal), 165 Southampton Way, London SE5 7EJ.
2. Notes:
 - a) The grounds for the review are stated in paragraphs 12 to 15 of this report. A copy of the premises licence review application is attached as Appendix A.
 - b) The review application is supported by representations submitted by a local resident and the Licensing Authority in their roles as Responsible Authority. Copies of the representations are attached as Appendices B and C. Details of the representations are provided in paragraphs 16 to 19.
 - c) A copy of the current premises licence issued in respect of the premises is attached to this report as Appendix D. A map of the area that the premises are located in is attached as Appendix F.
 - d) A copy of the council's approved procedure for hearings of the sub-committee in relation to an application made under the Licensing Act 2003, along with a copy of the hearing regulations, has been circulated to all parties to the meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Licensing Act 2003

3. The Licensing Act 2003 provides a licensing regime for:
 - The sale of and supply of alcohol
 - The provision of regulated entertainment
 - The provision of late night refreshment.
4. Within Southwark, the licensing responsibility is wholly administered by this council.
5. The Act requires the licensing authority to carry out its functions under the Act with a view to promoting the four stated licensing objectives. These are:
 - The prevention of crime and disorder
 - The promotion of public safety
 - The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.

6. In carrying out its licensing functions, a licensing authority must also have regard to:
 - The Act itself
 - The guidance to the act issued under Section 182 of the Act
 - Secondary regulations issued under the Act
 - The licensing authority's own statement of licensing policy
 - The application, including the operating schedule submitted as part of the application
 - Relevant representations.
7. The applications process involves the provision of all relevant information required under the Act to the licensing authority with copies provided by the applicant to the relevant responsible bodies. The application must also be advertised at the premises and in the local press. The responsible authorities and other persons within the local community may make representations on any part of the application where relevant to the four licensing objectives.
8. The premises licence once issued remains valid for the life of the business unless surrendered or revoked. However, under section 51 of the Act it remains open to any Responsible Authority or other person to apply to the local Licensing Authority for a review of the premises licence where there are ongoing concerns regarding one or more of the four stated licensing objectives.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The premises licence

9. The premises licence allows the provision of licensable activities as follows:
 - The sale of alcohol to be consumed on the premises:
 - Monday to Sunday: 11:00 to 00:00
 - The provision of late night refreshment (indoors):
 - Monday to Sunday: 23:00 to 00:00
 - Opening hours:
 - Monday to Sunday 00:00 to 00:30
10. The licence is subject to the mandatory conditions set down under the Act and further conditions consistent with the operating schedule submitted with the application for the licence. A copy of the full premises licence is attached as Appendix D.

Designated premises supervisor (DPS)

11. The current designated premises supervisor (DPS) named on the licence is Alex Taworo Koroma, who is also the licensee of the premises.

The review application

12. On 16 August 2020, an application was submitted by two other persons under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003, for the review of the premises known as Alexis Suya Grill (formally Samkal) – 165 Southampton Way, London, SE5 7EJ.
13. The review application was submitted in respect of the prevention of public nuisance licensing objective and in summary states that the following has been witnessed and / or taken place at the premises:

- Large numbers of patrons congregating outside of the premises;
 - Overcrowding inside the premises;
 - Excessive noise from patrons and loud music;
 - Littering;
 - The proximity to local residents;
 - A diary of disturbance is provided.
14. Revocation of the premises licence is not sought, however additional restrictions within the operating schedule of the licence to curb the impact on local residents is requested.
 15. Full details of the grounds for the review are provided within review the application. A copy of the review application is attached as Appendix A.

Representations from responsible authorities

16. There is supporting representation submitted in support of the review application by the licensing authority.
17. The licensing authority's representation is made in support of the review and draws attention to the history of complaints emanating from the premises. Supporting documents are provided, including statements and a video from the Southwark noise team. A photograph of the outside area is included and a comprehensive list of visits carried out by enforcement officers as part of night time economy visits.
18. The representation is attached as Appendix B.

Representations from other persons

19. A supporting representation has been received from another local resident, citing excessive numbers of patrons, excessive noise from patrons, music and opening beyond hours. The representation is attached as Appendix C.

Response from applicant

20. The licence holder has responded to the application in Appendix E.

Operating History

21. A premises licence was first issued on 6 April 2006 to Mr Paul Kaliso-Sesay and Ms Melly Parchment, with Mr Kaliso-Sesay as the designated premises supervisor (DPS).
22. A DPS variation application was made on 1 October 2014 to the current DPS Alex Taworo Koroma.
23. The licence was transferred to Mr Taworo Koroma via an application made on 29 June 2020.
24. On 16 August 2020, an application was submitted by two other persons (local residents) under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003.
25. There is no history of temporary events notices at the premises.
26. The following is a table of most recent complaints regarding the premises:

Date	Complainant	Complaint	Outcome
10/10/2018	Local resident	Premises noise and opening beyond hours	Advisory visit to premises on 19/10/2018 to warn of complaint. Inspection, warning letter issued as no CCTV. Revisit 18/01/2019 to find CCTV now working. Premises re-inspected
21/01/2019	Local resident	Premises noise and opening beyond hours	Visit 26/01/2019, premises found operating beyond hours. PACE interview held. No further action.
03/08/2020	Local resident	Premises noise and opening beyond hours	Investigation ongoing.

The local area

A map of the local area is attached as Appendix F. There are two other licensed premises in the immediate vicinity:

Vine Bins, 171 Southampton Way, London SE5 7EJ

- The sale by retail of alcohol (off sales):
 - Monday to Saturday from 08:00 to 23:00
 - Sunday from 10:00 to 22:30

Tesco Stores Limited, 191-199 Southampton Way, London SE5 7EJ

- The sale by retail of alcohol (off sales):
 - Monday to Sunday from 06:00 to 23:00.

Southwark council statement of licensing policy

27. Council assembly approved Southwark's statement of licensing policy 2019 - 2021 on 27 March 2019. The policy came into effect on 28 March 2019. Sections of the statement that are considered to be of particular relevance to the sub-committee's consideration are:

- Section 3 - Purpose and scope of the policy. This reinforces the four licensing objectives and the fundamental principles upon which this authority relies in determining licence applications
- Section 5 – Determining applications for premises licences and club premises certificates. This explains how the policy works and considers issues such as location; high standards of management; and the principles behind condition setting.
- Section 6 – Local cumulative impact policies. This sets out this authority's approach to cumulative impact and defines the boundaries of the current special policy areas and the classifications of premises to which they apply. To be read in conjunction with Appendix B to the policy
- Section 7 – Hours of operation. This provides a guide to the hours of licensed operation that this Authority might consider appropriate by type of premises and (planning) area classification.
- Section 8 – The prevention of crime and disorder. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the first licensing objective

- Section 9 – Public safety. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the second licensing objective
 - Section 10 – The prevention of nuisance. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the third licensing objective
 - Section 11 – The protection of children from harm. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the fourth licensing objective.
28. The purpose of Southwark’s statement of licensing policy is to make clear to applicants what considerations will be taken into account when determining applications and should act as a guide to the sub-committee when considering the applications. However, the sub-committee must always consider each application on its own merits and allow exceptions to the normal policy where these are justified by the circumstances of the application.
29. Within Southwark’s statement of licensing policy, the premises is not situated in a cumulative impact policy area. However, the premises is situated within a residential area. Under the Southwark statement of licensing policy 2019 - 2021 the following closing times are recommended as appropriate within this area for this categories of premises indicated:
- Restaurants and public houses: 23:00 daily.

Resource implications

30. There is no fee associated with this type of application.

Consultation

31. Consultation has been carried out on this application in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.

Community impact statement

32. Each application is required by law to be considered upon its own individual merits with all relevant matters taken into account.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

33. The sub-committee is asked to determine, under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003, following an application, made under Section 51 of the same act, for a review of premises licence. At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence, a responsible authority or any other person may ask the licensing authority to review the licence because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives.
34. The principles, which sub-committee members must apply, are set out below.

Principles for making the determination

35. Under Section 52 the licensing authority must hold a hearing to determine the review and any relevant representations.
36. The four licensing objectives are:
- The prevention of crime and disorder

- The protection of public safety
 - The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.
37. Each objective must be considered to be of equal importance. The authority must, having regard to the application and any relevant representations, take such of the following steps as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The steps are to:
- Modify the conditions of the licence by altering, omitting or adding any condition
 - Exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence
 - Remove the designated premises supervisor
 - Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months
 - Revoke the licence.
38. For the purpose of determining a relevant representation under section 52 of the Act a “relevant representation” means representations which:
- Are relevant to one or more of the licensing objectives
 - Are made by the holder of the premises licence, a responsible authority or an other person within the prescribed period
 - Have not been withdrawn
 - If made by another person (who is not also a responsible authority), that they are not, in the opinion of the relevant licensing authority frivolous or vexatious.
39. Modifications of conditions and exclusions of licensable activities may be imposed either permanently or for a temporary period of up to three months.
40. The authority may decide that no action is necessary if it finds that the review does not require it to take any steps appropriate to promote the licensing objectives.
41. In deciding what remedial action if any it should take, the authority must direct its mind to the causes or concerns that the representations identify. The remedial action should generally be directed at these causes and should always be no more than an appropriate and proportionate response.
42. It is of particular importance that any detrimental financial impact that may result from a licensing authority’s decision is appropriate and proportionate to the promotion of the licensing objectives in the circumstances that gave rise to the application for review.

Reasons

43. Where the authority determines an application for review it must notify the determination and reasons why for making it to:
- The holder of the licence
 - The applicant
 - Any person who made relevant representations
 - The chief officer of police for the area (or each police area) in which the premises are situated.

Hearing procedures

44. Subject to the licensing hearing regulations, the licensing committee may determine its own procedures. Key elements of the regulations are that:

- The hearing shall take the form of a discussion led by the authority. Cross examination shall not be permitted unless the authority considered that it is required for it to consider the representations.
 - Members of the authority are free to ask any question of any party or other person appearing at the hearing.
 - The committee must allow the parties an equal maximum period of time in which to exercise their rights to:
 - Address the authority
 - If given permission by the committee, question any other party.
 - In response to a point which the authority has given notice it will require clarification, give further information in support of their application.
 - The committee shall disregard any information given by a party which is not relevant to the particular application before the committee and the licensing objectives.
 - The hearing shall be in public, although the committee may exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing, taking place in private.
 - In considering any representations or notice made by a party the authority may take into account documentary or other information produced by a party in support of their application, representations or notice (as applicable) either before the hearing or, with the consent of all the other parties, at the hearing.
45. This matter relates to the determination of an application for a premises licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003. Regulation 26(1) (a) requires the sub-committee to make its determination at the conclusion of the hearing.

Council's multiple roles and the role of the licensing sub-committee

46. Sub-committee members will note that, in relation to this application, the council has multiple roles. Council officers from various departments have been asked to consider the application from the perspective of the council as authority responsible respectively for environmental health, trading standards, health and safety and as the planning authority.
47. Members should note that the licensing sub-committee is meeting on this occasion solely to perform the role of licensing authority. The sub-committee sits in quasi-judicial capacity, and must act impartially. It must offer a fair and unbiased hearing of the application. In this case, members should disregard the council's broader policy objectives and role as statutory authority in other contexts. Members must direct themselves to making a determination solely based upon the licensing law, guidance and the council's statement of licensing policy.
48. As a quasi-judicial body the licensing sub-committee is required to consider the application on its merits. The sub-committee must take into account only relevant factors, and ignore irrelevant factors. The decision must be based on evidence, that is to say material, which tends logically to show the existence or non-existence of relevant facts, or the likelihood or unlikelihood of the occurrence of some future event, the occurrence of which would be relevant. The licensing sub-committee must give fair consideration to the contentions of all persons entitled to make representations to them.
49. The licensing sub-committee is entitled to consider events outside of the premises if they are relevant, i.e. are properly attributable to the premises being open. The proprietors do not have to be personally responsible for the incidents for the same to be relevant.

However, if such events are not properly attributable to the premises being open, then the evidence is not relevant and should be excluded. Guidance is that the licensing authority will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of the public, living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned.

50. Members will be aware of the council's code of conduct which requires them to declare personal and prejudicial interests. The code applies to members when considering licensing applications. In addition, as a quasi-judicial body, members are required to avoid both actual bias, and the appearance of bias.
51. The sub-committee can only consider matters within the application that have been raised through representations from other persons and responsible authorities. Other persons must live in the vicinity of the premises. This will be decided on a case to case basis.
52. Under the Human Rights Act 1998, the sub-committee needs to consider the balance between the rights of the applicant and those making representations to the application when making their decision. The sub-committee has a duty under section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 when making its decision to do all it can to prevent crime and disorder in the borough.
53. Other persons, responsible authorities and the applicant have the right to appeal the decision of the sub-committee to the magistrates' court within a period of 21 days beginning with the day on which the applicant was notified by the licensing authority of the decision to be appealed against.

Guidance

54. Members are required to have regard to the Home Office Revised Guidance in carrying out the functions of licensing authority. However, guidance does not cover every possible situation, so long as the guidance has been properly and carefully understood, members may depart from it if they have reason to do so. Full reasons must be given if this is the case.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

55. The head of community safety and enforcement has confirmed that the costs of this process are borne by the service.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background papers	Held At	Contact
Licensing Act 2003 Home Office Revised Guidance to the Act Secondary Regulations Southwark Statement of Licensing Policy Case file	Southwark Licensing, C/o Community Safety & Enforcement, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Kirty Read Phone number: 020 7525 5748

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Copy of the review application
Appendix B	Representation from licensing authority
Appendix C	Representation from other person
Appendix D	Copy of the current premises licence
Appendix E	Response from licence holder
Appendix F	Map of local area

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Caroline Bruce, Strategic Director of Environment & Social Regeneration	
Report Author	Andrew Heron, Principal Licensing Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	24 September 2020	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	25 September 2020	