



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

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TERRITORIAL POLICING

Olympic Garden
3, Olympic Way
Wembley
Middlesex
HA9 0DL

NW BCU Licensing Department - Brent

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Your Ref: 30611

Date: Thursday 22nd of February 2024

Our ref: 01QK/063/23/3122NW

Police representations to the application for a new premises Licence for 'Olympic Garden, 3 Olympic Way, Wembley HA9 0DL'

Police certify that we have considered the application shown above and wish to make representations that the likely effect of the grant of the application is detrimental to the Council's Licensing Objectives for the reasons indicated below.

Officer: Phil Graves
Licensing Constable 3122NW

An officer of the Metropolitan Police, in whose area the premises are situated, who is authorised for the purposes of exercising its statutory function as a 'Responsible Authority' under the Licensing Act 2003.

The application has been made for a new premises licence under Section 17 of the Licensing act 2003. The Police representations are concerned with all four of the licensing objectives.

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
 - Public safety;
- The prevention of public nuisance; and
- The protection of children from harm.

The Application

This is a new application that wishes to have films, music and the sale of alcohol from 10.00 hrs in the morning to 22.00 hrs in the evening seven days a week.

The venue, as stated is 3 Olympic Way, Wembley next to the Novotel which is 5 Olympic Way. The site applied for is currently disused land which is part of a derelict building. The application is requesting to turn this unused land into a licensable area. Some of the area proposed is under the existing structure of 3 Olympic Way, with the remainder of the space situated in the open air out the front. The area would in effect be a permanent outside licensable area similar to that of a 'pub garden'.

Pictures submitted show that the applicant wishes to erect fencing around the perimeter to segregate the licensable area with Olympic Way. There would also be a queuing system out the front of 5 Olympic Way.

I have taken three photos of the proposed area below with the above mentioned area circled in red:





Police Objections / Issues

There are numerous issues that the police have with this application.

1. The entire borough of Brent is covered by a PSPO (Public Space Protection Order) part of which prohibits the consumption of alcohol in public spaces. Although this area would technically be a licensable / private area its location which would only be separated by a temporary barrier sits in the heart of Olympic Way. It is the opinion of the police that the nature and design of this application would not be supporting the PSPO but encouraging street drinking.

Wembley Park itself has its own PSPO to help combat the issues that arise on both match days and the remainder of the year. Both links are below...

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/nuisance-crime-and-community-safety/public-spaces-protection-orders#pspos>

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/nuisance-crime-and-community-safety/public-spaces-protection-orders/pspo-large-map#wembleypos>

2. Wembley Stadium has a maximum capacity of 90,000 people. Olympic Way is the main route between the stadium and the public transport systems. Between 60 and 80 percent of the fans attending the stadium use Olympic Way to enter and leave this venue.

This would mean that tens of thousands of fans passing 3 Olympic Way, twice in one day. Unfortunately Wembley has had mass disorder on event days at the stadium before, like that during the Euro 2020 finals. Licensed venues in the Wembley footprint have robust conditions to try and stop a repeat of this performance.

Having tens of thousands of rival football fans passing each other along Olympic Way has the potential to re-create these scenes of mass disorder. When football matches are played at the Stadium the fans are split on a game to game basis with one set on the East and the

other on the West side. Having fans sat out the front of 3 Olympic Way would undo all of the work put in by the police, council and the other licensed venues.

No other venue in the Wembley footprint has outdoor area with rival fans passing each other. Having such a venue would require a permanent police presence. The nature of having an 'open aired' venue such as this drastically increases the risk of having items thrown between the street and the 'beer garden'. This would mean an added increase on riot trained police at this venue, especially on high profile games or when rival teams meet. This increase in police numbers would be putting an even extra demand of the tax payer to fund this new venue.

The Baroness Casey report details these riots and just how close the mass scenes of carnage came to the loss of life.

<https://www.skysports.com/football/news/19692/12485109/euro-2020-fa-review-on-wembley-final-disorder-finds-series-of-crowd-near-misses-which-could-have-led-to-fatalities>

I have consulted a Superintendent Gerry Parker in charge of the public order events at the stadium who shares my concerns over the extra physical and financial burden that would be placed upon the police if this license was granted.

3. Public Nuisance – Olympic Way is a densely populated area with hundreds if not thousands of residents in flats and hotels literally overlooking and nearby this site. Adding a 'beer garden' is only going to generate noise which will no doubt lead to a rise in noise complaints and disgruntled residents. As stated above there are no other venues within the footprint that have a temporary 'beer garden' themed venue which I fear will add to complaints of noise and ASB calls to the police and local authority.
4. Public Safety – Having an open aired public house surrounded by so many flats possess a great risk to public safety. As stated above the venue above is derelict. You can see from the photo below that there is at least one missing and one boarded up window. This poorly maintained building could well cause harm to customers drinking below. The structure is six stories high which could have bricks and glass falling from this height onto customers drinking below, which could well cause a fatality. I don't believe the site is safe to have the public below with the state of the existing building.



5. Congestion – The current plan for match days is to have patrons queuing out the front of Novotel. This runs the risk of queuing fans congregating out the front of the Novotel while they wait to gain access, which would create another ‘flash point’ where disorder would more than likely occur between rival fans on the footprints busiest point. Again this would put a greater demand on police resources to police this area.
6. Security / Terrorism - I understand from the proposed conditions set by the licensing agent that this application is only intended for two years. It appears that this is a temporary application as 3 Olympic Way has submitted planning permission to develop the existing derelict building into a twenty-eight floor hotel / residential building. This would mean the current derelict building being left in its current unkempt state for two years.

Having such a large empty building above a public licensed covered and uncovered venue possess yet further risks. Improvised Explosive Device’s (IED’s) or other type devices could easily be placed in this vacant building posing threats of life to those nearby. This building would have to be searched by specially trained persons on a daily basis to ensure the site is safe

7. To date I don’t believe that a capacity risk assessment has been produced.
8. Planning permission to use the site for the sale of alcohol has only been submitted in February this year

Summary

Police have many concerns over the safety, public nuisance, crime and disorder that this venue would more than likely generate on any normal calendar date and even greater fears on match days at the Stadium.

The match day events at the Stadium are by far the greatest risk with this application. The sheer number of opposing football fans passing each other on their way into and worse, when leaving the Stadium possess a huge risk to the football fans, residents and the police officers present. The open aired venue with a temporary fence is nowhere near suitable to deter drunken and aggressive football fans seeking retribution upon each other.

The derelict building also possess a great health and safety risk with missing and damaged windows.

The application itself appears to be a temporary application prior to the development of the site into a much larger hotel and residential building. I don’t believe that all the necessary points raised above haven been thought through properly and pose a risk in many areas. This appears to be a short term plan aimed at optimising financial gain over safety and policing concerns.

For the reasons stated above police oppose the application in full as it is our belief that the crime and disorder, public safety and public nuisance licensing objectives will all be drastically undermined if the license was granted.

Yours Sincerely,

PC Phil Graves 3122NW
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