

[REDACTED]  
Sudbury  
Wembley HA0 2NJ  
24 July 2016

To the Licensing Committee

Ref: Premises Licence application – Sudbury Primary School

I write on behalf of myself, my husband and my daughter to object to the above application for a premises licence.

I find it unbelievable that the school would apply for a licence at all given that the area is completely residential, with houses abutting the school grounds on two sides and houses directly opposite the road on the other two sides. The fact that they have applied for a licence for entertainment and alcohol starting at 8am every day and ending at midnight Monday Thursday, 3am on Friday and Saturday, and 2am on Sunday beggars belief. It is abundantly clear that the school has no consideration for its neighbours, and the noise and disturbance we will suffer day in and day out if this licence is granted.

The school has already started marketing the school site as an entertainment venue, "Sudbury Hall" and proudly boasts that they can cater for up to 900 people, (500 in the Sports Hall, 300 in the Victorian Hall and 100 in the training room – see attached leaflet from their website) it is absolutely clear that this is not an ancillary use of the school for the odd event, but a full blown commercial enterprise. Clearly the school believes it is a foregone conclusion that the licence will be granted, why else would they have a massive banner outside the school advertising that they are open for bookings?

The granting of this licence will contravene all four licensing objectives.

### **Prevention of public nuisance**

Our house directly abuts the wilderness area at the back of the school and we and our neighbours will be subjected to noise and nuisance from music and voices emanating from the premises. We already suffer noise from several hundred shouting and screaming children from the school playground, this we accept, we knew when we moved here more than 20 years ago that there would be a certain amount of noise during school hours and we have never complained. Children are excitable and need to let off steam, we accept this, and the playground becomes quiet around 3.30 – 4.00pm. On Sundays we often hear the noise of amplified speech, presumably from the religious groups which use the school, again, the disturbance is shortlived and we have therefore not felt it necessary to complain.

However with this application we will be subjected to loud amplified music throughout the day and night, loud voices as people socialise in the playground, becoming more inebriated and therefore louder as the evening progresses, the shouting and screaming of unsupervised children and teenagers attending events, running riot round the playground, not only causing nuisance but

damage to school property. All this until midnight during the week, 3am on Friday and Saturday, and 2am on Sunday. Can you imagine the noise of upto 900 people, (or even 500 people if only the sports hall is being used) several hundred of whom will likely be inebriated, partying at the end of your garden at 3am, when the surrounding neighbours would normally be fast asleep. We can!

Then there is the additional problem of parking for these events, where are all these people going to park? In the surrounding residential streets, that's where. So we then have the additional noise of cars coming and going, engines revving, car doors slamming, loud music blaring, tooting horns, the loud goodbyes, and no doubt the screaming arguments and fights. And this won't be one or two cars, or just a few people there will be several hundred. It will be 4am, if we're lucky, before the area becomes quiet enough to sleep.

The school will not be able to control the noise from the school grounds, let alone the behaviour of patrons as they leave.

### **Prevention of crime and disorder**

The supply of alcohol until 3am will lead to an increase in crime and disorder in the surrounding residential streets. It is a known fact that people become less inhibited the more they drink, their judgement becomes impaired, small arguments can quickly turn violent, so we will be subjected to fights and screaming matches in the early hours of the morning. There will be damage to our property and cars, urinating and vomiting in our streets and front gardens, and an increased likelihood of drunk and dangerous drivers.

### **Protection of children from harm**

It is inconceivable that a primary school should be licensed for the sale of alcohol 7 days a week, starting at 8am and ending as late as 3am. The school playground, designed for young children to play in, will become an outdoor drinking and smoking area. It will be littered with the detritus from the late night parties of several hundred people, broken glass, cigarette butts, vomit, urine and possibly drug paraphernalia and used condoms. Is this really a safe environment for young children? How many children will be injured due to broken glass in the playground, or worse?

The school's proposal appears to put the safety of its children second to its commercial aspirations to make money.

### **Public safety**

The main entrance to the school is on Watford Road, the main road to Wembley, Harrow and Northwick Park Hospital, the major A&E centre for North West London. Watford Road is a busy main thoroughfare during the day until late evening, and for emergency ambulances 24 hours a day. There will be several hundred people milling around outside before the events, blocking the pavement and causing passers-by to walk in the road to pass by and then at the end of the event when many will be inebriated, several hundred spilling out into the road, risking not only their lives but the lives of those driving by at the time, including emergency ambulances.

This is a quiet residential area and we have lived here for the past 20 years in harmony with our neighbours. There is a feeling of mutual respect and all of us act with consideration for each other, we don't blare our music out at all times of the day and night, or have loud noisy parties week in and week out. At the weekends and evenings we can sit in our gardens and enjoy the peace and quiet of the neighbourhood. That will all change if this licence is granted in any shape or form and we will be denied our right to the peaceful enjoyment of our own homes.

In applying for this licence, the school has shown nothing but disdain for this peaceful residential neighbourhood. A matter of days before the application was made the school wrote to us and all our neighbours, the first time ever, acknowledging the parking issues created by parents dropping off and collecting their children at the start and end of the school day, and setting out what they were doing to try to ameliorate the situation. And yet there was no mention of their intention of applying for a licence, which will cause far more disturbance and mayhem. This is not the action of a responsible member of the local community, who wishes to foster good relations with its neighbours. Quite the opposite in fact, it is the action of someone who has no consideration for its neighbours, and is just looking to make a fast buck at our expense.

As a licensing officer for 2 large inner city boroughs I have over 20 years experience dealing with the fallout from licensed premises, and I have first hand experience of the mayhem that can ensue when late night alcohol and entertainment venues operate, especially in residential areas.

The steps set out in the application to promote the licensing objectives are inadequate, and are the bare minimum that one would expect to see on a nightclub application, and that is exactly what this will turn into, a night club type of operation. It takes no account of the totally residential nature of the neighbourhood, and that this is a school premises, first and foremost, charged with the education and safeguarding of several hundred young children.

This application is completely inappropriate and we ask the committee to reject the application outright.

Yours sincerely

Sharon Dyball, Kamal Mahmoud and Yasmin Mahmoud