

<b>Item No.</b> 5	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> November 25 2009	<b>MEETING NAME</b> Licensing Sub-Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		<b>LICENSING ACT 2003 – CLUB TRAFFIK, (GROUND FLOOR), 512-516 OLD KENT ROAD, LONDON SE1 5BA</b>	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		<b>Premises are within: EAST WALWORTH</b>	
<b>From:</b>		<b>Strategic Director of Environment &amp; Housing</b>	

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the Licensing Sub-Committee considers an application made by Mega Music Entertainment Ltd to vary a Premises Licence granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the premises known as: Club Traffik, (Ground Floor) 512 – 516 Old Kent Road, SE1 5BA.
2. **Notes:**
  - a) The application seeks to vary existing licensable activities held under current legislation in respect of the premises known as: Club Traffik under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003. Existing permitted licensable activities are not the subject of representations and are not under consideration at this meeting. The variation application is subject to representations from interested parties and is therefore referred to the Sub-Committee for determination;
  - b) Paragraphs 12 to 16 of this report provide a summary of the application under consideration by the Sub-Committee (A copy of the full application is provided as Appendix a).
  - c) Paragraphs 18 & 19 of this report deals with the representations and comments received to the application. (copies of relevant representations and conciliations are attached as Appendices c & d ).

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **The Licensing Act 2003**

3. The Licensing Act 2003 received Royal Assent on 10 July 2003. The Act provides a new licensing regime for:
  - a) The sale of and supply of alcohol
  - b) The provision of regulated entertainment
  - c) The provision of late night refreshment
4. Within Southwark, this Council wholly administers the licensing responsibility.
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
  - a) The prevention of crime and disorder;
  - b) The promotion of public safety
  - c) The prevention of nuisance; and

- d) The protection of children from harm.
6. In carrying out its licensing functions, a licensing authority must also have regard to
    - a. The Act itself;
    - b. The Guidance to the act issued under Section 182 of the Act;
    - c. Secondary regulations issued under the Act;
    - d. The Licensing Authority's own Statement of Licensing Policy
    - e. The application, including the operating schedule submitted as part of the application
    - f. Relevant representations
  7. The Act established a transitional period between 7 February 2005 and 6 August 2005 under which holders of existing Justices Licences, Public Entertainment Licences and Night café Licences were able to apply to the local licensing authority for "grandfather rights" conversion of those existing licences into the relevant licences under the new system. Licences that were so converted were converted on existing terms, conditions and restrictions. The 6 August date having now passed operators are still able to apply to secure the new licences before the date upon which the new licensing regime comes into being – 24 November 2005 – but must now apply for new licences.
  8. 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 under the Act. The application must also be advertised at the premises and in the local press. The responsible authorities and other interested parties within the local community may make representations on any part of the application where relevant to the four licensing objectives.
  9. Although applications submitted after 6 August 2005 no longer carry "grandfather" conversion rights, licensing authorities are directed that applicants do have an "added protection" under the law. Where an applicant seeks a Premises Licence intended to cover the retail sale of alcohol and that premises operation is currently covered by a Justices Licence, the licensing authority concerned cannot apply conditions restricting the hours at which alcohol is sold at present unless there has been a material change in the circumstances since the Justices Licence was granted, or the Police have made representations in connection with the prevention of crime.

## MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

### The current Premises Licence

10. The current licence in respect of the premises known as Club Traffik, Grd Flr, 512 – 516 Old Kent Road, LONDON SE1 5BA was granted to the applicant on 10 November 2009. It allows the following licensable activities.
  - **Films; live music; recorded music; performance of dance; facilities for making music**  
  
Mon & Tues from 09.00- 22.30; Wed, Thurs & Sun 09.00-04.00; Fri & Sat from 09.00 – 06.00
  - **Late night refreshments:**  
  
Wed, Thurs & Sun; from 23.00-04.00; Fri & Sat from 23.00 – 05.00
  - **Sale and Supply of alcohol on and off the premises:**

Mon & Tues from 10.00- 23.00; Wed & Thurs & Sun 10.00-03.00; Fri & Sat from 10.00 – 04.00; Sun; from 10.00- 02.00

- **Operating hours of premises;**

Mon & Tues from 09.00- 23.30; Wed, Thurs & Sun from 09.00 – 04.30; Fri & Sat from 09.00 – 06.30

11. A copy of the existing Premises Licence is attached as appendix b.

### **The variation application**

12. On 19 August 2009, Mega Music Entertainment Ltd applied to this Council to vary the Premises Licence issued in respect of the premises known as Club Traffik (grd flr), 512 - 516 Old Kent Road, LONDON SE1 5BA under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003.

### **Details of the variation application**

13. The variation application is summarized as follows:

- **To extend the permitted hour for the sale and supply of alcohol as follows;**

On Thursday until 04.00  
On Friday & Saturday until 05.00  
Sunday until 04.00

- **Bank Holiday Sunday**

To extend the terminal hours for the sale of alcohol on each bank holiday Sunday till 06.00

- **Terminal hours on Bank holiday Sunday**

To extend the operating terminal hours of the premises on each bank holiday Sunday till 06.30.

A copy of the application to variation application is attached to the report as Appendix a.

### **Amendment to application**

14. The applicant has requested to amend the application to omit **offsales** for alcohol as they do not intend to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises.

15. The variation application form provides the applicant's operating schedule. Parts M and O set out the proposed operating hours in full.

16. Part P of the variation application provides any additional steps that might be proposed by the applicant to promote the four licensing objectives as set out in the Licensing Act 2003. In the event that the Sub-Committee should approve the application any proposals stated here must become licence conditions.

### **Designated Premises Supervisor**

17. The designated premises supervisor under the existing Premises Licence is Daniel George McCaughan, he holds a Personal Licence issued by Southwark Council.

## **Application for Minor Variation**

18. On 21 October 2009 a Minor variation application was made to submit plans to reflect changes made on the ground floor of the premises and to reduce the extent of the premises licence which related to both first floor and ground floor to reflect the ground floor only. This application was unopposed and therefore a new premises licence for the ground floor only was granted on 10 November 2009.

## **Representations From Interested Parties**

19. There are representations lodged by 28 local residents. The representations are primarily concerned with the prevention of crime and disorder, public and noise nuisance. All residents have signed copies of the same letter and as such only one copy of the representation is attached as Appendix c. **Note** - Original representations (on file) and copies for distribution will be available at the hearing.

## **Representations From Responsible Authorities**

20. There is one representation from the Environmental Protection Team. The representation was withdrawn after issues raised were dealt with by the minor variation application (see para 17). A copy of the memo withdrawing the representation is attached to the report as appendix d.

## **Conciliation**

21. Conciliation was offered as part of the application process, but there was not enough support for it. As such the application is being submitted for determination by the Licensing Sub-Committee.

## **The Local Vicinity**

22. A map of the local vicinity is attached. The operating terminal hours of the following premises licensed for regulated entertainment and late night refreshment are shown on the map:

- **Love Lounge, First Floor**, 512-516 Old Kent Road, SE1 (Mon & Tues until 02.00, Wed & Thurs until 04.00, Fri until 06.00 and Sat until 10.00; Sun until 04.00)
- **Macdonalds Restaurant**, 518 Old Kent Road, SE1 (Mon – Sun – until 05.00)

## **Additional information relating to past operation of the premises**

23. The ground floor of premises then known as the Scene Bar and later as Xeus Night Club had in the past held an entertainment licence for the provision of music and dance under the previous legislation and previous managements.
24. In August 2005 an application was made to convert the existing licence (grd flr) with all its conditions into the current licensing regime and the application was granted as such.
25. On 26 March 2007 a new application was made by the current owner (Mega Music Entertainment Ltd) to make provision for both the ground and first floor premises to be used for licensable activities and also to extend the operating hours. A representation was made by the Metropolitan Police, and this was resolved by agreement by both the

- applicant and the Police to place conditions on the licence. The licence was granted on 18 May 2007.
26. On 14 July 2008 a new application was made to separate the first floor premises (**Love Lounge**) from the ground floor with its own conditions and extended operating hours. This application was to be determined whilst the licence granted on 18 May 2007 was still in operation and as such the licence was not surrendered.
  27. Representations were received from the Police, Environmental Protection Team and the London Fire Brigade. These representations were withdrawn after re submission of new plans and agreements made on all sides placing conditions on the licence. The Licence was on 28 granted November 2008.
  28. Also on 14 July 2008 a separate application was made for the ground floor premises then known as (Vogue Nite Club). This application was also to be determined whilst the licence granted on 18 May 2007 was still in operation and as such the licence was not surrendered.
  29. Representations were received from the Police, Environmental Protection Team and the London Fire Brigade. However during visit to the premises it was observed that the layout of the premises had changed significantly in regards to the plans provided at the time of application. Request was made for new plans to be submitted for the application to progress, however as the plans were not submitted the application was eventually rejected.
  30. On 21 October 2009 a Minor variation application was made to submit plans to reflect changes made on the ground floor of the premises and to reduce the extent of the premises licence to reflect the ground floor only this application was granted on 10 November 2009.

### **Southwark Council Statement of Licensing Policy**

31. Council Assembly approved the Southwark Statement of Licensing Policy on 2 April 2008. Sections of the Statement that are considered to be of particular relevance to this application are
  - a. Section 3 which sets out the purpose and scope of the policy and reinforces the four licensing objectives
  - b. Section 5 which sets out the Council's approach with regard to the imposition of conditions including mandatory conditions to be attached to the licence
  - c. Section 6 details other relevant Council and Government policies, strategies, responsibilities and guidance, including the relevant Articles under the Human Rights Act 1998
  - d. Section 7 provides general guidance on dealing with crime and disorder and deals with licensing hours
  - e. Section 8 provides general guidance on ensuring public safety including safe capacities
  - f. Section 9 provides general guidance on the prevention of nuisance

- g. Section 10 provides general guidance on the protection of children from harm.
32. 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.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **CONSULTATIONS**

34. Consultation has been carried out on this application in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003. A public notice was placed in a local news and a similar notice exhibited outside of the premises.

## **Community Impact Statement**

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

## **STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES, LAW & GOVERNANCE**

36. The Sub-Committee is asked to determine the application for a variation of a converted premises licence. The converted licence was itself granted automatically under the new Licensing Act 2003, without need for a hearing, as no relevant objections were received from the Police, on crime and disorder grounds, to the conversion.
37. It is important to distinguish the application for variation of a converted licence under the Licensing Act 2003 from the type of applications previously heard by the Sub-Committee, where a licence was renewed or an applicant sought to vary. The principles that apply are significantly different in many respects (although the requirement to give all parties a fair, unbiased hearing remains).
38. The Sub-Committee can only consider matters within the application that have been raised through representations from interested parties and responsible authorities. Interested Parties must live in the vicinity of the premises. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.
39. 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 and crime and disorder in the Borough.
40. Interested Parties, 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 day on which the applicant was notified by the licensing authority of the decision to be appealed against.
41. The principles that Sub-Committee members must apply are set out below.

## **Principles for making the determination**

42. Section 35 of the Licensing Act 2003 sets out the licensing authority's powers and duties in considering the determination of an application for variation.

43. The general principle is that applications for variation 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.

44. 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 (in this case, the initial objections from the Fire Service have been withdrawn).
- Are not, in the opinion of the relevant licensing authority, frivolous or vexatious.

45. 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

- Add to, omit, and/or alter the conditions of the licence or,
- Reject the whole or part of the application for variation

## **Conditions**

46. The Sub-Committee's discretion is thus limited. It can only modify the conditions put forward by the applicant, or refuse the variation, 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.

47. The four licensing objectives are

- a. The prevention of crime and disorder;
- b. Public safety;
- c. The prevention of nuisance; and
- d. The protection of children from harm.

48. 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.

49. 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.

50. The Licensing Act requires mandatory conditions in respect of supply of alcohol, the exhibition of films and in respect of door supervisors.

51. Members are also referred to the DCMS guidance on conditions, specifically section 7, and Annexes D, E, F and G.

### **Reasons**

52. If the Sub-Committee determines that it is necessary to modify the conditions, or to refuse the application for variation, it must give reasons for its decision.

### **Hearing Procedures**

53. 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.

54. As this matter relates to the determination of an application to vary under section 34 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**

55. 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.

56. 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.



57. 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.
58. 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.
59. Members will be aware of the Council's Code of Conduct that 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.

#### Guidance

60. Members are required to have regard to the DCMS 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.

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Licensing Act 2003 DCMS Guidance Secondary Regulations Statement of Licensing Policy Various papers from the premises file.	The Chaplin Centre, Thurlow Street, SE17 2DG	Mrs Kirty Read at the Chaplin Centre Telephone 0207 525 5748

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix a	Copy of the application
Appendix b	Copy of the existing premises
Appendix c	Copies of the representation from interested parties
Appendix d	Copy of the response from Responsible authorities
Appendix e	Copy of the local area map

## AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Gill Davies, Strategic Director of Environment & Housing	
Report Author	Dorcas Mills, Principal Licensing Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	17 November 2009	
Key Decision?	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director for Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	No	No
Executive Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team	November 17 2009	