

SOUTH BERMONDSEY WARD COUNCILLORS
Members Room, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Claire Beswick
Processing Manager
Licensing Unit, Southwark Council
Licensing@southwark.gov.uk

16 November 2021

Dear Claire,

**WARD COUNCILLORS REPRESENTATION: AHWAZ LEBANESE RESTAURANT,
Ground Floor, 249 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5LU**

I write on behalf of the South Bermondsey Ward Councillors to object to the New Premises Licence application for the **sale of alcohol on and off the premises** by **AHWAZ LEBANESE RESTAURANT, Ground Floor, 249 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5LU** under the Licensing Act 2003.

Whilst we would like to encourage inwards investment, promote local economic activities and employment opportunities for people in South Bermondsey and Southwark as a whole through night economy, however, we believe that the operating hours (**Sunday 09.00am to Friday 03.00am and Sunday 09.00am to 4.00am, respectively**) sought could encourage the breach of the following licensing objectives, if granted:

The Licensing Objectives

• **The Prevention of Crime and Disorder**

It is often said that prevention is better than cure. We strongly believe that granting the premises licence as applied could create an environment where crime and disorder could easily increase due to proximity to a very busy traffic flowing Old Kent Road with numerous other similar premises on both sides of the road within the same proximity. It is our opinion that by reducing the hours to a manageable level most especially on Sundays, it will deter any likely problems of crime and disorder in the area.

• **Public Safety**

The consequences of the above breaches may lead to public concerns especially for women and girls who may be travelling coming back and to work in the early hours as result of drunken customer which may also lead to the need for enforcement by the police and thereby take away police time from dealing with other priority public safety matters.

• **The prevention of Public Nuisance**

Public nuisance through drunkenness, noise pollution, littering, urination in the corner and streets, women safety, indecent exposure and all other forms of antisocial behaviours,

disturbance of local peace and tranquillity, considering the **'on and off'** premises licence being sought.

• **The Protection of Children from Harm**

It is also extremely important to protect our young people from exposure to danger and harm which such premises may present, if preventative measures are not taken. There are schoolchildren boarding buses to and from both sides of the road who need protecting from harm and exposure to danger. I will therefore like to see what measures are in place to safeguard children's safety and protection from harm.

However, if the licensing sub-committee is mindful of granting the licence, I would like the Sunday Opening Hours reduced to midnight (00.00hrs) closing with 30 minutes drink-up time built into it; except where such Sunday precedes a Monday bank holiday.

In addition to the above, I will also be interested to know the background of the applicant management team s in terms of their experience and expertise of managing similar premises successfully in the past.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Sunny Lambe

On behalf of

South Bermondsey Ward Councillors

Sent: 10 January 2022 23:01

To: Beddar, Moulka

Cc: farouq sofi

Subject: RE: Application for a premises licence: Ahwaz, 249 Old Kent Road, London, SE1 5LU (our ref': 875620) Loc ID: 190511 - South Bermondsey ward

Importance: High

Dear Moulka,

It was good to speak to you earlier. As discussed please send me a final confirmation of the changes to be made to the application. As I understand it, the changes are as follows:

1. To remove the sale of alcohol from the application.

2. To allow late night refreshment as follows:

Mon: 23:00 – 03:00

Tue: 23:00 – 03:00

Wed: 23:00 – 03:00

Thur: 23:00 – 03:00

Fri: 23:00 – 03:00

Sat: 23:00 – 03:00

Sun: 23:00 – 03:00

3. To include the following conditions in the application (including a new condition regarding door security that you proposed during our phone call):

- That a CCTV system shall be installed at the premises, shall be maintained in full working order and shall be continually recording at all times that the premises are in use under this licence. The CCTV system must be capable of capturing a clear facial image of every person who enters the premises.
- That all CCTV footage shall be kept for a period of thirty one (31) days and shall be made immediately available to council and / or police officers on request.
- That a member of staff shall be on duty at all times that the premises are in operation under this licence who is trained in the use of the CCTV system and who is able to view, and download to a removable device, CCTV footage at the request of police and / or council officers.
- That all staff shall be trained in their responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 and the terms and conditions of this licence. Records pertaining to such training shall be kept, shall be updated every 6 months and shall be made immediately available police and / or council officers on request.
- That clearly legible signage shall be prominently displayed where it can easily be seen and read by customers requesting to the effect that customers leave the premises and locale in a quiet and orderly manner with respect to local residents.

- That a dispersal policy shall be devised and maintained regarding the premises. A written copy of the dispersal policy shall be kept at the premises with the premises licence and shall be made available for inspection to council and / or police officers on request. All relevant staff shall be trained in the implementation of the dispersal policy.
- That all external plant required for the operation of the premises (air handling plant, condensers, kitchen extraction systems, etc.) shall be designed, installed and maintained to ensure that noise output from the external plant does not cause a public nuisance or intrude inside the nearest, or most exposed, noise sensitive premises.
- That patrons shall not be permitted to use the external area of the premises (as defined on the premises plan) after 22:00 hours until 09:00 hours the following day, except to allow immediate access and egress to and from the premises and for up to a maximum of five customers at any one time who temporarily leave the interior of the premises to smoke.
- That the maximum number of people permitted on the premises at any one time (the 'accommodation limit') is 70 people (excluding staff).
- That amplified music, song or speech shall not be broadcast in any external area at any time.
- That external waste handling and cleaning of external areas (in all areas apart from the enclosed, rear court yard), collections, and deliveries shall only occur between the hours of 08:00 hours and 23:00 hours.
- That an SIA registered security guard shall be employed to screen customer entry to the premises between 00:00 (midnight) and the premises' closing time on Thursday to Sunday.

If the above is correct please confirm so.

As discussed, the closing times recommended in this council's Statement of Licensing Policy (SoLP) for licensed premises in the area of the premises is 23:00 hours daily. The SoLP is guidance only, and licences can be granted whose opening hours are later than those suggested in the SoLP.

I have attached a copy of the SoLP to this email. Section 7 (pages 41-43) relates to suggested closing times.

For reference I have attached copies of the representations that were previously submitted regarding the application. I believe you received copies of the representations already.

If you are unable to conciliate all of the objectors then a licensing sub-committee hearing will be held to determine the application. I will inform you of the time and

date of the hearing in due course. If you reach any agreements with the objectors please copy me in to them.

Regards,

Wesley McArthur

Principal Enforcement Officer
London Borough of Southwark

E-mail: wesley.mcarthur@southwark.gov.uk

General: licensing@southwark.gov.uk

Phone: 020 7525 5779 (This number is temporarily out of use whilst I am working from home)

Fax: 020 7525 5705

Address: Licensing, Health & Safety, Hub 1, 3rd Floor, 160 Tooley Street, SE1 2QH
<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/community-safety/let-s-talk-about-women-s-safety>

From: Beddar, Moulka

Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 12:52 PM

To: McArthur, Wesley

Subject: RE: Application for a premises licence: Ahwaz, 249 Old Kent Road, London, SE1 5LU (our ref': 875620) Loc ID: 190511 - South Bermondsey ward

Good Afternoon Mr McArthur,

I confirm that all the details are correct please you can proceed with the application.

Regards

Moulka

From: McArthur, Wesley

Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 1:41 PM

To: Tear, Jayne <Jayne.Tear@SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK>; Earis, Richard <Richard.Earis@southwark.gov.uk>; Graham.S.White@met.police.uk; SouthwarkLicensing@met.police.uk; Lambe, Sunny <Sunny.Lambe@southwark.gov.uk>

Cc: Beddar, Moulka; farouq sofi

Subject: FW: Application for a premises licence: Ahwaz, 249 Old Kent Road, London, SE1 5LU (our ref': 875620) Loc ID: 190511 - South Bermondsey ward

Dear Responsible Authorities and Cllr Lambe,

Please see the emails below. The application was previously withdrawn, however after liaising with the applicant's representatives the application has been reinstated.

The applicant has now amended the application.

Taking into account the changes to the application, if you have any comments further to your representations please provide them to Ms Moulka Beddar, who is the applicant's representative in this matter, and copy me in.

Ms Boulka is copied into this email. The applicant has confirmed to me that Ms Boulka represents him in this matter, along with a Mr Farouq Sofi.

I have attached your representations to this email for reference.

I will schedule a licensing hearing in case one is required, and will confirm the hearing details in due course.

Regards,

Wesley McArthur

Principal Enforcement Officer
London Borough of Southwark

E-mail: wesley.mcarthur@southwark.gov.uk

General: licensing@southwark.gov.uk

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<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/community-safety/let-s-talk-about-women-s-safety>

From: Lambe, Sunny <Sunny.Lambe@southwark.gov.uk>

Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 4:52 PM

To: Beddar, Moulka; McArthur, Wesley

Subject: Re: Application for a premises licence: Ahwaz, 249 Old Kent Road, London, SE1 5LU (our ref': 875620) Loc ID: 190511 - South Bermondsey ward

Dear Mr Wesley McArthur,

Further to my telephone conversation with Ms Beddar this afternoon in relation to the premises licensing application of 249 Old Kent Road and the fact that the alcohol element of the application which relates to my specific concerns has been removed, I therefore have no further objections to the licence being granted.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Cllr Sunny Lambe
Labour Councillor for South Bermondsey Ward
