



Appendix B1

Leicestershire Police

Licensing Act 2003 – Representation in respect of New Premises Licence application.

Details of person or body making representation	
Your Name:	PC Jefferson Pritchard
Your Address:	Force Licensing Department, Mansfield House, 74 Belgrave Gate, LEICESTER LE1 3GG

Details of premises representation is about	
Name of Premises:	African Village
Address of premises:	29 Church Gate Leicester LE1 3AL
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 Leicester City Centre’s alcohol licensing officer for Leicestershire Police on the authority delegated to me by the Chief Constable.</p> <p>This is an application for a new premises licence at 29 Church Gate, Leicester. LE1 3AL.</p> <p>The premises was formally licensed and was previously known as both Rosie O’Brien’s and more recently Vertigo.</p> <p>The applicant has applied for licensable activities including the provision of live music, the provision of recorded music, the provision of late night refreshments and the supply of alcohol - daily from 11am until 3am.</p>

The premises opening hours to the public, mirrors its proposed licensable activity.

The premises is located within the Church Gate Area Cumulative Impact Zone as per Leicester City Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

Paragraph 4:13 of the policy states, *"There will be a presumption that applications for new premises licences or extensions to the hours of licensing of existing premises in a cumulative impact zone will be refused. If the applicant can demonstrate that the premises will not add to the existing problems in a cumulative impact zone, the application could be approved. Applicants will need to address this issue in their operating schedules"*.

Given the proposed daily operating hours of 11am until 3am, the premises will operate during the night time economy, when alcohol fuelled violent crime in the area is a concern.

The granting of a further alcohol licence in this area has the potential to impact upon the already identified saturation zone and provide a further outlet for customers to consume alcohol. If the premises is not managed correctly, could result in a rise a crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour and therefore have a negative impact upon the area.

Leicestershire Police have reviewed the application, visited the premises and met the applicant in person. Leicestershire Police believe that if the licence was granted in its current form, the premises would add to the existing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the area.

Leicestershire Police are concerned that the applicant who is both the proposed premises licence holder and the designated premises supervisor is inexperienced, with no previous experience of managing a licensed premises in the UK.

During a meeting with the applicant on Tuesday 23rd February 2021, the applicant was unaware of health and safety legislation, public safety schemes (Challenge 21 & 25 schemes) and his legal responsibilities as the proposed designated premises supervisor as per the Licensing Act 2003.

The application does not address a security provision and the applicant was vague when asked.

The premises CCTV system was not operational at the time of the visit. The existing CCTV system is located in a basement area that is accessed via a communal stairway which permits access to the flats above the premises. The applicant was unsure about key aspects of the system, including the position of the cameras, the retention period and the process to provide viewable copies to the responsible authorities. The applicant made no reference to any of the external CCTV camera's covering the front of the premises.

During the meeting the applicant stated that customers prior to the current coronavirus national lockdown were permitted to smoke within an enclosed courtyard area. The applicant was advised that the area was enclosed area and therefore unlawful but also the area was a fire exit route. The enclosed area also acted as a storage area for refuse bins for both the premises and the flats directly above the premises and therefore a potential fire hazard.

Therefore, the only legal and safe area for customers to smoke is outside the front of the premises on Church Gate. Given the proposed operating hours and the only outdoor smoking area available, increases the risk of conflict between customers and other members of the public passing by during the night time economy.

Leicestershire Police accept that there has been very little recorded crime at the premises or

within the area over the last year but this is most likely due to coronavirus pandemic.

However prior to the 21st March 2020, Leicestershire Police recorded five incidents of crime and disorder associated with the premises within a twelve month period. (21/03/2019-21/03/2020)

(Please see Annex A for a list of the incidents).

Leicestershire Police believes that the application fails to promote all four of the licensing objectives. The application fails to address how the premises will reduce its footprint and not contribute to the existing crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour in the Church Gate Area cumulative impact zone.

Therefore, Leicestershire Police respectfully requests that the application be refused.

However, if the committee elects to grant the licence. Leicestershire Police would ask that the committee considers attaching the following licence conditions:

- (1) Licensable activities including the supply of alcohol to cease thirty minutes prior to closing to the public.
- (2) The premises licence holder must ensure that CCTV cameras are located within the premises to cover all the public areas including all entrances and exits.
- (3) The CCTV system must record clear images permitting the identification of individuals and retained for a minimum of 28 days.
- (4) The CCTV system must be recording at all times that the premises are open for licensable activity. All equipment must have a constant and accurate time and date generation.
- (5) The CCTV system must be fitted with security functions to prevent recordings being tampered with.
- (6) There must be a trained member of staff at the premises during the operating hours who is able to provide viewable images of the CCTV on request of a responsible authority.
- (7) A minimum of one Security Industry Authority (SIA) door supervisor must be on duty at the premises on Friday and Saturday between 10pm and must remain on duty until the premises are closed and all customers have left.
- (8) All door supervisors and others engaged at the premises for the purpose of supervising or controlling queues or customers must wear high visibility armbands.
- (9) A noise limiting device must be installed and must operate at all time regulated entertainment takes place at the premises. The device must be of a type, in a location and set at a level approved in writing by the appropriate officer of the council.
- (10) No more than five customers will be permitted to smoke outside the front of the premises on Church Gate at once.

(11) No alcoholic drinks or other supplied by the premises may be taken off the premises.

(12) The premises licence holder must adopt a Challenge 25 Policy and ensure all staff are trained. A record of this training must be kept on the premises, retained for twelve months and made available for inspection by the responsible authorities within a reasonable timescale on request.

(13) No members of the public are permitted to remain on the premises after hours.

PC 2093 Jefferson Pritchard Leicester
City Centre Licensing Officer
12th March 2021

African Village, 29 Church Gate, Leicester. LE1 3AL – Annex A

Incidents at the premises 12 months prior to the coronavirus pandemic 21/03/2019 – 21/03/2020

(1) Sunday 16th June 2019 @ 00:35 hours.

The premises calls police stating that ten persons are fighting outside but have also caused damage inside the premises. Police attend and disperse the group as no permanent damage caused.

Storm Incident 17 (16/06/2019)

(2) Sunday 7th July 2019 @ 02:31 hours.

Caller reports that 15-20 persons fighting in the street outside the premises. Police unable to attend.

Storm Incident 99 (07/07/2019)

(3) Sunday 14th July 2019 @ 02:45 hours.

Leicester City Council CCTV observes a fight outside the premises, resulting in three persons being arrested for public order offences.

Crime Number 19*366646.

(4) Friday 24th January 2020 @ 23:59 hours.

Police receive a report about two people fight at the location. The DPS later phones the police stating that two persons were fighting inside the pub. Police attend and three persons are arrested.

Storm Incident Number 722 & 723 (24/01/2020)

Crime Number 20*46461.

(5) Saturday 25th January 2020 @ 01:08 hours.

Leicester City Council CCTV alerts the police to a fight outside the location. Police attend. No persons arrested or complaints of assault.

Storm Incident Number 38 (25/01/2020)

Incidents within proximity to the premises, six months prior to Coronavirus pandemic - 21/09/2019 – 21/03/2020

(1) Sunday 1st December 2019 @ 00:35 hours.

A drunk male jumps out in front of car and was subsequently arrested by the police for being drunk and disorderly in a public place.

Crime Number 19*642248.

(2) Saturday 19th October 2019 @ 00:55 hours.

Leicester City Council CCTV observes a fight in the street. Police attend and arrest a person for assault.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED