

London Borough of Brent

Decision of the Alcohol and Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee following a hearing
on 13 October 2017 at Brent Civic Centre, Engineers Way, Wembley HA9 0FJ

NOTICE OF DECISION

PREMISES

Savannah Lounge
4 Lancelot Parade,
Lancelot Road,
HA0 2AJ

1. Members of the Sub-Committee

Councillors Harrison (chair), Mcleish and Jones

2. The Applications

The Application was for a Summary Licence Review of the premises known as Savannah Lounge.

3. Representation

The police were represented by Pc Michael Sullivan

The premises were represented by Mr Mansuckh Shamji Vekaria, the Licence holder

4. The Hearing

Case for the Police

On 7 October 2017, a private party took place at Savannah Lounge. Located close by is another licenced premises, Masti. The police are investigating disorder that occurred when the group from Savannah Lounge violently clashed with a group from Masti. The group from Masti are currently being treated as the victims and one of that party has suffered head injuries that require further medical attention although he is expected to make a full recovery.

The police showed CCTV from 8 October 2017 which showed that at around 02:45:56, a male comes out of Savannah Lounge and crosses the road. He approaches a male stood

on the other side of the road. This male was with others around a vehicle. The police believe that at least one of the group had been asked to leave Masti as a result of intoxicated behaviour.

The CCTV shows that the interaction turns into a physical altercation which grows until there is serious disorder in the street. A large number of people can be seen to exit Savannah Lounge and join in the violence. Door supervisors from Masti exit the premises to assist, a large number of people exit with them. The disorder is so widespread that vehicles are prevented from driving down the street. The victim's group retreat to their vehicle but are prevented from leaving by those from the Savannah Lounge, the CCTV shows the group trying to gain access to them and assaulting the persons sat in the front seats. During the altercation, it appears that various weapons were used.

The following licence breaches are alleged by the police to have occurred:

- There was no female security officer on the premises;
- There was no security officer wearing high visibility clothing after 00:00 hours;
- The security staff did not attend until 22:00 hours (although it was noted that the party did not start until 22:00 hours);
- Patrons of the premises were allowed to leave through the front door but then re-enter.

Case for the Licence Holder

The Licence Holder provided a statement from Vishal Jeshani which suggested that the group of people from Masti had been waiting opposite Savannah Lounge for over an hour. The group claimed that they were waiting for a taxi.

The first male from Savannah Lounge had gone across the road to ask for a light for his cigarette. Something was said resulting in a physical altercation. When the Savannah males returned to the bar, family and friends saw blood and began to attack the males from Masti. They beat them for around 20 minutes before the group eventually dispersed on Police arrival.

The Licence Holder made it clear that he had been running the premises for three years and there had never been previous difficulties. He runs a night party every month which is the lifeblood of his business as a particular DJ with a following attends, each time the group disperses with no issues. The Licence Holder also had a booking for a 40th birthday on the evening of the hearing. The Licence Holder provided an invoice for an ID scanner but there was no guarantee it would arrive on the day of the hearing and he admitted that it was unlikely that he would be able to train his staff to use the equipment by the evening.

5. Determination of the Application

The sub-committee determined the applications in accordance with section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003. Further the sub-committee considered the matter with a view to promoting the licensing objectives, namely:

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

In making its decision the sub-committee also had regard to the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 and Brent's licensing policy. In addition, the sub-committee took account of its obligations under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

The sub-committee were mindful of the need to reach a decision that was necessary, proportionate, and justified on the evidence before them and bearing in mind that the decision had interim effect until 3 November 2017.

6. Decision

The sub-committee have listened carefully to the submissions made by all parties and taken into account the written evidence provided by Vishal Jeshani.

We have some concerns about the management of this premises, we are satisfied on the evidence before us that, on balance, various breaches the licence conditions have taken place. We also note that incidents of this nature have not previously been connected to this premises.

The sub-committee have considered whether the imposition of further conditions onto the licence would remedy this situation. We consider that the conditions currently on the licence should be sufficient to prevent this sort of anti-social behaviour, however they are not being implemented.

We do have confidence that the Licence Holder is willing to co-operate with the police to prevent any issues of this nature in future and we have confidence that he understands that he is responsible for the implementation of the licence conditions. As such, we do not find it necessary to suspend the licence.

The licensable hours will be amended so that the premises will not be open beyond 01:00 hours on any day. All licensable activities cease at 12:30.

The ID scanning equipment is to be implemented as soon as reasonably practicable.

These interim measures will remain in place until the final hearing on 3 November 2017.

Dated 16 October 2017