

Committee(s): Licensing Sub-Committee	Hearing Date(s): 24 January 2018
Subject: Supporting statement for Licensing Act 2003 - Application for a new premises license Name of premises: Beech Street Tunnel Address of premises: From Silk Street to Bridgewater Street EC2Y 8AD	
Report of: Head of Music, Barbican Centre	Public
Report author: Event Producer – Music, Barbican Centre	For Information

Summary

This report details the Barbican Centre's reasons for, and evidence supporting, the application for a premises license for the use of recorded music in Beech Street Tunnel on the weekend of 16–18 March 2018.

Background

In March 2018, we are proposing to transform the iconic **Beech Street Tunnel** into an immersive audio-visual space, putting audience members inside a piece of classical contemporary music and allowing them to explore the work aurally, visually and spatially.

This is a very exciting project and the first of its kind in the Beech Street tunnel. The project is being produced in partnership between the Barbican Centre, City of London Culture Mile and our Creative Producer, 59 Productions – which in the context of this meeting we will now refer to as the “Event Partners”. This event will be an early, major manifestation of the City of London's Culture Mile.

In addition to a series of projectors along a section of the tunnel, an audio system will be installed to play a new composition, *Karawane*, by Esa Pekka Salonen from which the visuals will respond to. The audio system is being designed with multiple speakers so a relatively low sound pressure is needed at each location to create the desired experience for the audience.

Created by the Tony Award-winning 59 Productions, the team behind artistic commissions at Edinburgh Festival, Sydney Opera House and the London 2012 Olympics, this project is the first of a series of installations within Culture Mile that challenges how we think about public spaces - making the City a cleaner and more enjoyable place to live and work.

The Culture Mile is an ambitious and transformative initiative that will create a vibrant cultural area in the north-west corner of the City over the next 10-15 years. Stretching just under a mile from Farringdon to Moorgate, Culture Mile will have creative exchange, cultural collaboration and learning at its core in an area where 2,000 years of history collide with the world's best in culture.

The Barbican Centre has significant experience of promoting, producing and delivering world-class arts events both inside the Centre and at external venues and festival sites. One such annual event is the Walthamstow Garden Party which the Barbican produces and promotes in association with Waltham Forest council. It is a large multi-arts and multi-stage festival which involves local audiences in excess of 35,000 across the weekend.

Our Site Production Manager for this project, Alastair Pickard also has a wide and lengthy experience of managing large-scale arts and commercial events and projects and has worked closely with the Barbican for the last 5 years. He is a specialist in the area of site safety, logistics, crowd management and event delivery.

We have been consulting widely on the development of the project with local stakeholders, including local resident groups since May 2017. This process is proving very positive in enabling us to shape our plans to minimise impact on the local area.

The application for a Premises Licence relates particularly to playback of recorded music. Whilst we would like the hearing to focus on concerns raised in that area, we recognise that it is important to address representations made about the event more generally. We are also appreciative that some correspondents have expressed their desire to work with us to make the event a success. One point to emphasise is that at no point during the application process did the sale of alcohol form part of our event plan or licence application, and we can hereby confirm that no alcohol sales will be permissible during the event. Alcoholic beverages will not be permitted into the event throughout the event weekend.

Meeting the Licensing Objectives

1. The prevention of crime and disorder:

The Event Partners are working closely with the City of London's Safety Advisory Group and Licensing, Operational and Safety Planning Group ensuring that a robust security and stewarding plan is in place and implemented by a fully qualified security team. The first LOSPG meeting took place on Tuesday 16th January 2018 and our latest event plans were received very positively by the group.

The Police have so far responded by commenting that our planning documents have been excellently presented and they are very reassured to know their key concerns are on our radar and are being addressed. We will continue to respond positively to any concerns raised by the Police in respect of crime and disorder arising from this event.

We are in process of appointing the company which will be responsible for 24hr security and stewarding of road closures. We will ensure that full briefing of all security, stewards and other event staff takes place to cover event protocol, including procedures agreed with City of London Police to follow if instances of crime and disorder are encountered.

2. Public safety:

We are working with a third party Health and Safety consultant to develop an Event Safety Plan. Draft versions have been viewed by CoL safety planning group and further populated documents will be submitted for approval in forthcoming meetings.

We can confirm that we will:

- a. continue to work closely with emergency agencies to ensure the event site is appropriately stewarded.
- b. configure the event layout to minimise chance of overcrowding, both inside the tunnel and in queuing areas. The event is free but ticketed and will be publicised and managed accordingly, so risk of overcrowding is considered minimal.
- c. ensure that emergency lighting and evacuation routes are maintained and that access is available at all times for emergency vehicles.
- d. ensure that no emergency routes from neighbouring buildings on the Barbican Estate are obstructed.
- e. ensure appropriate first aid cover is available, both for event-goers and members of staff.
- f. ensure that all relevant personnel and agencies are aware of emergency procedures.
- g. continue to maintain a dialogue with City police and the Department of Environmental Health, including securing licenses for the erection of temporary structures and agreeing a plan for monitoring Carbon Monoxide levels in the tunnel.
- h. Conduct a full risk assessment for the event including fire risks. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented and monitored throughout the build, event and breakdown period.

3. Prevention of public nuisance:

The Event Partners are working hard to ensure that the project does not represent any form of public nuisance. A dedicated emergency event 'hotline' number will be made available to residents at a later date to report any concerns or issues related to the event, over the weekend itself and also during the build and derig.

The Event Partners are extremely mindful of potential noise impact on local residents during the playback of recorded music. We would like to confirm that performances of the event are intended to run on the hour each day, lasting for 30 minutes with a 30 minute break to turnaround the audience. Live event times will run from 3pm-10.30pm on Saturday 17th March 2018 and from 12pm-10.30pm on Sunday 18th March 2018.

We are in full control of sound levels for the event, and intend to work with City of London Environment Health department during the sound check period and event days themselves to agree a volume level which protects the artistic integrity of the performances, whilst being sensitive to the wider community. Sound checks on Friday 16th March 2018 will take place during normal noisy hours of 8am to 6pm. We have agreed with residents during our recent consultation that sound checks on Saturday 17th March 2018 will not begin until 10am as a courtesy to local residents.

It should be noted again that the PA system has been designed to have multiple speakers along the length of the tunnel, thereby enabling a lower volume level to be required at each speaker to create the desired audience experience. Structures are also being erected at either end and at Golden Lane from which will hang a double layer of drape. This will have a considerable attenuating effect on sound leaving the tunnel from these openings.

We also intend to prevent public nuisance by:

- a. Continuing to respond proactively to the Department of Environmental Health and by maintaining our dialogue with local resident associations.
- b. Ensuring that noisy work during the build and breakdown only occurs during normal city of London noisy hours of 8am to 6pm.
- c. Developing and agreeing a dispersal plan with City of London. This will be based on existing Barbican policies and include strong messaging and signage to inform audience members that they are in a residential area.
- d. Communicate with event-goers that toilet facilities (including baby change and accessible facilities) will be available throughout the Barbican Campus which will be available at the Barbican Centre, LSO St Luke's, Milton Court and the GSMD throughout the weekend.

4. Protection of children from harm:

The Event Partners will seek to protect children from harm at all times. We will ensure that all event-goers under the age of 16 are accompanied by an appropriate adult and communicate this requirement in advance. We will develop a robust lost persons procedure and ensure all relevant personnel are properly briefed in its execution.

The Event Partners understand the licensing objectives inform a large part of the planning of this event, ensuring that event-goers have an enjoyable experience in a safe environment. We are, and will continue to maintain an active dialogue with all responsible authorities and local resident associations in the planning and delivery of the event. We understand that, regardless of the outcome of this hearing, we are obliged to satisfy City of London's safety planning groups that our delivery plans meet the licensing objectives over the coming weeks.

Road Closures and Access

It is also appropriate to raise the subject of access in this hearing, as comments have been made about the extent and duration of the closures.

We acknowledge that the road closure requirement has increased from a weekend closure to a 6-day closure since originally briefing to City of London members. The requirement for a 6-day closure has been defined by development of the project scope and detailed planning of the production schedule with attention being paid to avoiding noise disturbance to local residents during the build. In short, the critical path of the schedule requires the building of projector platforms and light sealing of the east/west ends of the tunnel and Golden Lane entrance to be completed by Thursday 15th March 2018, in order to allow 48 hours for the detailed lining up of the projectors ahead of Saturday 17th March 2018 am.

It is understood that Members have requested that we ensure the length of road closures is minimised which we have done to the best of our abilities within the scope of the project set up. To implement any further reduction would require cutting a full 24 hours out of the projector lining up phase (any less would involve upsetting the day/night balance of work leading to noise pollution for residents). We have attempted to achieve this, but have concluded with 59 Productions that to do so would jeopardise the integrity of the project.

We have submitted a detailed Traffic Management Plan to City of London Highways for full approval which we currently await. Within that plan it should be noted that:

- a. Pedestrian access will be maintained through the tunnel for the duration of build / breakdown except for 2 or 3 periods of 1-2 hours to facilitate safe overhead working. At these times, pedestrians will be diverted over the high walk. General pedestrian access will be diverted over the high walk during the live event hours, but residents will be facilitated through the tunnel if required during this time by showing identification (e.g. key fob, Barbican Association membership card).
- b. Access to resident car parks will be maintained throughout the event build, performances and breakdown. We are conscious City of London Police may insist that we install Hostile Vehicle Mitigation measures at certain locations which could impact certain areas over the event weekend itself. This would be out of our control, but we commit to working with City of London to minimise impact as much as is practicable. These discussions are ongoing with City Police.

- c. There are no road closures planned that would restrict access to resident delivery / collection areas, however, we are in regular dialogue with residents to better understand the level of daily delivery activity and we will formulate a plan accordingly to alleviate impact.
- d. The Barbican has contacted a representative from the Barbican Estates team to discuss refuse collection activity and to formulate a plan to facilitate this.

Prepared by:

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