

[REDACTED]

George Domleo

Cc: James Cockerill; Deborah Bragg; 'licensing@leicester.gov.uk'
Subject: Dover Castle
Attachments: The Dover Castle - Dispersal Policy.pdf

Dear Resident

I hope you do not mind me contacting you but your objection has been forwarded by the Licensing Authority.

I act for Admiral Taverns Piccadilly Limited who are the premises licence holder of the Dover Castle. I have copied James Cockerill into this email who is the tenant and has been operating the premises for over 13 years. I have also copied Deborah Bragg from the Licensing Authority into this email.

James is a very experienced operator of licensed premises in Leicester and as well as operating the Dover Castle, has operated the Helsinki Nightclub on Rutland Street for 12 years and the Rainbow & Dove on Charles Street for 18 years. He employs 15 members of staff across all his premises and takes his responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 very seriously. From speaking with Environmental Health Officer Andrew Sansome, the last noise complaint received against the Dover Castle was in 2017.

I can confirm that the Dover Castle in its current form operates as a late-night entertainment venue predominantly catering for the gay community in Leicester. The Premises Licence already permits all licensable activities on Friday and Saturday until 4am the following day and should our application be granted there is to be no change to the concept.

I attach the dispersal policy which the Dover Castle is to have in place. This would be a live document and subject to change as times go on. James and his staff are fully aware of the importance of ensuring customers leave the venue as quietly as possible to aid a more gradual dispersal and to not cause a noise nuisance to the local residents. It is also worth noting that the majority of the measures included in the dispersal policy are already in place and being complied with at the premises.

James has also traded until 2am on 10 occasions which were Wednesday 2 September, Thursday 3 September, Sunday 6 September, Wednesday 9 September, Thursday 10 September, Sunday 13 September, Wednesday 16 September, Thursday 17 September, Sunday 20 September and Wednesday 23 September. We have spoken with the Environmental Health Officer Andrew Sansome, who has confirmed he has received no noise complaints against the premises on the above dates.

Once you have reviewed all of the proposals should you have any further queries then please do contact either James [REDACTED] or myself [REDACTED]. If you are now agreeable and are happy with the additional measures proposed, I would ask you to withdraw your representation by confirming to licensing@leicester.gov.uk / Deborah.bragg@leicester.gov.uk.

In any event, we would like to invite you to the Dover Castle to meet with James to discuss the application and the premises more generally on Friday 23 October at midday. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

Yours faithfully

George Domleo
Associate
Licensing

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

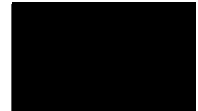
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Our Ref: AX/ G/ Leicester
Email: george.domleo@flintbishop.co.uk

CONTACT
GEORGE DOMLEO

FAX NUMBER



19 October 2020

Dear Resident

Dover Castle, Leicester

I hope you do not mind me writing to you, but your objection has been forwarded by the Licensing Authority.

I act for Admiral Taverns Piccadilly Limited who are the premises licence holder of the Dover Castle. A copy of this letter has been sent to James Cockerill who is the tenant and has been operating the premises for over 13 years, and also to Deborah Bragg at the Licensing Authority.

James Cockerill is a very experienced operator of licensed premises in Leicester and as well as operating the Dover Castle, has operated the Helsinki Nightclub on Rutland Street for 12 years and the Rainbow & Dove on Charles Street for 18 years. He employs 15 members of staff across all his premises and takes his responsibilities under the Licensing Act 2003 very seriously. From speaking with Environmental Health Officer Andrew Sansome, the last noise complaint received against the Dover Castle was in 2017.

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Once you have reviewed all of the proposals should you have any further queries then please do contact either James [REDACTED] or myself [REDACTED]. If you are now agreeable and are happy with the additional measures proposed, I would ask you to withdraw your representation by confirming to licensing@leicester.gov.uk / Deborah.bragg@leicester.gov.uk.

In any event, we would like to invite you to the Dover Castle to meet with James to discuss the application and the premises more generally on Friday 23 October at midday. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Flint Bishop LLP

Email from [REDACTED] in response to email from Flint Bishop received 19 October 2020 at 12:57

Dear Deborah

Thank you for your email. The attached letter doesn't address any of the issues or change the facts on the ground. Over the years I have personally called the Dover to complain but no one ever answers the phone. The building is not soundproofed and doors at the front and back are routinely left open. I have lived here for 18 years and initially the venue was quiet then it started to play loud music every day and late into the evening. Karaoke on Sunday afternoons used to routinely blare out - there is no Noise service on Sundays Mondays or Tuesdays.

Physically attending the venue is not something I would do as I would find this potentially intimidating.

There is no possible way that the venue could control or influence customers once outside the venue more than a few metres away. They routinely hang around Albion street and shout drunkenly or argue.

People get complaint fatigue because nothing ever seems to happen. By the time you call the noise team and they have attended the drunks have either moved on or the music has temporarily reduced in volume. You have to wait up at all hours when what you want to do is just sleep because you have to get up to go to work then next morning.

From my experience of living near the Dover it is hard to see how the tenant can be described as responsible and concerned for the well being of the neighbour's. It is clear what this is about: an attempt by one business to increase its footfall and income at the expense of the mental health and quality of life of the surrounding residents. I cannot see how this can be justified.

If this application is approved then the Council needs to immediately stop telling people that the city centre is a good place to live; it is misleading and unethical to trap people in such circumstances - many people cannot afford to leave.

KR

[REDACTED]

Email from [REDACTED] in response to email from Flint Bishop received 19 October at 11:28

Dear Deborah

Thank you for your email and for passing on the further representations from Flint Bishop. I attach my response – you will see that I have limited my comments to the topics covered by George Domleo in his email. I trust that, even though the initial deadline for submissions has expired, the Licensing Committee will consider this document, given that I am responding to further submissions from the applicant's solicitors.

I should be grateful if you would pass this document to the Licensing Committee for consideration at the hearing.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Dover Castle licensing application Response to email from Flint Bishop

In his email, George Domleo of Flint Bishop refers to ten occasions in September when the Dover Castle traded until 2.00 a.m. I have no reason to doubt that this was the case, but I am afraid that it is disingenuous to refer to a lack of complaints about noise on these occasions and suggest that this means there will be no such problems in the future. Leicester has been in local lockdown for many weeks now, including the whole of September. People attending public houses in September should only have been doing so with members of their own household or support bubble. Capacity within the pub must also be significantly reduced due to social distancing measures. This means that the number of customers at the Dover Castle (along with all other pubs) will have been significantly down on normal: if that were not the case, it would mean that the pub's management were allowing people to attend the pub in contravention of local lockdown rules.

The present local restrictions will not be with us forever, and we can therefore expect numbers - and noise - to be significantly greater in the future. It is therefore entirely misleading to suggest that, because there were no complaints about noise in September 2020, a permanent licence extension should be granted.

The application is for the Dover Castle's licence to be modified so that it is able to open until 2.30 a.m. every night of the week. As I explained in my initial letter of objection, this is a residential area and such proposed arrangements are entirely inappropriate. It is one thing to open later at weekends, and I think most local residents understand this, but it is quite another for a pub to remain open into the small hours of a Tuesday morning. Despite what George Domleo says in his email, there will inevitably be noise and disturbance, interrupting people's sleep.

It may be the case that there have been few formal complaints about noise in the recent past, but that does not of course mean that the noise has not existed. I have had no issue with noise coming from the premises of the Dover Castle itself, but I have often been woken up by the sound of loud chatter (or worse) from people walking up Dover Street. Without getting out of bed and leaving the flat it is difficult to be certain that the people concerned have just left the Dover Castle, although given that it is the only pub on Dover Street this could be said to be a reasonable assumption. I strongly suspect that many other residents have suffered similar disturbance in the past, but have not been able to be sufficiently sure of where the people concerned have come from in order to make a formal complaint. To put it bluntly, the mere fact that there have been few complaints about noise does not prove that there has been no noise.

It is intuitively obvious that people leaving a pub at 2.30 a.m. after a number of drinks are unlikely to remain quiet. It only takes one or two people making a noise for residents to be woken up, and the Dover Castle wants this risk to be present throughout the working week. I note that a dispersal policy has been drawn up, but to be frank this gives next to no reassurance. Even if the pub staff were able to enforce the policy within the premises, they would have absolutely no control over their patrons' behaviour after they have left the pub.

I personally like the Dover Castle and I am glad that it is there. I believe that it provides a valuable service to the local LGBT+ community. However, given its location I firmly believe that it should not be permitted to open so late into the night during the working week.

I note the offer from the pub's management to meet with residents on 23 October, and this is a welcome gesture. Unfortunately, however, my work commitments are such that I will not be able to attend. In any event, I do not believe that they would be able to allay the concerns that I have set out above by discussing them with me. The fact remains that the proposed licence extension would have a significant adverse impact on local residents. In the circumstances, I am afraid that I am not in a position to withdraw my objection.

Deborah Bragg

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 October 2020 15:26
To: Deborah Bragg
Subject: RE: Dover Castle - Variation Application

Hi Deborah, just in case then that I cannot attend the hearing due to work, my thoughts on the application and letter :

James is a very experienced operator of licensed premises in Leicester and as well as operating the Do has operated the Helsinki Nightclub on Rutland Street for 12 years and the Rainbow & Dove on Charles years. He employs 15 members of staff across all his premises and takes his responsibilities under the 2003 very seriously. From speaking with Environmental Health Officer Andrew Sansome, the last noise received against the Dover Castle was in 2017.

I have visited all three venues over the years and all appear to be well run. The Helsinki Nightclub is especially well known not just in Leicester but Leicestershire as a whole with many visiting town to attend the venue. I understand Helsinki Nightclub is closed or due to close down?, is the a reason for the extension request i.e. to turn The Dover public house into a Nightclub ?. I often hear noise from the venue, but I moved to LE1 only c.15 years ago, so consider it wrong of me to complain as I knew what was moving near too, the request for extending the hours further is another issue.

James has also traded until 2am on 10 occasions which were Wednesday 2 September, Thursday 3 September, Sunday 6 September, Wednesday 9 September, Thursday 10 September, Sunday 13 September, Wednesday 16 September, Thursday 17 September, Sunday 20 September and Wednesday 23 September. We have the Environmental Health Officer Andrew Sansome, who has confirmed he has received no noise complaints from the premises on the above dates.

I am surprised permission was given to stay open so late especially as LE1 has been on high alert since March. Can you say if the late nights were advertised? Are you suggesting staying open to 2am on the above dates yet no complaints, is a true test of what it will be like when Covid and Lockdown reduces. Town has been incredibly quiet during lockdown very few venturing out compared to the norm, opening a few nights, unadvertised, and with far less patrons than normal with no noise complaints does not justify extending the licence on a permanent basis.

In any event, we would like to invite you to the Dover Castle to meet with James to discuss the application on the premises more generally on Friday 23 October at midday. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

Unfortunately I'm at work so unable to attend, I would like to know if James lives at The Dover or even in town ? or is he fortunate enough to live in the countryside away from all the mess and noise.

Lastly, I only heard about the application having seen in the Mercury a 4:30 am request was rejected, then again from a neighbour regarding this new application, why aren't locals being made aware ? if this extension were to go ahead it will draw people and noise from all over town as other venues close and those attracted to a night club based in a residential area.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: Deborah Bragg <Deborah.Bragg@leicester.gov.uk>

Sent: 20 October 2020 11:56

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Dover Castle - Variation Application

Hi [REDACTED]

You can if you wish and I will send on to the applicant before the hearing so they can consider your comments.

I will send you the details to dial into the meeting when they are set up so that you have them if you can join the meeting.

If we can have a telephone number for you so that if you can join the meeting we have it should you get disconnected and our committee services team can dial you back in.

Kind regards

Deborah

Deborah Bragg MIOL

Licensing Manager (Policy and Applications)

Licensing Authority

Leicester City Council

Email: deborah.bragg@leicester.gov.uk

Telephone: 0116 4541924

www.leicester.gov.uk/licensing



Leicester
City Council

Use of face coverings in taxis

All passengers and drivers on public transport must wear face coverings. From 23 September 2020 passengers in taxis and private hire vehicles must wear face coverings. Taxi drivers are advised to wear face coverings. There are some exceptions, including:

- Children under the age of 11;
- People who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of any physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability, or i)without severe distress;
- People travelling with, or providing assistance to, another person who relies on lip reading to communicate with them
- People travelling to avoid injury, or to escape a risk of harm, who do not have a face covering with them.

Drivers may refuse a booking if a passenger is not wearing a face covering. However, drivers must be aware of the exceptions and take care not to base the decision on any other grounds. Passengers are also able to refuse to travel with a driver who is not wearing a face covering.

A face covering is a covering of any type which covers your nose and mouth. It does not have to be a surgical face mask. More information on face coverings is included in the government advice to passengers, which is available at [GOV.UK - passenger safety in taxis](https://www.gov.uk/government/advice/passenger-safety-in-taxis).

Government advice to transport operators includes lots of useful information, including further advice on the use of face coverings, and is available at [GOV.UK - guidance for operators](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/guidance-for-operators).

We advise that where a journey is pre-booked the customer is informed at the time of booking that the passenger(s) must wear a face covering during the journey and that failure to do so may result in the driver refusing to take them. Where a journey is not pre-booked (ie, a hackney carriage flagged down in the street or hired from a marked taxi rank) the driver may still request the passenger to wear a face covering during the journey.

Face coverings are not a substitute for other steps to protect against the spread of coronavirus. Drivers and passengers must continue to follow government advice on social distancing, handwashing and cleanliness.

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 20 October 2020 11:28
To: Deborah Bragg <Deborah.Bragg@leicester.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Dover Castle - Variation Application

Hi Deborah, am I to reply to this email ? also I work so may not be able to attend the meeting on the 30th, I won't know until the day itself.

Barry

From: Deborah Bragg <Deborah.Bragg@leicester.gov.uk>
Sent: 19 October 2020 09:33
Subject: Dover Castle - Variation Application

Good morning

Further to my email last week with additional information attached, the applicant's Solicitor has asked me to forward the attached documents to you for your consideration.

Kind regards

Deborah

Deborah Bragg MIOL
Licensing Manager (Policy and Applications)
Licensing Authority
Leicester City Council
Email: deborah.bragg@leicester.gov.uk
Telephone: 0116 4541924

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