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| Item No. 7. | Classification: Open | Date: 7 June 2022 | Meeting Name: Licensing Sub-Committee |
| Report Title | | Licensing Act 2003: Bubble Bubble and Bar, 194 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5TY | |
| Ward(s) of group(s) affected | | Faraday | |
| From | | Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure | |

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the licensing sub-committee considers an application made by Bubble Bubble and Bar Limited for a premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the premises known as Bubble Bubble and Bar, 194 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5TY
2. Notes:
 - a) This application forms a new application for a premises licence, submitted under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003. The application is subject to representations from responsible authorities and is therefore referred to the Sub Committee for determination.
 - b) Paragraphs 8 to 13 of this report provide a summary of the application under consideration by the sub-committee. A copy of the full application is attached as Appendix A.
 - c) Paragraphs 14 to 18 of this report deal with the representations submitted in respect of the application. Copies of the representation submitted by the responsible authorities are attached to this report in Appendix B. A map showing the location of the premises is attached to this report as Appendix D.
 - 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 premises licence application 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 under the Act. 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.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The premises licence application

8. On 7 April 2022 Bubble Bubble and Bar Limited applied for a premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the premises known as Bubble Bubble and Bar, 194 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5TY. The premises are described in the application as being:
 - "Bubble Tea Bar, Restaurant and Karaoke Rooms".

9. The hours applied for are summarised as follows:
 - The sale by retail of alcohol (on sales only):
 - Monday to Sunday: 10:00 to 01:00

 - The provision of late night refreshment (indoors):
 - Monday to Sunday: 23:00 to 01:00

 - The provision of regulated entertainment in the form of recorded music (indoors):
 - Monday to Sunday: 10:00 to 01:00

- Opening hours:
 - Monday to Sunday: 10:00 to 01:30
- 10. The designated premises supervisor is to be Bing De Sheng who holds a personal licence with the London Borough of Croydon.
- 11. The premises licence application form provides the applicant's operating schedule. Parts A, B, C, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, and M of the operating schedule set out the proposed licensable activities, operating hours and operating control measures in full, with reference to the four licensing objectives as stated in the Licensing Act 2003. Should a premises licence be issued in respect of the application the information provided in part M of the operating schedule will form the basis of conditions that will be attached to any licence granted subsequent to the application.
- 13. A copy of the application, premises plan and supporting documentation is attached to this report in Appendix A.

Representations from responsible authorities

- 14. Representations have been made by the Metropolitan Police Service (Licensing Division) and the licensing authority in their role as responsible authority.
- 15. The representation made by the Metropolitan Police Service states that the proposed terminal hour exceeds the recommended terminal hour in Southwark's statement of licensing policy, which is 23:00 hours daily in a residential area.
- 16. A representation has been submitted by the licensing authority, in their role as a responsible authority under the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance. They state that the hours applied for are outside of the hours recommended in the Southwark statement of licensing policy. Additional conditions are also sought.
- 17. The representations area available in Appendix B.

Representations from other persons

- 18. No representations have been received from other persons.

Conciliation

- 19. All representations were sent to the applicant and at the point of publication of the report; none of the representations had been conciliated.

Premises history

- 20. While this listed address has not been licensed previously, or has a history of TENs, the premises' address is shared with the Eurotraveller Hotel at 194-202 Old Kent Road.
- 21. There is a premises licence already in place at the hotel, with Mr Patel as the licence holder and DPS. On 18 January 2021, an application was submitted by trading

standards under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003, for the review of the premises known as Eurotraveller Hotel, 194-202 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5TY.

22. The review application was submitted in respect of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety and the prevention of public nuisance licensing objectives and in summary states that the following has been witnessed and / or taken place at the premises:

“A visit took place at the premises on Saturday 28th November 2020, during the period that has been referred to as the “second lockdown” during the Coronavirus Pandemic. At the time the emergency legislation relating to business closures was the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (No 4) (England) Regulations 202 (SI 2020 No 1200). On that date licensing visited the premises accompanied by two members of the police night time economy team.

They had become aware of activity happening within the hotel and upon entering discovered an illegal casino being operated with customers consuming drinks on the premises contrary to these regulations. Consumption of drinks on the premises was an offence at the time under Regulation 15(1). It is also worth noting that casinos were also required to be closed at this time by virtue of Regulation 16(1). Furthermore this casino operation was not licensed under the provisions of the Gambling Act 2005.

It should be noted that this illegal casino was operating within the bar area of a Chinese restaurant run within Mr Patel’s licensed premises. It should be noted that at the time of the visit, the CCTV system required under conditions 288 and 289 on the license had been removed. Although at this point in time the Government had suspended the application of conditions on premises licenses for a period, the removal of the CCTV system could impact on issues of public safety and public nuisance relating to the premises.”

23. On Friday 18 December trading standards and licensing revisited and issued Mr Patel both a Prohibition Notice and a Fixed Penalty Notice for the drinking on the premises on 28 November 2020. This £1000 Fixed Penalty Notice was paid for by Mr Patel on 24 December 2020.
24. On 22 December 2020 Eurotravellerhotel Limited applied for a premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the premises known as Eurotraveller Hotel.
25. On 18 January 2020, trading standards in their role as a responsible authority issued a review of the existing premises licence under all four of the licensing objectives. The review was subsequently withdrawn following the application of a minor variation to the licence upon agreement through mediation. A copy of that licence is available for Members’ information in Appendix C.
26. There are no recent complaints regarding the premises, and there is no history of TENS to 194 Old Kent Road.

Map

27. A map showing the location of the premises is attached to this report as Appendix D. The following are a list of licensed premises in the immediate vicinity (100 metres) of the application:

Tropical, 186-188 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5TY (Issued: 21 April 2016):

- Recorded music – indoors:
 - Monday to Sunday from 23:00 to 00:00
- Performance of dance – indoors:
 - Monday to Sunday from 20:00 to 00:00
- Entertainment similar to live/recorded music – indoors:
 - Monday to Sunday from 20:00 to 00:00
- Late night refreshment – indoors:
 - Monday to Sunday from 23:00 to 00:00
- Sale by retail of alcohol to be consumed on premises:
 - Monday to Sunday from 11:00 to 00:00

Costa Azul Mexican Bar & Grill, 190-192 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5TY (Issued: 6 August 2007):

- Live music – indoors:
 - Monday to Thursday from 11:00 to 00:00
 - Friday and Saturday from 11:00 to 03:30
 - Sunday from 11:00 to 11:00 to 02:00
- Recorded music – indoors:
 - Monday to Thursday from 11:00 to 00:00
 - Friday and Saturday from 11:00 to 03:30
 - Sunday from 11:00 to 11:00 to 02:00
- Performance of dance – indoors:
 - Monday to Thursday from 18:00 to 00:00
 - Friday from 17:00 to 01:00
 - Saturday from 17:00 to 02:00
 - Sunday 17:00 to 00:00

- Entertainment similar to live/recorded music – indoors:
 - Monday to Thursday from 17:00 to 00:00
 - Friday and Saturday from 17:00 to 03:00
 - Sunday from 12:00 to 01:00
- Facilities for dancing – indoors:
 - Monday to Thursday from 17:00 to 00:00
 - Friday and Saturday from 17:00 to 03:00
 - Sunday from 12:00 to 01:00
- Late night refreshment – indoors:
 - Sunday to Thursday from 23:00 to 01:00
 - Friday and Saturday from 23:00 to 02:00
- Sale by retail of alcohol to be consumed on premises:
 - Monday to Wednesday from 11:00 to 00:00
 - Thursday from 11:00 to 01:00
 - Friday and Saturday from 10:00 to 03:00
 - Sunday from 10:00 to 01:00

Eurotraveller Hotel, 194-202 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5TY (Issued: 21 September 2007):

- Live music – indoors:
 - Monday to Saturday from 11:00 to 23:00
 - Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00
- Recorded music – indoors:
 - Monday to Saturday from 11:00 to 23:00
 - Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00
- Performance of dance – indoors:
 - Monday to Saturday from 11:00 to 23:00
 - Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00
- Facilities for dancing – indoors:
 - Monday to Saturday from 11:00 to 23:00
 - Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00
- Provisions similar to making music and dancing – indoors:
 - Monday to Saturday from 11:00 to 23:00
 - Sunday from 11:00 to 22:00

- Sale by retail of alcohol to be consumed on the premises (bar and restaurant):
 - Monday to Saturday from 09:00 to 23:00
 - Sunday from 09:00 to 22:00
- Hotel bar only:
 - Monday to Sunday from 00:00 to 00:00

Modern Supermarket, 177-179 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5NA (Issued: 5 September 2005):

- Sale by retail of alcohol to be consumed off premises:
 - Monday to Saturday from 08:00 to 23:00
 - Sunday from 10:00 to 22:30

Daniels Bar & Restaurant, 207 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5NA (Issued: 4 September 2005):

- Late night refreshment – indoors:
 - Monday to Saturday from 23:00 to 00:30
 - Sunday from 23:00 to 00:00
- Sale by retail of alcohol to be consumed on premises:
 - Monday to Saturday from 11:00 to 00:00
 - Sunday from 12:00 to 23:30

Le Joint Wine & Snacks Bar, 193 Old Kent Road, SE1 5NA (Issued: 20 November 2006):

- The sale by retail of alcohol to be consumed on the premises:
 - Monday to Sunday from 10:00 to 02:30
- Late night refreshment – indoors:
 - Monday to Sunday from 23:00 to 02:30

La Cantaleta, 176-178 Old Kent Road, London SE1 5TY (Issued: 3 September 2021):

- Recorded music – indoors:
 - Friday and Saturday from 12:00 to 23:30
- Performance of dance – indoors:
 - Friday and Saturday from 12:00 to 23:30

- Late night refreshment – indoors:
 - Friday and Saturday from 23:00 to 23:30
- Sale by retail of alcohol to be consumed on premises:
 - Sunday to Thursday from 12:00 to 22:30
 - Friday and Saturday from 12:00 to 23:30
- Sale by retail of alcohol to be consumed off premises:
 - Sunday to Thursday from 12:00 to 22:30
 - Friday and Saturday from 12:00 to 23:30

Southwark Council statement of licensing policy

28. Council assembly approved Southwark's statement of licensing policy 2021-2026 on 25 November 2020 and it came into effect on 1 January 2021.
29. 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.

30. 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.
31. Members must take into consideration both the Southwark statement of licensing policy and the Section 182 Guidance when making decisions. Links are below:

Southwark statement of licensing policy:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/business/licences/business-premises-licensing/licensing-and-gambling-act-policy>

Section 182 Guidance:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/705588/Revised_guidance_issued_under_section_182_of_the_Licensing_Act_2003_April_2018_.pdf

Cumulative impact area (CIA)

32. The premises is not situated in any of Southwark's CIAs. The premises is situated in a residential area.
33. Under the Southwark statement of licensing policy 2021 - 2026 the following closing times are recommended as appropriate within this area for these categories of premises:
 - Closing time for restaurants, cafes, public houses, wine bars and other drinking establishments:
 - Monday to Sunday 23:00
 - Nightclubs are not considered appropriate for this area

Climate Change Implications

34. Following council assembly on 14 July 2021, the council is committed to considering the climate change implications of any decisions.
35. Climate change is not a legal factor in the consideration of a grant of a premises license under the current licensing objectives, however members can make enquiries and request an agreement from applicants to promote the reduction of the impact of climate change that may be caused by the operation of the premises.
36. Examples of such agreements may be:
 - Not use single use plastics, such as disposable plastic glasses, when selling alcohol at the premises.
 - Encourage patrons not to drive to venues by providing details of public transport on their webpages/tickets.

37. The council's climate change strategy is available at:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/48607/Climate-Change-Strategy-July-2021-.pdf>

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

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

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

39. This report does not result in a policy decision and each application is required to be considered upon its own individual merits with all relevant matters taken into account. In considering the recommendations of this report, due regard must be given to the public sector equality duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. This requires the council to consider all individuals when carrying out its functions.

40. Importantly, the council must have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, or other prohibited conduct; advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people with protected characteristics and those who do not. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. The public sector equality duty also applies to marriage and civil partnership, but only in relation to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, or other prohibited conduct.

41. The equalities impact statement for licensing decisions is contained within the Southwark statement of licensing policy 2021 – 2026 at:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/business/licences/business-premises-licensing/licensing-and-gambling-act-policy>.

42. The equalities impact assessment is available at:

<https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s92016/Appendix%20F%20-%20Equalities%20Impact%20Assessment.pdf>

Health impact statement

43. Health impacts cannot be considered by law when making decisions under the Licensing Act 2003.

Resource implications

44. A fee of £190.00 has been paid by the applicant company in respect of this application being the statutory fee payable for premises within non-domestic rateable value B.

Consultation

45. Consultation has been carried out on this application in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003. A public notice was published in a local newspaper and similar notices were exhibited outside of the premises for a period of 28 consecutive days.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

46. The sub-committee is asked to determine the application for a premises licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003.
47. The principles which sub-committee members must apply are set out below.

Principles for making the determination

48. The sub-committee is asked to determine the application for a premises licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003.
49. The principles which sub-committee members must apply are set out below.
50. The general principle is that applications for premises licence applications must be granted unless relevant representations are received. This is subject to the proviso that the applicant has complied with regulations in advertising and submitting the application.
51. Relevant representations are those which:
 - Are about the likely effect of the granting of the application on the promotion of the licensing objectives
 - Are made by an interested party or responsible authority
 - Have not been withdrawn
 - Are not, in the opinion of the relevant licensing authority, frivolous or vexatious.
52. If relevant representations are received then the sub-committee must have regard to them, in determining whether it is necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives to:
 - To grant the licence subject to:
 - The conditions mentioned in section 18 (2)(a) modified to such extent as the licensing authority considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives
 - Any condition which must under section 19, 20 or 21 be included in the licence.
 - To exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities to which the application relates.
 - To refuse to specify a person in the licence as the premises supervisor.

- To reject the application.

Conditions

53. The sub-committee's discretion is thus limited. It can only modify the conditions put forward by the applicant, or refuse the application, if it is necessary to do so. Conditions must be necessary and proportionate for the promotion of one of the four licensing objectives, and not for any other reason. Conditions must also be within the control of the licensee, and should be worded in a way which is clear, certain, consistent and enforceable.
54. The four licensing objectives are:
- The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.
55. Members should note that each objective is of equal importance. There are no other licensing objectives, and the four objectives are paramount considerations at all times.
56. Conditions will not be necessary if they duplicate a statutory position. Conditions relating to night café and take away aspect of the license must relate to the night time operation of the premises and must not be used to impose conditions which could not be imposed on day time operators.
57. Members are also referred to the Home Office Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 on conditions, specifically section 10.

Reasons

58. If the sub-committee determines that it is necessary to modify the conditions, or to refuse the application for a premises licence application, it must give reasons for its decision.

Hearing procedures

59. 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.
60. 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

61. 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.
62. 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.
63. 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.
64. 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.

65. 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.
66. The sub-committee can only consider matters within the application that have been raised through representations from other persons and responsible authorities. Interested parties must live in the vicinity of the premises. This will be decided on a case to case basis.
67. 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.
68. 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

69. Members are required to have regard to the Home Office 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

70. The head of regulatory services has confirmed that the costs of this process over and above the application fee are borne by the service.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Licensing Act 2003 | Southwark Licensing, C/O | Mrs Kirty Read Tel: 020 7525 5748 |
| Home Office Revised Guidance to the Act | Community Safety and Enforcement, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH | |
| Secondary Regulations | | |
| Southwark statement of licensing policy | | |
| Case file | | |

APPENDICES

| Name | Title |
|------------|--|
| Appendix A | Application for a premises licence and plans |
| Appendix B | Representations from responsible authorities |
| Appendix C | Premises licence for Eurotraveller Hotel |
| Appendix D | Map of the locality |

AUDIT TRAIL

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Lead Officer | Caroline Bruce, Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure | |
| Report Author | Andrew Heron, Principal Licensing Officer | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 23 May 2022 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comments sought | Comments included |
| Director of Law and Governance | Yes | Yes |
| Strategic Director of Finance and Governance | Yes | Yes |
| Cabinet Member | No | No |
| Date final report sent to Constitutional Team | 23 May 2022 | |