

Susannah Bond
[REDACTED]
Sovereign House
[REDACTED] Poppins Court
London
EC4A 4AX

17 August 2017

For the attention:
Town Clerk
City of London
Guildhall
London
EC2P 2EJ

By post & by email

Dear Sir/Madam

Premises Licence Application: Lucky Voice – 111 Fleet Street EC4A 2AB

I am writing to object to this application.

I have been a resident of the City of London since 1999. I live in Sovereign House with my young family. We love living in the very heart of the City. We enjoy being able to walk to work (and school sometimes) and live a car-free life with great ease. Everyday we are privileged to walk past historic architecture and iconic views of London. We appreciate the diversity and choices we are able to make by living in the City. We are, however, realistic and we do accept that urban living has some challenges for families and residents generally. Noise levels are one challenge and in order to minimise it, we have already installed triple glazing to keep the noise of the City at an acceptable level for us to live and sleep in this very busy area.

I am extremely concerned that if the licence is granted to Lucky Voice Ltd (“the Club”), in its unmodified form, it will lead to an enormous amount of disturbance to my family’s peaceful enjoyment of our nights and in particular our sleep in our home, in the City and to the local residents more generally. I also wonder whether the Club would diminish the “ceremonial grandeur” of Fleet Street and its surrounding areas.

My specific concerns are as follows:

1. Noise within the Club- regulated entertainment

The noise levels and vibrations caused by the live music, recorded music and films within the Club should be controllable, I hope, by any necessary conditions that are imposed on the licence so as not to disturb residents and surrounding businesses.

2. Noise and disturbances outside the Club

Given the proximity of the Club to residential property, I do not consider the terminal hours of 00.00 Monday to Wednesday and 02.00 Thursday to Saturday to be acceptable. The consequence of these terminal hours is that after 00.30 and 02.30 (on the relevant days) members of the public will still be leaving the premises of the Club. The terminal hours for the Club should surely be 23.00 for everyday of the week, in keeping with the rest of the block.

The additional conditions proposed by the applicant, including registered door supervisors should be welcomed, however, it is still not clear to me how the registered door supervisors or indeed a "written dispersal policy" can negate any public disturbance or antisocial behaviour on public pavements and surrounding streets. Whilst it would be interesting to know what detail a written dispersal policy might contain, there is clearly a limit to what registered door supervisors can do to enforce such a policy and inhibit noise or antisocial behaviour in public streets.

I think that the specific geographic layout of Fleet Street, Poppin's Court and St Bride's Street and the bus stop just outside the Club, is material to this licence application:

- Sovereign House is a triangular building with 15 flats, which has windows on both sides, namely on Poppin's Court and St Bride's Street and therefore residents of Sovereign House may be disturbed from both sides of the building.
- If you leave the Club left along Fleet Street you come upon St Bride's Street with a pleasant pedestrianised area with seating. After 00.30 or worse still 02.30, it will be very disruptive having this as the spill-out area for the Club.
- If you leave the Club and turn right along Fleet Street you will find Poppin's Court directly to your right. At night, despite being well lit, Poppin's Court is potentially a little intimidating for the safety conscious. If Poppin's Court becomes filled with the Club's smokers and revellers, Poppin's Court will become even less attractive to walk down at night for residents to get home.
- I anticipate that Poppin's Court will become the cigarette smoking area for the Club during the night (as it is for City workers during the day). It would be very helpful to know where the Club anticipates their guests smoke and how it plans to deal with the inevitable littering and noise.
- I would highlight that no other business on this block is open after 23.00 (some nights 22.00) and most are closed much earlier and nearly all are closed at the weekend.
- I note that the City of London Police are extremely responsive and helpful, if necessary, but surely have much better things to do that deal with than late night disturbances and anti-social behaviour.

3. Fleet Street Conservation Area

The Club is located on the ceremonial route along Fleet Street to St Paul's Cathedral, nearly opposite St Bride's Church and is within the Fleet Street Conservation Area. The Poppin's Court and St Bride's Street area abuts the Shoe Lane Quarter, with its new enhancement scheme.

The request for the Club to be open 7 days a week and for such extended hours, including daytime hours, feels to me inappropriate and incongruous given its location on the ceremonial route to St Paul's Cathedral and proximity to St Bride's Church.

Despite many internet searches and walking up and down Fleet Street numerous times, I have not found any other night clubs present on the ceremonial route along Fleet Street.

Amendments to licence

I would ask that:

1. the licence does not allow a full 7 days a week opening; and
2. the licensing terminal hours be set to be no later than 23.00, and the following of the Corporation's model conditions should be imposed:
 - All doors and windows to be kept closed at all times save for entry or exit (MC13), and no loudspeakers to be located in the entrance lobby (MC14).
 - No consumption of drinks to be permitted outside the premises (MC17) and no sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises (MC28).
 - No promoted events allowed (MC02).
 - The Licence Holder shall make a contact telephone number available to nearby residents and City of London Licensing Team to be used in the event of complaints arising (MC19).
 - Registered door supervisors as specified in the licence application.
3. In addition, noise generated by amplified music should be controlled by a noise limiting device set at a level determined by a City Corporation Environmental Health Officer (EHO), and should not be adjusted without the consent of an EHO.

Thank you for considering my objection. Please acknowledge receipt of this objection and let me know when the hearing will take place to consider the application.

Yours faithfully

Susannah Bond