
From: Pete Crispin [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 October 2023 20:02
To: Planning Planning
Subject: Objection: Planning app: 2023/3285/P

Objection to planning application: 2023/3285/P -3-7 Delancey Street London Camden NW1 7NL
THE FORGE

We would like to object to the above planning application on the following grounds:

- Since the operators took over the venue last year, the disturbance from the music and patrons has been a continual problem for local residents. Regardless of the work from planning, licensing and environmental officers to help the operators limit the disruption and disturbance – problems are still on-going. One of the worst impacts has been patrons loitering before, during and after events. The operators have not been able to control the patrons from anti-social behaviour (drugs and drink in the street, shouting, holding up traffic, leaning against resident's parked cars). The extension of hours for recorded or live music granted for this site in the planning application in 2011 from Monday to – Saturday 08.00 – 23.00 and Sunday 08.00 – 22.30hrs **to** : from Monday to Thursday **08.00- 02** Friday to Saturday **08.00 - 03.00** and Sunday 08.00 – **00.00** would therefore be of considerable detriment to residents
- The venue was originally built as a purpose-built recital hall with a small restaurant on the first floor. Conditions placed on the venue were reasonable and protected residents from excessive noise/disturbance. Since then, the immediate area around the Forge has become more residential with flats built opposite in Chant House, and affordable housing as part of the new hotel opposite. Later operational hours of 2am weekdays, and 3am Fridays and Saturdays – would only create further disturbance and noise just at a time of night when traffic is lighter and therefore the street is quieter.
- The plans submitted do not require the operator to retain tables and chairs completely reversing the original planning ruling that there shall be no vertical drinking. Alcohol will only be sold by waiter/waitress service to customers seated at tables. Alcohol sales will be ancillary to a substantial table meal. This is of very real concern to the residents as it completely changes the nature of the venue from a restaurant with music to a music and dancing venue. People drinking without an accompanying meal will be likely to consume more alcohol, leading to more anti-social behaviour. The capacity of the venue will be considerably expanded, more people using the venue will lead to significantly more people coming and going – thus creating further noise and anti-social activity at the quietest time of night.
- The operators have tried to get around licensing conditions by applying for dozens of TENS applications. It is only through the existing planning conditions that we have been protected from extended licensable activities.
- Unfortunately the operators have shown time and again since it took over the Forge that it is totally unreliable and that it is either incapable of delivering on the numerous promises it makes to the official bodies, or simply has no intention of doing so. The operators have only complied when they have been given notices of breaching conditions. At the January licensing hearing, against significant opposition from residents, police, local councillors, the noise team and planning, the two councillors that voted it in did so on the condition that the operators would hold 8 LGBTQ+ events per month. The operators have failed to deliver on this as well. There is nothing to suggest that the operators' behaviour will change in the future, and Camden should not be supporting or encouraging it by agreeing to these changes.

I urge you to reject the application in its entirety as it's totally unsuitable for the premises and location.

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