APPENDIX C

From: Matt Scott-Joynt [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 12:04 PM
To: Licensing Shared Email [redacted]
Subject: SBK licensing review representation

[redacted]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: The review of the license for SBK, 113 Elm Grove, Southsea, ref 24/00435/LAREVI

As a result of my own experiences of living very near to SBK I fully support the conclusion of the police made in their license review application and representation, that the management of SBK should have their license revoked for any and all operations on the premises, whether they propose SBK to be run as a restaurant, bar or any other type of business. On the basis of their evidence and experience the police submitted that:

"Given the significant changes required to remove the risk currently presented by this venue's operation, poor decision making and management, Hampshire and IOW Police recommend the Sub Committee consider revocation of the premises license.

Whilst making your decision, please consider whether the Sub Committee were deliberately mis-lead during the hearing in October 2023."

I live in a small block of flats at the top of St.Peter's Grove very close to SBK. From when SBK opened, the antisocial and frequently frightening behaviour of SBK customers at weekends, and the disturbance caused by the level they play music has been so unpleasant and has caused me so much stress that I've tried to be away from my flat most weekends. I was staggered that the licensing committee last October 2023 favourably varied SBK's licence despite the overwhelming evidence presented showing the extent of the antisocial behaviour it attracted, clearly not in keeping with its presentation to the committee as 'a restaurant'.

Summary of my experiences of living near SBK, and of the unfitness of the management to run any premises on the site. Please use your experience to categorise my experiences fittingly under the headings: Prevention of crime and disorder; Public safety; Prevention of public nuisance; Protection of children from harm.

Since they opened SBK customers have consistently behaved in antisocial, gross and frightening ways when outside and around the premises and on St.Peter's Grove. This behaviour has continued after the October 2023 variation of their license. SBK management's consistent defence that the antisocial behaviour is not caused by their customers is a fallacy as I've continually witnessed their customer's antisocial behaviour on leaving, returning to, and before entering SBK. We had no significant antisocial behaviour and routine noise nuisance around and outside our flats during the evening and late at night before SBK opened.

- It has been routine to encounter SBK customers: urinating against walls in St.Peter's Grove, between cars, and in the car park and carport underpass of our flats. I have lost count of the number of times I've asked SBK customers to cease urinating publicly. Their reaction has almost always been verbally abusive. On one occasion 2 young men urinating then squared up to try and fight me at the entrance to my flats after I'd asked them to stop urinating there.

- It has been routine to watch SBK customers taking drugs (sharing and sniffing substances together) in St.Peter's Grove

- When outside SBK it's customers in groups large and small converse by shouting at each other, and arguing, probably because they're drunk. Although following the October 2023 review SBK made attempts to keep their customers from accessing or congregating in St.Peter's Grove this has not stopped the noise disturbance which is very significant and unpleasant even with all my flat's windows closed.

- It is worrying, unpleasant and gross to routinely have to hear and see SBK customers, many of them young women, staggering away from the venue under the influence of drink and perhaps drugs and on more than a few occasions vomiting either in the carport underpass or right in front of our flats and being unable to walk away. This seems an unsurprising result of the drinks promotions SBK trades on. Regardless of the apparent change in door staff following the October 2023 review, groups of young men and women still congregate in our carport underpass shouting and drinking together.

- I have witnessed so many instances of SBK's both male and female customers fighting and aggressively arguing with each other around the junction at the top of St.Peter's Grove, and also regularly seen running skirmishes and aggressive behaviour as intoxicated arguments continue down St. Peter's Grove in front of our flats as customers leave. It's very unpleasant and frightening, and I've really worried for the safety of all involved, particularly the young women.

- On two occasions I've walked late at night past SBK and seen young women slumped on the pavement outside near their entrance, seemingly semi conscious. I've also seen young women in a similar state on the kitchen steps of SBK on St.Peter's Grove. Doubtless a consequence of their drinks promotions. This is very unsafe and unpleasant to witness.

- Weekend evenings and late nights are regularly punctuated by the noise of cars noisily dropping people off at SBK in St.Peter's Grove or on and around its corner, and of customers noisily leaving or returning to their cars parked in St.Peter's Grove.

- The volume of the music coming from SBK is routinely so loud the beats can be heard in my flat with all windows closed. This has disturbed evenings and nights and caused me to have to wear ear plugs to get to sleep. Ever since it opened I've consistently asked various

members of the changing management of SBK to lower the volume. They haven't, and their responses to my requests have been totally dismissive and similar to: 'you must have very sensitive hearing', 'it's only during the last hours of the night that we turned it up', or, 'we've sound proofed the window and door so we've done all we can', 'people were having a good time, why don't you come and join us?'

- I have a 16 year old daughter who won't stay with me due to the antisocial behaviour caused by SBK's customers. She's right, the noise is disturbing and frightening. My eldest 21 year old daughter currently lives with me. She works in a bar on Albert Road which is run properly and feels safe. She is very alarmed at the level and type of drunken behaviour she's witnessed and heard when returning late at night from work, and when in our flat.

- Despite purposefully staying away from home most weekends I've still heard and then witnessed from my windows 2 awful incidents of group threatening behaviour and fighting outside SBK. This has been really unpleasant. SBK seems to attract a significant number of customers who have the capacity to behave very aggressively. Or perhaps their drinks promotions encourage vile and antisocial behaviour.

Conclusion

Late last year following the October licensing committee meeting, our residents group had a meeting at SBK with Steve Hudsen, a senior management there. We were given many assurances by him of the good nature of SBK, and he insisted it was run responsibly by him and the owners as a restaurant. Despite fatuously arguing with us that the majority of the antisocial behaviour we had identified wasn't caused by SBK customers, he encouraged us to bring any subsequent noise and antisocial behaviour issues to him and he would do all he could to assist us. The level of problems I've witnessed since and described above, as well as those outlined by the police in their evidence and recommendations, would I hope cause the licensing committee to think twice before believing any further submission from SBK that they have been primarily running a restaurant in keeping with their license, and that their owners and management are capable and fit to run a premises of any kind at 113 Elm Grove.

My experience of being subjected to the antisocial behaviours brought about by the existence of SBK leads me to fully support the police submission that: SBK trades on drinks promotions which have proved fundamentally dangerous to community safety; the committee should certainly consider revoking SBK's license; and that it seems the committee were very mislead by SBK during the October 2023 committee hearing, as a result of which I and many others in the community have had to experience yet more fear and disturbance from the behaviour of SBK's customers. Please do not make this mistake again. Surely the licensing committee's responsibility is firstly to the safety of the local community rather than to the owners of a business wanting to profit from binge drinking promotions, with a known history of running drinking premises that cause antisocial behaviour?

On the strength of the police evidence and submission alone I hope the committee feels it has both grounds and a duty to revoke the premises license.

Matt Scott-Joynt

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