FORD & WARREN SOLICITORS

Our ref JGC

Reference Prem/00867/006

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Dear sirs,

Please accept the following as a representation on behalf of The University of Leeds, in respect of the full section application regarding the premises known as:

Halo & The Joint,
177 - 179 Woodhouse Lane'
Woodhouse,
Leeds LS 2 3JT.

We understand that the premises may currently open between 08.00am and 03.30am every day.

It is understood that licensable activities (to include the sale of alcohol and the provision of regulated entertainment) may currently be undertaken between the following hours -

Monday to Saturday 10.00am - 03.00

Sunday 12.00 - 03.00

We further understand that the premises is seeking to vary its premises licence as follows -

Opening Hours

08.00am - 06.00am (the next day) Everyday

Hours for the Sale of Alcohol and the Provision of Regulated Entertainment

08.00 - 06.00am (the next day).

The removal of certain conditions, including "There shall be no admission to the premises for patrons after 02.00 hours."

Our concerns regarding the application to vary the premises licence relate to the following Licensing Objectives -

1. The Prevention of Public Nuisance;
2. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder;

1. The Prevention of Public Nuisance

1.1 Works are currently being undertaken on the university's campus, on a site adjacent to this venue, to construct a new library - The Laidlaw Library. This new landmark university facility will be completed December 2014 and has been designed to accommodate the needs of our 20,000 undergraduate students.

1.2 The construction cost of the new library is £27,500,000. It has been designed to be world class facility, cutting edge in its facilities and is the first building in 75 years to be constructed on the front of the university's campus, since the famous Parkinson building.

1.3 It is planned that The Laidlaw library will have opening times which include 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and will replace The Edward Boyle library (EBL) in supporting our undergraduate students on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis.

1.4 The Laidlaw library will be directly adjacent to the Halo & The Joint.

1.5 As the Laidlaw library is currently under construction, we do not have details regarding its usage but we do have current demand figures relating to the EBL facility it is to replace for undergraduate library support.

1.6 EBL Peak visits across exam periods

1.7 It is anticipated that the use of the Laidlaw library, for all hours of the day and night will be greater than those detailed above for the EBL library as we find that when new improved facilities are provided, their usage increases, when compared to the facilities they replace.

1.8 We have serious concerns that the staff and students using the new Laidlaw library, especially at night, may be disturbed by noise emanating from or associated with Halo & The Joint such as -

1.9. Noise from regulated entertainment emanating from the premises;

1.10 Noise from people arriving at or leaving the premises. In this regard we note as detailed above, it is part of the application to remove the restriction on admission to the premises after 02.00am;

1.11 Noise from cars/taxis arriving at and departing from the premises;

1.12 We are also concerned that there may be issues regarding litter, such as glasses, bottles, promotional material, etc
2. The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

2.1 The University of Leeds has an information sharing arrangement with West Yorkshire Police and we are aware there are a large number of crimes taking place in Halo of an acquisitorial nature.

2.2 In addition to the foregoing, we note there are high rates of disorder, including for example public urination contrary to The Public Order Act 1986, associated with Halo. As recently as Monday 15/09/14, on just one evening there were 27 counts of disorder and public urination associated with Halo, captured on CCTV by the university. Regrettably this causes concern regarding the current management of the premises and the patrons that frequent the premises.

2.3 We are concerned that students wishing to use the new library during the night may feel unsafe or intimidated by users of the club.

3. Conclusion

3.1 The University is constructing the Laidlaw library with the aspiration and hope of enhancing the facilities that its students will enjoy and use in large numbers day and night. We are very concerned that any change to the hours that Halo & The Joint may trade will have a prejudicial effect on the staff and students using the new library.

3.2 It is noted that Halo & The Joint premises are located within Leeds Licensing Authority's Cumulative Impact Policy area, Area 3 - Woodhouse.

3.3 We further note that the Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy 2014 - 2018 states on page 32 that "7.35 The most recent evidence and public consultation responses gathered in respect of Area 3 shows that the A660 corridor still experiences a greater proportion of alcohol related crime and antisocial behaviour than the rest of Hyde Park/Woodhouse area. The police attribute this trend to the high concentration of licensed venues in the area. There are also worrying signs that displacement of problems may be taking place as evidenced by the strong responses received during the consultation process about public nuisance and alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour and criminal damage."

We note that the hearing of the application to vary the premises licence for The Halo & Joint will be determined on Monday 13/10/14. Please advise us of the location and time of the hearing.

Kind regards
John G. Coen | Ford & Warren Solicitors
Partner | Regulatory & Licensing Department

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