

Meeting name:	Licensing Sub-Committee
Date:	1 August 2024
Report Title	Licensing Act 2003: The Kernel Taproom, 132 Spa Road, London SE16 3AE
Ward(s) or groups affected:	South Bermondsey
Classification:	Open
Reasons for lateness (if applicable):	N/a

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the licensing sub-committee considers an application made by The Kernel Taproom Ltd. for a premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the premises known as The Kernel Taproom, 132 Spa Road, London SE16 3AE.
2. Notes:
3. 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 3 responsible authorities (which have now been withdraw) and 15 other person and is therefore referred to the sub-committee for determination.
 - a) Paragraphs 7 to 11 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.
 - b) Paragraphs 11 to 17 of this report deal with the representations received from responsible authorities. Paragraph 21 to 26 of this report deal with representations received from others persons. Copies of the representations submitted are attached in Appendix B and D of this report. A map showing the location of the premises is attached to this report as Appendix E.
 - c) 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 procedure, has been circulated to all parties to the meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Licensing Act 2003

4. 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.
5. Within Southwark, the licensing responsibility is wholly administered by this council.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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

9. On 3 June 2024, The Kernel Taproom Ltd. applied for a premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the premises known as The Kernel Taproom, 132 Spa Road, London SE16 3AE. The premises and purpose is described as follows:
- ‘The premises will function as a brewery bar and bottle shop which serves food. It is a ground floor venue with customer seating making over 50% of the customer space. There will be a small takeaway counter for off-sales’.
10. The hours applied for are summarised as follows:
- The sale by retail of alcohol (on and off the premises):
 - Monday to Sunday from 09:00 to 23:00

- Opening hours:
 - Monday to Sunday from 09:00 to 23:00.
11. The premises licence application form provides the applicant's operating schedule. Parts 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. A copy of the application is attached to this report in Appendix A.

Designated premises supervisor

12. The proposed designated premises supervisor is Evin O'Riordain who holds a personal licence issued by the London Borough of Hackney Council.

Representations from responsible authorities

13. Representations have been submitted by trading standards, the Metropolitan Police Service, and the councils licensing authority as a responsible authority.
14. The representation by trading standards recommends that four conditions are added to the operating schedule in order to promote the protection of children from harm licensing objective.
15. The police representation objects to the granting of the application in its current format and say that the control measures offered within the operating schedule are not adequate to address the licensing objectives, in particular to that of the prevention of crime and disorder.
16. The representation from the licensing authority as a responsible authority relates to the promotion of the prevention of crime and disorder, public nuisance, public safety and the prevention of public nuisance licensing objectives.
17. The licensing responsible authority contends that the measures offered within the operating schedule do not sufficiently address the licensing objectives and recommends 34 conditions to be added to the premises licence should the application be granted in order to promote the licensing objectives.
18. The licensing responsible authority further states that the southwark statement of licensing policy 2021-2026 recommends that this type of premises should close on a Monday to Sunday at 23:00 hours and recommend that the hours applied for regarding 'on sales' of alcohol are cut back to allow for half an hour drinking up time.
19. The representations from the responsible authorities are attached as Appendix B.

Conciliation

20. Following conciliation with trading standards, the police and licensing as a responsible authority the applicant has agreed to add the conditions recommended

within their representations to the operating schedule and amend the finish times for alcohol 'on sales' and as such trading standards the police and licensing as a responsible authority have now withdrawn their representations.

21. Copies of the conciliated conditions of trading standards and the metropolitan police service, with their withdrawal statements are attached to this report as Appendix C.
22. At the hearing to determine this application the licensing sub-committee will be apprised as to any further conciliation that may have taken place.

Representations from other persons.

23. Representations have been submitted by 15 other persons.
24. The other person representations are concerned with the prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm licensing objectives.
25. The other person's representation states the establishment is in a residential block of apartments and this residential block has a children's playground in it that is in use frequently and directly next door to the bar. The playground, although private is accessible, viewable and in earshot from both Spa Road and Rouel Road.
26. The representations refer to the existing Bermsondsey beer mile which already causes noise nuisance, crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour in the local area. Both noise and drunkenness already cause problems to residents on the whole length of Enid Street; there is often a lot of litter and there are either no toilets in the premises, or they are woefully inadequate. There here have been many observations of public urination.
27. The noise and congregation of people around a drinking establishment will increase the noise and street disturbances.
28. Some of the representations refer to planning permission

Note: The planning, regeneration, building control and licensing regimes will be properly separated to avoid duplication and inefficiency. Each regime involves consideration of different (albeit related) matters. Neither licensing nor planning committees are bound by decisions made by the other.

Temporary event notices

29. No temporary event notices (TENs) have been submitted in respect of the premises.

Map

30. A map showing the location of the premises and a list of licensed premises shown on the map is attached to this report as Appendix E.

Southwark Council statement of licensing policy

31. Council assembly approved Southwark's statement of licensing policy 2021-2026 on 25 November 2020 and it came into effect on 1 January 2021.
32. 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 licenses 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.
33. 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.
34. Members should take into consideration both the Southwark statement of licensing policy and the Section 182 Guidance when making decisions. Links are below.

Southwark 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)

35. The premises does not fall within a Cumulative Impact Area (CIA)
36. The premises are situated in a residential area.
37. Under the Southwark's statement of licensing policy 2021 - 2026 the following closing times are recommended as appropriate within a residential area:
 - Restaurants and cafes:
 - Monday to Sunday: 23:00
 - Public houses, wine bars, or other drinking establishments and bars in other types of premises:
 - Monday to Sunday: 23:00

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 who have 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.

General guidance

44. Members should take into consideration both the Southwark statement of licensing policy and the Section 182 Guidance when making decisions.
45. 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.

Climate change implications

46. Following council assembly on 14 July 2021, the council is committed to considering the climate change implications of any decisions.
47. 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.
48. 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.

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

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

Resource implications

50. A fee of £315.00 has been paid by the applicant in respect of this application being the statutory fee payable for premises within non-domestic rateable value C.

Consultation

51. 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 a similar notice was exhibited outside of the premises for a period of 28 consecutive days.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

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

Principles for making the determination

54. The sub-committee is asked to determine the application for a premises licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003.
55. The principles which sub-committee members must apply are set out below.
56. 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.
57. 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.
58. 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

59. 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.
60. The four licensing objectives are:
- The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.
61. 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.
62. 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.
63. 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

64. 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

65. 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.

66. 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

67. 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.
68. 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.
69. 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.
70. 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.

71. 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.
72. 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.
73. 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.
74. 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

75. 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

76. 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	
Secondary Regulations	Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	
Southwark statement of		

licensing policy		
Case file		

APPENDICES

Name	Title
Appendix A	Application for a premises licence
Appendix B	Representations submitted by responsible authorities
Appendix C	Conciliation/withdrawal statements from the responsible authorities
Appendix D	Representations submitted by other persons
Appendix E	Map of the locality including details of licensed premises shown on map.

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Toni Ainge, Strategic Director Environment, Neighbourhoods and Growth	
Report Author	Jayne Tear, Principal Licensing Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated:	17 July 2024	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	19 July 2024	