

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: 28 January 2021	Meeting Name: Licensing Sub-Committee
Report Title		Licensing Act 2003: Nisa, Ground Floor Retail Unit, 1 Varcoe Road, London SE16 3FS	
Ward(s) of group(s) affected		Old Kent Road	
From		Strategic Director of Environment and Social Regeneration	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the licensing sub-committee considers whether an application submitted by Mehmet Boztepe for a premises licence be granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the premises known as Nisa, Ground Floor Retail Unit, 1 Varcoe Road, London SE16 3FS.
2. Notes:
 - a) The application is for a premises licence and was submitted under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003. The application is subject to representations and is therefore referred to the licensing sub-committee for determination.
 - b) Paragraphs 9 and 10 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 representations submitted, and related correspondence, are attached to this report in Appendix B. A map showing the location of the premises is attached as Appendix C.
 - d) A copy of the council's approved procedure for hearings of the sub-committee in relation to applications 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 5 November 2020 Mehmet Boztepe applied to this council for the grant of a premises licence in respect of Nisa, Ground Floor Retail Unit, 1 Varcoe Road, London SE16 3FS.
9. The application is summarised as follows:
 - **Supply of alcohol for consumption off the premises**
 - Monday to Saturday: 08:00 to 23:00
 - Sunday: 08:00 to 20:00
 - **Proposed opening hours of the premises**
 - Monday to Saturday: 07:00 to 23:00
 - Sunday: 08:00 to 20:00

- The premises, and its intended style of operation, are described in the application as follows:

“The business is located in a ground floor retail unit within an apartment block with residential properties above. The layout is as per the plan submitted. The business will trade under the Nisa brand.”

10. 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 then 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.
11. A copy the application to which this report relates is attached as Appendix A.

Designated Premises Supervisor

12. The proposed designated premises supervisor of the premises is Mehmet Boztepe.

Representations submitted by responsible authorities

13. No representations were submitted by the responsible authorities.

Representations from other persons

14. Five ‘other persons’ have submitted representations objecting to the application. The other persons are identified as parties 1 to 5. Parties 1 to 5 all live in the residential block of flats directly above the premises.
15. Party 2’s representation includes a petition signed by 23 residents of the block of flats directly above the premises. The signatories of the petition include parties 1 to 5.
16. The representations have been submitted in respect of all four licensing objectives and variously contend that: the operating hours finish too late and are likely to result in noise nuisance and / or disorder disturbing local residents, that the proposed operation of the premises will lead to increased anti-social behaviour and littering in the locale, that deliveries to and from the premises may impede access in the vicinity of the premises causing a public safety hazard and that the proposed child protection measures may be insufficient. The representations also raise concerns that a café will operate from the premises. The representations seek clarity as to delivery times in respect of the premises. The representations suggest that the proposed operating hours of the premises be reduced and that further noise abatement measures are considered.

17. Party 3 raises concerns regarding the specification and location of the electrical room at the premises. The specification and location of the electrical room are not concerns that the licensing sub-committee should consider in their determination of the application.
18. Copies of the representations submitted by the other persons, and related correspondence, are attached to this report as appendix B.

Conciliation

19. On the date that this report was written the applicant provided a response to the representations submitted by the other persons. Amongst other matters, the applicant has confirmed that no cafe will operate at the premises. The applicant's response was distributed to the other persons on the same date, meaning that there has not been much time for the other persons to provide any further comments to be included in this report. However party 1 has provided a reply with further comments to the applicant. Party 1's further comments are attached in Appendix B.
20. The representations submitted by parties 1 to 5 remain outstanding and must be considered in the determination of this application. At the hearing to determine this application the licensing sub-committee will be updated as to any conciliation of parties 1 to 5 and / or of any further comments provided by parties 1 to 5.

Premises history

21. No authorisation under current or prior licensing legislation has been held in respect of the premises.

Deregulation of entertainment

22. On 6 April 2015 entertainment became deregulated and as a result:
 - Live unamplified music is deregulated between 08:00 and 23:00 on any premises.
 - Live amplified music and recorded music are deregulated between 08:00 hours and 23:00 at on licensed premises for an audience of up to 500 people.
 - Plays and the performance of dance are deregulated between 08:00 and 23:00 or an audience of up to 500 people.
 - Indoor sporting events are deregulated between 08:00 and 23:00 for an audience of up to 1000 people.
23. Live music and recorded music can become licensable in on-licensed premises if the licensing authority removes the effect of deregulation following a licence review ('licence review mechanism').

24. The showing of films has not been de-regulated.

Business and Planning Act

25. The provisions in the Act temporarily modify the Licensing Act 2003 to provide an automatic extension to the terms of most premises licences which only permit the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises to allow the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises. This will make it easier for licensed premises to sell alcohol to customers for consumption off the premises in England and Wales, which will allow businesses to trade and maintain social distancing.

Map

26. A map showing the location of the premises is attached to this report as Appendix C. The following licensed premises are also shown on the map and provide licensable activities as stated:

Small Beer Brew Co. Ltd, 70-72 Verney Road, London SE16 3DH
licensed for:

- The sale of alcohol to be consumed on and off the premises
 - Monday to Saturday: 08:00 to 22:30
 - Sunday: 08:00 to 17:30

Southwark council statement of licensing policy

27. Council assembly approved Southwark's statement of licensing policy 2019 - 2021 on 27 March 2019. The policy came into effect on 28 March 2019. 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. To be read in conjunction with Appendix B to the policy.

- 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.
28. 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.
29. According to this council’s statement of licensing policy the premises are located in a residential area. Closing times as stated below are suggested in the statement of licensing policy for the following types of licensed premises located in residential areas:
- Off-licences and alcohol sales in grocers and supermarkets:
 - 23:00 daily

Resource implications

30. A fee of £100.00 has been paid by the applicant company in respect of this application being the statutory fee payable for premises within non-domestic rateable value band A.

Consultation

31. 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.

Community impact statement

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

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

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

Principles for making the determination

35. The sub-committee is asked to determine the application for a premises licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003.
36. The principles which sub-committee members must apply are set out below.
37. 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.
38. 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.
39. 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

40. 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.
41. The four licensing objectives are:
 - The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.
42. 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.
43. 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.
44. 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

45. 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

46. 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.
47. 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

48. 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.
49. 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.
50. 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.

51. 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.
52. 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.
53. 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.
54. 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.
55. 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

56. 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

57. 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 Home Office Revised Guidance to the Act Secondary Regulations Southwark statement of licensing policy Case file	Southwark Licensing, C/O Community Safety and Enforcement, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Mrs Kirty Read Tel: 020 7525

APPENDICES

Name	Title
Appendix A	Copy of the application
Appendix B	Copies of the representation submitted by other persons and related correspondence
Appendix C	Map showing the location of the premises

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Caroline Bruce, Director of Environment	
Report Author	Wesley McArthur, Principal Licensing Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 January 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	19 January 2021	