
From: Emily Windsor <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 26 October 2023 10:41
To: Planning Planning
Subject: Planning Application 2023/3285/P 3-7 Delancey Street

I am a local resident living near the above venue and I am writing to object to the above planning application on the following grounds:

1. Since the operators took over the venue last year, the disturbance from the music and patrons has been a serious problem for local residents. Patrons hang around outside before, during and after events. They do not stand behind the barriers but block the pavement and spill out into the road. Before events start, they are made to queue in large numbers on the pavement, because the entrance was not designed to accommodate ticket checks at the door – it is just a very basic restaurant entrance. At these times, no one else can use the pavement. The customers drop huge amounts of litter, and the venue leaves bin bags out in the street - the area around the venue always looks a horrible mess after big events. There are bouncers, but they don't do much, and are actually quite a menacing presence: they block the pavement chatting to each other. Because there is no parking or loading outside the venue, many customers park their cars in the local grid of streets, or book minicabs to meet them there, and then when they leave the venue at 3am, usually drunk, they wake us up shouting and slamming car doors. This is now a regular occurrence, and it affects our sleep.
2. It is now suggested that the venue should change to being an all-standing venue. This would result in far larger numbers of customers, including increased footfall and queuing in the street, and far greater noise from within the venue. This is a huge concern for us, as the current numbers are seriously affecting our quality of life already.
3. The operators have tried to get around licencing conditions by applying for multiple TENS applications. It is only the existing planning conditions that have protected us from extended licensable activities.
4. Unfortunately the operators have shown time and again since they took over the Forge that they are totally cynical and unreliable: and that they will say anything to get more favourable licensing and planning conditions, and then not follow through. The council has had to serve numerous notices of breaching conditions – and this is how the operators behave at a time when they still want to get this planning application through. 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. Our fear is that were this application to be granted, their behaviour would become even worse. The operation they wish to run is simply not suitable for this location.

I urge you to reject this application.

With best wishes,

Emily Windsor.

Emily Windsor
Barrister

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