



Appendix B.3

Leicestershire Police

Licensing Act 2003 – Representation in respect of New Premises Application

Details of person or body making representation	
Your Name:	David Braithwaite
Your Address:	Force Licensing Department Mansfield House 74 Belgrave Gate LEICESTER LE1 3GG

Details of premises representation is about	
	Xtra Humongous Ltd
Address of premises:	Land between St John Street / Burleys Way, Leicester
Application No. (if known)	

Please tick one or more of the licensing objectives that your representation relates to:	
Prevention of crime and disorder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Prevention of public nuisance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Protection of children from harm	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please summarise your concerns about this application:
<p>I write in my capacity as Deputy Licensing Manager for Leicestershire Police on the authority delegated to me by the Chief Constable.</p> <p>This is an application for a new premises licence for a new outdoor venue / event area. The land is situated between St John Street, Watling street, Thames Street and Burleys Way, Leicester.</p> <p>Their planned operating times are :</p> <p>All licensable activities = Monday – Sunday 10:00 x 00:00 hours. Opening hours = Monday – Sunday 09:30 x 00:30 hours.</p>

The list of activities that have been applied for are as follows (all of which are outdoors):

1. Performance of Plays
2. Performance of Dance
3. Provision of Late-Night Refreshment
4. Exhibition of Films
5. Performance of Live Music
6. Playing of recorded Music
7. Supply & Sale of alcohol (both on & off the premises)

Leicestershire police are concerned that the present application fails to promote the following licensing objectives, Prevention Of Crime And Disorder, Public Safety, Protecting Children From Harm and the Prevention Of Public Nuisance.

A multi-agency meeting was held with the applicant to discuss the application in 2019 at City Hall. Leicestershire Police raised concerns about the suitability of the site, the size and type of events proposed.

On receipt of the application the applicant has failed to address the original concerns.

The proposed premise is located within the existing St John Business Centre, St John Street Leicester, off the Burleys Way (A594 Leicester City inner city ring road). The site consists of a mix of enclosed buildings and open air area.

The site is surrounded by a mix of occupied warehouses, textile/manufacturing units, car workshops, derelict buildings and wasteland.

Access to the site is currently accessed via a one way system off St John Street / Canning Street, through a narrow tunnel entrance. A narrow gated vehicle and pedestrian access point is also situated on Thames Street which also gives access to Burleys Way. However, given the narrowness of Thames Street the road is unsuitable as an access and egress route.

Thames Street is also occupied by car workshops with parked vehicles awaiting service. Given the sheer volume of vehicles in the street, some of which are in disrepair, possess a potential risk to public safety.

The proposed licensable activity area consists of a mix of derelict buildings, occupied buildings, open air square currently used as a car park and derelict wasteland. Parts of the site have also been demolished or suffered from fire damage over the years and thus resulting in some of the buildings and wasteland being in a poor state of repair.

In short, the site is a very large area and could easily cater for large scale events of over 5000+ people at once.

Accessibility

The site is accessed via St John Street, thus a "one way" system off Burleys Way. Burleys Way is a busy, high speed dual carriage way. A 1980's pedestrian footbridge crosses over the ring road and provides access to St John Street.

Premises including Leicester College St Margaret's Campus and Corah Suite an existing private hire/licensed premise is also located on St John Street.

The site is accessed at the end of St John at the junction of Canning Street and near to Watling Street. Both streets are narrow in width with on street parking.

(1) The prevention of crime and disorder

CCTV

Access to the site and surrounding streets are not covered by Leicester City Council CCTV. Therefore, key areas in terms of public safety and the prevention of crime and disorder are not covered. The lack of the CCTV in these areas will both hinder criminal investigations and fail to support the licensing objectives.

Some of the surrounding business possess CCTV cameras, however the quality and extent it not known. These cameras are likely to belong to individual business and not to a centralised responsible individual.

However, large areas of the proposed premise/site are not covered by CCTV. The application does not address CCTV and fails to state how CCTV will be installed, maintained, operated and made available to the relevant authorities.

(2) Public Safety

Parking

There is limited parking for private vehicles and coaches in the proximity to the site. There is currently no available / safe "drop of area" for visitors. If we have a large influx of cars and coaches dropping off around the same time, this will almost certainly lead to a queue developing which would back up onto St Margaret's Way, this in turn will have a detrimental impact on the inner ring road due to the congestion it will cause, this will then have a knock on effect with the local community.

St John Street & Watling Street

Both streets are narrow in width with very limited on street parking. Highway street lighting is sparse. Given the fact that the majority of the events will be hosted during the hours of darkness means that the risk factors to public safety are increased.

Thames Street

This street is also very narrow and there are parked vehicles on either side of the road almost all day, every day.

All of the proposed entry and egress points are situated on these roads, again this leads to grave concern especially following events. This is due to the fact that a mass of people leaving at the same time will instantly block all of these side roads and more worryingly most of their clientele will more than likely head towards the city centre and Burleys Way. This road is a dual carriageway and is the main part of the inner ring road within the city centre, it is very busy 24 hours a day and traffic travel along it at fast speeds (even though it has a 30 MPH limit). There is also very limited places to cross this road at the site location, this could lead to either people just all crossing in mass and ignoring the traffic signals which in turn will cause traffic congestion or they could take risks, and attempt to run in-between passing vehicles.

(3) Public Nuisance

Public Conveniences

St Margaret's Bus station located nearby does have public conveniences, however closed at 23:45 hours and they are not designed to cater for a large number of people. As the premise has applied to remain open to the public until 00:30 hours thus an additional 45 minutes it is likely that surrounding streets will be used as a public toilet when people leave events having consumed alcohol.

Residential Accommodation

Thames Tower located on Navigation Street / Thames Street junction is an eighteen story residential block containing approximately 112 individual flats/apartments. Given the distance from the site, it is inevitable that noise and parking within proximity to the proposed site would cause an inconvenience to residents.

(4) Protecting Children From Harm

Due to lack of detail surrounding what type of events will be taking place at the venue, we still have concerns surrounding how children will be dealt with, especially those that turn up by themselves. There is no mention as to what age restrictions will be in place for children who may try to attend unaccompanied, nor is there any indication as to what will happen to children who are refused entry other than a refusal book.

The police accept that, reported crime and disorder within the area is very low at this moment in time, however should this licence be granted then this would without question break the current status quo.

It cannot be underestimated what an impact 5000 people attending an event in such a confined area (as outlined above) will have on the local community nor can we ignore the fact, that a vast majority of these people would then head to the city centre following the end of any event they have attended. This in turn could have a very negative impact on the Night Time Economy, bearing in mind these people will have been consuming alcohol whilst at the premises and they would then carry on 'Topping up' throughout the night which in turn could lead to outbreaks of violence and disorder.

Leicester Police also have concerns as to what type of events will be taking place at the premises and also the frequency of them. The difference between a food and wine festival and a live music event are worlds apart and the latter will bring problems that are associated with these types of functions.

On 24/02/2020 the applicant attended a multi-agency meeting in regards to this application. The applicant offered us a brief description about what they intend to provide and stated numbers will be restricted to below 5000, however they were still being very vague and illusive as to what their full intentions are for the site. If the licence is granted in its current format, it could be used for anything and as often as they wish on any day of the year.

Following on from this meeting the applicant has since offered to reduce their

operating hours and also stated that there will only be a total of 15 music events and 68 other types of events.

In short, it is Leicestershire Police's opinion that the site is unsuitable for large scale events and would fail to promote all of the four licensing objectives in terms of:

- (1) The prevention of crime and disorder.
- (2) Public Safety.
- (3) The prevention of public nuisance.
- (4) Protecting Children from Harm.

Whilst not wishing to restrain the discretion of the committee, it is my opinion that granting this application in its present format would be contrary to the intentions and objectives of the four licensing objectives, therefore we request that this application be rejected.

A video and pictures of the location will be produced and submitted in due course.

David Braithwaite
Deputy Licensing Manager
Leicestershire Police

2nd March 2020