

[REDACTED]  
To: zadanzig@yahoo.co.uk

Sent: Tuesday, 4 October 2011, 14:58

Subject: Licence application for Wharf Chambers Co-operative Club

Dear Mr Abbott,

Thank you for taking the time to write to us in order to expel some of our concerns regarding your application for a Club Premises Certificate at 23-25 Wharf St.

Your letter states that you are writing in your capacity as the secretary for Wharf Chambers Co-operative Club. Would you kindly inform us of who the Chair and other committee members of the club are, plus the directors of Wharf Chambers Ltd in order that we may be fully aware of who we are in discussions with.

You have also informed us that you intend to form a workers co-operative to staff the venue and in order to pay for this you require a Club Premises Certificate to enable you to host occasional events, presumably selling alcohol, to help fund the less lucrative day use of the club & social/recreation space. Could you please inform us of how often you will need to hold such events in order to cover your overheads, the intended style and hours of such events plus the staffing levels you will employ for these night.

We would welcome a meeting with yourself if you feel that one would help.

Best Regards

[REDACTED]

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From: andy abbott <zadanzig@yahoo.co.uk>

[REDACTED]  
Cc: "entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk" <entertainment.licensing@leeds.gov.uk>

Sent: Friday, 7 October 2011, 11:23

Subject: Re: Licence application for Wharf Chambers Co-operative Club

[REDACTED]  
I've discussed your request for further information with the club members. Apologies for the delayed response, it's just that we were in need of some clarification from the Entertainments Licensing Office regarding your representation. We feel it contains many serious allegations but with little evidence supplied and so it has been difficult to respond to both this and the subsequent request for information about our organisation. Unfortunately, Jane Wood, the officer who has been dealing with our case, has been off sick so that's been a slow process.

However, in keeping with the transparent and trusting relationship we would like to create with you, we can clarify the nature of the management of the organisation further. Wharf Chambers Ltd is an IPS (Industrial Provident Society) registered workers co-operative meaning that there are no directors as such but rather officers. With regard to licensable activities, the sovereign body (that is, the committee that the co-operative is accountable to and directed by) is the general meeting of the club collective that consists of a chair, secretary, treasurer and at least one member of the bar committee.

Reading between the lines of your request, it would appear that your concern is that there is significant overlap in terms of individuals responsible for the management of WCCC with those who were responsible for The Common Place. You can be assured that no members of the club collective or bar committee were involved in the management of The Common Place, neither were the co-op officers. To reiterate and emphasise from our application and previous correspondence, it is a separate entity with a distinct set of aims and objectives, structure and system of governance that will guarantee its safe, clean and professional day-to-day operation as a cultural venue and hub for the creative community.

Although we hope that responding to your request for further details is unnecessary, to offer you peace of mind and by way of working towards a quick resolution on this matter, the officers of the workers co-operative are Lotte Shaw (chair), Robert Hallows (treasurer) and Andrew Raine (secretary). The club collective roles are occupied by myself (secretary), Shakeeb Abu-Hamdan (treasurer) and David Robertshaw (chair).

In terms of regularity of events, as you know, the members club aims to support and bring an additional income for the daytime use of the space as effectively and efficiently as possible. We have applied for a license that will allow us the greatest amount of flexibility to ensure this. It is unlikely that there will be a regular pattern to the member's events as they will occur as necessary and appropriate. That said, we might estimate that in the early stages of the organisation evening events will take place once during the week and twice on weekends.

We want to start on the right foot with our neighbours and whilst we appreciate that the previous use of the building was going to make that a difficult process our worry is that we are in danger of repeating the confused and unproductive relationship you appear to have had with the previous tenants. If there is an opportunity to draw a line beneath this and start afresh prior to the hearing on Monday I think it would be in all of our interests. It would set a better precedent for future co-operation in keeping with the relationship we are successfully building with the authorities and other businesses and organisations in the area. Looking forward to your response and clearing up what we can together.

best wishes

Andy  
Club Secretary  
Wharf Chambers Co-operative Club