

From: |
To: [M&CP - Licensing](#)
Subject: NYT Aura Limited
Date: 16 March 2023 10:37:06

THIS IS AN EXTERNAL EMAIL

To whom it may concern.

I am writing to object to the application by NYT Aura Limited, for a late night drinking establishment/nightclub at Ground, Lower Ground and Basement Level of The Corn Exchange, 55 Mark Lane, London, City of London, EC3R 7NE.

Some background facts

I understand establishment, proposes to operate until 3am.

I note that there is a lack of detail in the application in regard to the floor layout, patron number, designation of outside space and strategies for customer management prior to admission and dispersal afterwards.

The application is in an area already served by many nightclubs and late night drinking establishments.

The local area is NOT served by night time tube and rail public transport (these stop at midnight) and by only 1 night bus, hence all transport from venues is on foot or by car and taxi.

I have suffered considerable distress as a result of the antisocial behaviour associated with late night early morning club trade within my local area, and I have made numerous reports to the Corporation, Wars Councilmen and the police in regard to this.

I consider the negative impact of granting this licence would increase noise disturbance; negatively impact highway safety and cleanliness, both customers and the general population. It would also increase the potential for criminal activity (particularly drug use and sale, but also incidents of criminal damage in the area).

I have been a resident of the Ward for 12 years, I live very close Mark Lane and I would like to share with you some of my experiences.

Noise

I am woken on a regular basis by noise coming from the street. The nature of the noise is as follows:

screaming, shouting, laughing, fights, people running, people being sick. Music from car stereos or personal stereos, sounds of

groups of people gathering around this music. Car horns, car engines revving and wheel spinning. Smashing glass on the street (possibly bottles or glasses), sounds of doors being kicked (often my front door and that of the business next to me) or rattled, street furniture being kicked or damaged.

The disturbances are at their worst in the early hours of the morning on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and Monday but sometimes on other days of the week. The disturbances begin at a time when when the surrounding nightclubs typically close. It persists until the morning proper.

The noise is from a large number of people, (not one or two), Similarly, the disturbances caused by cars and taxis is from a number of vehicles, not one or two.

The area where I live is surrounded by arches and small streets, there are residential buildings and offices. Aside from this onslaught of disturbance described above, the area is quiet. The local environment described above means sound is amplified, distorted and completely out of keeping with this quiet area of the city.

Many of the roads (mine included) are set back from the highways of Trinity Square and Cruched Friars. The small roads are frequent targets for the antisocial behaviour described above. Clubbers congregate in these little roads. Furthermore these small roads are used by clubbers when trying to get to the larger roads to get cabs or cars. This adds to the disturbance in the local area.

I always attempt to contact the City of London noise team, but over the past couple of years no one answers the phone and my complaint is not recorded. The disturbances are still happening, I just cannot contact the Corporation to tell them!

I contact Marianne (our councilman) and Caroline Fisk our community police officer. They provides good practical support, but obviously I cannot call them in the middle of the night.

I have also called the police 101 service and 999, again they provide immediate assistance.

Litter and other damage to the highway and pavements.

Litter, including broken bottles, broken glasses, human waste of all kinds, cigarette butts, fast food wrappers and food are a constant

hazard in the area around my home. There is also an element of drug paraphernalia and used sodastream cartridges left on the street.

These issues are particularly bad on Friday and at the weekend. The littering is on the pavements, in doorways, on or by street furniture. It is dangerous to users of the highway and pavements and poses a health hazard, both in itself and due to encouraging mice, rats and pigeons. This is true both at the time that it occurs and for hours or days after, basically for as long as it takes the Corporation to clear the mess up.

I always report these incidents to the corporation and (when it is particularly bad to Marianne and Caroline).

Of particular recent concern has been a cigarette butt causing a fire in some rubbish discarded near my property (see above complaint on litter). The fire was close to the gas inlet to a property. The fire was small and put out quickly, but the threat still remains.

In a separate issue there was concern that people were selling drugs or engaging in criminal activity in a sheltered area opposite my property. This was investigated by the police and steps taken to physically secure this particular area. Again although this particular area has been made safer, the threat has not gone away.

Even though these issues are reported and actioned upon by the relevant authorities, the problems still persist.

Criminal behaviour, particularly drug related.

I have reported discarded drug paraphernalia discarded on the streets in the immediate area. And I feel sure drugs are bought and sold under the arches close to my home. I cannot say for sure this is entirely associated to the night club scene, but I feel that the presence of clubbers will only add to this use and trade in street drugs.

All of the above issues have a negative effect on me. They promote a feeling of fear and anxiety, they promote physical danger and they lead to considerable lack of sleep.

The City's Statement of Licensing policy (2022), states that:

'residents (which includes hotel guests) have a reasonable expectation that their sleep will not be unduly disturbed between the hours of 23.00 and 07.00' (chapter 8, para 91, page 23). I consider that this licence application does not consider this, and that the applicant has failed to make due regard to the proximity of residents and the dispersal of patrons, in their application (page 10 para 30 of the city's licensing statement).

The 2022 City statement on Licensing refers to prevention of public nuisance by patrons who regularly engage in anti social behaviour once night club patrons, and are beyond the control of the licence holder, (para 96). There is further provision to take into account responsibilities under the Crime and Disorder Act. My experience is that night club patrons repeatedly and vairiedly engage in antisocial behaviour. And on occasions criminal behaviour. This behaviour is reported, wherever, possible to the Corporation and the police. I feel that the licensing committee should consider these reports and experiences when considering this current application.

The city's licensing policy recognises the cumulative impact of licence premises (chapter 12). There are numerous late night establishments in the immediate vicinity and their negative impact is very great, this has been documented and reported many times. I urge the licensing committee to consider the cumulative effect when considering yet another night club.

Yours faithfully

Dr. Jayne Evans