

Rosanna Keogh
Principal Enforcement Officer
Southwark Council
Chaplin Street
London SE17 2DG

18 MAR 2009



Timber Pond Road
Rotherhithe
London SE16 6AT
Tel: 020 7237 1928
Fax: 020 7237 4501
www.baconsctc.co.uk

16 March 2009

Dear Ms. Keogh

Re: THE LICENSING ACT 2003-
BACOM'S COLLEGE TIMBER POND RD SE16

Principal:
Tony Perry B.Sc. Hons.

I write in response to your letter dated 10th March 2009 addressed to Mr. M. Hassett in connection with the above to which you have advised us of complaints received from a local resident. I should advise you that this comes as no surprise to us due to the fact that we have had numerous representation from a resident raising similar complaints as listed in your letter. We as a college take very seriously the license that has been granted to us which enables us to meet one of our main objectives in providing access to the community at large. We have considered our local residents and have tailored our programmes to ensure that there is the minimum of inconvenience to residents nearby. The resident with whom we have had contacts with has made racist comments as to his objections to our programmes. The majority of the users of our facilities are of a West African and Asian origin and this resident has made it clear that he objects to these people being in the area. The College does not accept this. The ethos of the college and its community programme is based on inclusivity and not exclusivity based on ethnicity, gender, religious or sexual orientation. Whilst the college will take seriously any genuine complaints it refutes without hesitation the four points of complaints listed in your letter. I shall attempt to address them as follows:

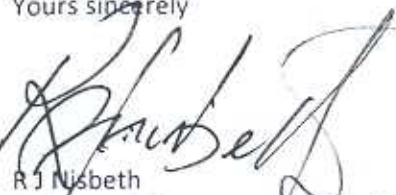
1. An undertaking was given when the license was granted that all efforts will be made to ensure a quiet departure from the premises after a function has ended. This is evident by visible signs being placed in the reception area and announcements. It is incorrect to state that visitors hang around the car park and street for up to 3 hours after the event finishes. This is not the case as the premises is cleared by 12 midnight and after this time there are no reasons why anyone should be hanging around their cars talking loudly.
2. We have taken the issues raised in the pass concerning parking. As a direct result of the joint development of Mellish Fields with Southwark Council and Bacon's College parking spaces have become restricted which has forced some visitors to park outside the boundaries of the college, however we have taken measures to limit any inconvenience to the local residents by engaging additional staff to control parking, we have also opened additional areas of the college's ground to allow additional parking. Our staff has not reported any noise or bibbing of car horns as they control the departure from the college's car park.
3. The impression being created by the complainant is that of people leaving a football ground after a match. It is wholly inaccurate to describe the departure of our visitors in this way i.e. Rubbish being left, bottles of alcohol, take-aways, plastic containers and cans. The main users of the facility are of a religious nature and in most cases no alcohol is consumed and when alcohol is served from the bar all drinks are consumed on the premises. There are no logical reasons why drinks should be taken off the premises. We are dealing with responsible adults and not teenagers, further more we do not provide take-away service. Our visitors are on site to

celebrate a wedding and as part of that celebration they are served a meal at a table. The complainant is portraying a personal stereotypical view of the behavior of Afro-Asian community. This is clearly demonstrated in the final point.

4. It is beyond belief why grown men would leave a premise which has ample toilets at their disposals and choose to go to the complainant's door to urinate. There are toilets catering for disabled and able men and women throughout the college. The complainant it seems is happy to conjure up an impression of uncivilized behavior due to an overwhelming dislike of people of other cultures that uses the college's facility.

As stated above the college takes very seriously the license that has been granted and will continue to consider the local residents in our endeavors. We are happy to meet those residents with genuine complaints so that we can address them in a positive manner that would serve our best interests.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R J Nisbeth', written over a horizontal line.

R J Nisbeth
Director of Finance and Administration