



Founded 1971

Patron: Olwen Hughes MBE M.Phil. Dip.Ed. FRSA

Susan Hall  
Licensing Officer  
Local Services and Enforcement  
Leicester City Council, City Hall  
LEICESTER. LE1 1FZ

8th January 2015

Dear Ms Hall

**APPLICATION FOR NEW PREMISES LICENCE: ST. MARTINS HOUSE, CATHEDRAL GARDENS & LEICESTER CATHEDRAL**

Leicester Civic Society objects to this general licencing application by St. Martins Cathedral Properties Ltd for St. Martins House, Leicester Cathedral & Cathedral Gardens. Despite the obvious planned use of St. Martins House and Cathedral Gardens for events from the outset, this licence seeks a capacity of 4,999 for outdoor music 12 - 22.00 Mon, Fri, Sat and Sunday (Special events only in the summer) with sale of alcohol until 01.00. (23.00 Sunday) Given the likely uses we incline to think that a 'temporary events licence' in each case would be more appropriate. These can therefore be judged on their own merits.

Once given a general licence St. Martins Cathedral Properties could allow anyone to stage almost anything, creating a major outdoor secular venue in front of the Cathedral and in the heart of Greyfriars conservation area, which would be totally inappropriate. Once granted the use of this licence could generate a serious public nuisance for residents in the conservation area and have a serious adverse effect on the work being done as part of the Townscape Heritage Initiative for the City's "Connecting Leicester" Vision. We note the objection of Councillor Kitterick, as a Ward Councillor, and would fully support his statement that:

*"It will irrevocably change the nature of this area of the city as it will be nigh on impossible to prevent other licensed premises setting up on a similar basis. If there is the odd occasion when the rooms need to open for later bookings this surely can be addressed by a Temporary Event Notice. The millions invested by the City Council was spent I was told in order to create an area of quiet contemplation not a glorified nightclub in this regard the Church of England is acting in very bad faith in this application."*

We are particularly alarmed by the totally unnecessary proposed sale of alcohol until one in the morning "for consumption on or off the premises". This could be used to turn St. Martin's House tantamount into an 'off-sales'. We would remind you that Cathedral Square used to

have a serious street drinking problem and this application will therefore make a nonsense of the excellent work that was done, specifically in respect of the design and layout of the new gardens, to deal with this.

For the above reasons we strongly urge that this application is refused.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted signature]

Chairman

Copies: Ward Councillors: Councillor Neil Clayton, Councillor Patrick Kitterick,  
Councillor Lynn Senior.

Registered Charity No. 502932



EAST MIDLANDS ASSOCIATION  
OF CIVIC & HERITAGE SOCIETIES