



WATFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

27 JUL 2015

Environmental
Services

Licensing Team
Watford Borough Council
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22 July 2015

Representation Re: Circus (formally Cameo) 46 The Parade, High Street Watford WD17 1AY

Application to vary a premises license

I am responding on behalf of Public Health as a Responsible Authority to the above application received by email on 9 July 2015.

I have concerns regarding this application as outlined below:

- This premise is located in a special policy area as defined by Watford Borough Council in their Statement of Licensing Policy. Whereas this Policy applies to new applications, I would expect any variation application to respect and comply with the aims of the Policy. Justification for this Policy is to tackle violent crime, much of which takes place between 1-3am in this area. This Policy generally allows licensable activities until 1am only and until 10.30pm on Sundays for nightclubs. The current license for this premises is for alcohol sales until 2am, this application wants to extend this until 2.30am with opening hours until 3.30am Monday-Saturday.

Data from Watford Hospital Emergency Department shows that for 2014 the peak time for attendances with an alcohol related assault was 2-3am. This data, which covers the whole of Hertfordshire shows that the location of 53% of assaults was The High Street, Watford.

- Removal of condition 1: To employ the Scannet electronic Identification System. Scannet is used by clubs to promote safety within the premises by identifying members of the public with a known history of causing trouble. Surely any responsible owner would want to use this system.

- Removal of condition 4: No glass drinking vessels (including bottles) of any sort to be provided to, or used by customers on the premises (save as provided for below in regard to the VIP area).
- To be replaced with condition 2: After 9pm no glass drinking vessels or containers may be provided to, or used by customers on the premises, save as to cocktails, wine, champagne, or any bottles of 75cl or above, and an additional added condition-
- Condition 3: Where any incident involving any injury to any person occurs as a result of glass then the licensing authority may direct in writing, in the advice of the police, that polycarbonate receptacles be used throughout the premises.

This condition is in place to prevent injuries caused by broken glass. Data from Watford Hospital Emergency Department shows that out of 135 injuries resulting from alcohol related assault 73% were to the head/face/eye. Injuries caused by broken glass leave lifelong scars. A responsible action would be a preventative one and not a reactionary one.

- Removal of condition 8: All assaults resulting in physical injury to a customer or member of staff must be reported immediately to the police contact centre(999 or 101 telephone numbers)
- To be replaced with condition 5: Any serious assaults resulting in physical injury to a customer or member of staff must be reported immediately to the police contact centre (999 or 101 telephone numbers).

I question who will be qualified to decide whether an assault is 'serious' enough to report to the police. All assaults resulting in physical injury is a crime and should be reported to the police and medical assistance sought.

Yours sincerely



Dawn Morrish
Community Safety and Offender Health Lead