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1. THE APPLICATION

On 18th October 2023, Thomas and Thomas Partners LLP on behalf of Freak1 Limited (“the applicant”), submitted an application to vary the premises licence in respect of the premises known as Freak Scene, 28 Parsons Green Lane, London, SW6 4HS.

1.1 Current Licence

The premises currently benefit from a premises licence. The current premises licence permits the following:

Late night refreshment - Indoors only

Mondays to Saturdays between the hours of 23:00 to 23:30.

Non-Standard Timings and Seasonal Variations: From the end of permitted hours on New Year's Eve to 05:00 on New Year's Day.

The sale of alcohol - Both on and off the premises

Mondays to Saturdays between the hours of 10:00 to 23:30

Sundays between the hours of 10:00 to 22:30

Non-Standard Timings and Seasonal Variations: From the end of permitted hours on New Year's Eve to the start of permitted hours on New Year's Day.

Opening hours

Mondays to Saturdays between the hours of 08:00 to 00:00

Sundays between the hours of 08:00 to 23:00

A copy of the current premises licence and plan can be seen on pages **13-22** of this report.

1.2 Application Requested

The applicant has applied to vary the hours for late night refreshment, sale of alcohol on and off the premises and the opening times as outlined below:

Late night refreshment - Indoors only

Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 23:00 to 00:30.

The sale of alcohol - Both on and off the premises

Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 10:00 to 00:30.

Opening hours

Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 08:00 to 01:00.

A copy of the application form and plan can be seen on pages **23-35** of this report.

1.3 Applicants Operating Schedule

The applicant has not proposed any additional steps in the operating schedule to promote the four licensing objectives if the application is granted. A copy of the current licence conditions can be seen on pages **15-18** of this report.

On the 21 November 2023, in response to the representations, the applicant has agreed to reduce the hours applied for, and add one additional condition to the licence if granted, as detailed below:

Amended Hours:

Late night refreshment - Indoors only

Sunday to Thursday 23:00 – 00:00

Friday to Saturday 23:00 – 00:30

(Previously Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 23:00 to 00:30)

The sale of alcohol - Both on and off the premises

Sunday to Thursday 10:00 – 00:00

Friday to Saturday 10:00 – 00:30

(Previously Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 10:00 to 00:30)

Opening hours

Sunday to Thursday 08:00 – 00:30

Friday to Saturday 08:00 – 01:00

(Previously Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 08:00 to 01:00)

Additional Condition

- 1. There shall be no sales of food or alcohol via delivery.*

A copy of this amendment and relevant correspondence can be seen on pages **36-37** of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

The premises operates as a restaurant. The main access to the premises is located on Parson Green Lane. There is a mixture of both residential and commercial premises within the area. A map showing the location of the premises and neighbouring licensed premises can be seen on pages **38-40** of this report.

There are several options for transport away from the area including buses and taxis which run from in and around the Parsons Green and Fulham Road area. Parsons Green tube station is a 1-minute walk away, Fulham Broadway tube station is a 12-minute walk away and Putney Bridge tube station is a 19-minute walk away.

3. CONSULTATION

A public notice was displayed at the premises for 28 days. The application was advertised in a local circular and all statutory consultees were notified as required by the Regulations. The Council has served written notice of hearing upon the applicant and all those parties that have made representations in respect of the application.

3.1. Relevant Representations

The licensing section received five representations from local residents objecting to the licence application during the consultation period. A copy of these representations can be seen on pages **41-46** of this report.

On the 21 November 2023 the Licensing Team informed all representors of the amendments to the licensable hours and the additional condition in section 1.3 of the report. Following on from this email, one representation was withdrawn. A copy of the correspondence and comments can be found on pages **47-50** of this report.

4. OTHER INFORMATION

4.1 Enforcement History

There have not been any warnings, simple cautions or prosecutions given in respect of this premises during the past three years.

4.2 Temporary Event Notices (“TENs”)

There have been no TENs submitted in respect of this premises in the past twelve months.

5. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Section 2 pages 7-10 of the Statement of Licensing Policy (“SLP”) states the Licensing Authority is keen to support the licensed sector and leisure offer within the borough, with a particular focus on business resilience and growing a robust and thriving cultural and leisure sector. 8

To achieve this the Licensing Authority has identified three key themes of the Licensing Policy and the Licensing Authority’s approach to implementing it. These are:

- A sustainable, well-run licensed sector;
- Hammersmith & Fulham as a good place to live, work and enjoy leisure; and,
- A safe licensing environment and night-time economy.

5.2 Section 5 pages 12 and 13 of the SLP states that to ensure the promotion of the four Licensing Objectives the Licensing Authority will require applicants to detail in their operating schedule:

- the steps proposed to promote the licensing objective of the prevention of crime and disorder on, and in the vicinity of, the premises, having regard to their location, character, condition, the nature and extent of the proposed use and the persons likely to use the premises;
- the steps proposed to ensure the physical safety of people using the relevant premises or place;
- how they intend to prevent nuisance arising, prevent disturbance and protect amenity so far as is appropriate to ensure that the Licensing Objectives are met. Where there is a relevant representation regarding extended hours, the Licensing Authority will not permit an extension unless it is satisfied that the Licensing Objectives would be met;

- the measures and management controls in place to protect children from harm. Where appropriate a written childcare policy should be available and be incorporated in the induction of staff.

5.3 Policy 1 page 18 of the SLP states that applicants are expected to undertake a local risk assessment as part of the licence application. The Secretary of State's Guidance states that applicants are expected to obtain sufficient information to enable them to demonstrate, the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives; and that they understand the layout of the local area and physical environment including:

- a) crime and disorder hotspots;
- b) proximity to residential premises;
- c) proximity to areas where children may congregate;
- d) any risk posed to the local area by the applicants' proposed licensable activities; and
- e) participation in any local initiatives (for example, local crime reduction initiatives or voluntary schemes, such as 'Ask for Angela', local taxi-marshalling schemes, street pastors and other schemes) which may help to mitigate potential risks.

Applicants are expected to include positive proposals in their application on how they will manage any potential risks.

The Guidance goes on to state that 'Applicants are expected to provide licensing authorities with sufficient information in this section to determine the extent to which their proposed steps are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives in the local area. Applications must not be based on providing a set of standard conditions to promote the licensing objectives and applicants are expected to make it clear why the steps they are proposing are appropriate for the premises.

5.4 Policy 3 page 21 of the SLP states that where there is a relevant representation, the Licensing Authority will consider each particular case on its merits having regard in particular to the following matters:

- a) Whether the licensed activities are likely to have an adverse impact especially on local residents and, if there is potential to have an adverse impact, what, if any, appropriate measures will be put in place to prevent it;
- b) Whether there will be a substantial increase in the cumulative adverse impact from these or similar activities, on an adjacent residential area;
- c) Whether there is a suitable level of public transport accessibility to and from the premises at the appropriate times;
- d) Whether the activity will be likely to lead to a harmful and unmanageable increase in car parking demand in surrounding residential streets suffering high levels of parking stress or on roads forming part of the Strategic London Road Network or the London Bus Priority Network leading to a negative impact on the Licensing Objectives relating to the prevention of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour (ASB), nuisance and vehicle emissions;
- e) Whether there have been any representations made by Responsible Authorities, or other relevant agency or representative.

The Licensing Authority will closely scrutinise extended hours applications to ensure that the Licensing Objectives are met. In determining an application, the licensing

committee might decide that the circumstances are such that a restriction on hours is the only appropriate means to achieve the Licensing Objectives. If an 'hours' restriction is imposed, the Licensing Authority will normally require that customers should be allowed a minimum of thirty minutes to consume alcohol.

To act as a guide for new or existing operators we have set out the suggested closing times for licensed premises below:

Type of premises	Town centres	Mixed use areas	Residential areas
Restaurants and cafes	Fri – Sat 01:30 Mon - Thurs 01:00 Sun – 00:00	Fri – Sat 01:00 Mon - Thurs 00:00 Sun – 23:00	Fri – Sat 23:00 Sun – 22:00

5.5 Policy 11 page 30 of the SLP states that Licensing law is not the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour caused by people once they are away from the licensed premises and, therefore, beyond the direct control of the licensee. However, licensing is a key aspect of such control and licensing law is part of a holistic approach to the management of the night-time economy.

As a matter of policy the council expects every holder of a licence, certificate or permission, to accept and be responsible for minimising the impact of their activities and anti-social behaviour by their patrons within the vicinity of their premises by taking appropriate measures and action consistent with that responsibility.

Licensees and certificate holders should take reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of crime and disorder and public nuisance immediately outside their premises, for example on the pavement, in a beer garden or in a smoking area, to the extent that these matters are within their control.

Population densities in this borough are high, with many residential premises located above or in close proximity to licensed premises. This means that the public nuisance and crime and disorder objectives will be of paramount concern when evaluating Operating Schedules. Licensing Committees will place high regard on the control measures put in place by the applicant to ensure that our residents are protected from the potential detrimental effects of any licensed premises.

5.6 Policy 13 of the SLP in relation to Planning, states Despite Licensing and Planning being under different legislation, the Licensing Authority will ensure that the licensing regime is in line with the planning regime in Hammersmith & Fulham as far as is possible.

The local planning authority has powers to control opening times of all new establishments seeking planning permission, where harm might occur. Licensing applications will not be a re-run of the planning application. If the licensing committee grants any variation of a licence which involves a material alteration to a building, the applicant still needs to apply for planning permission, or building regulation control, where appropriate.

Where an applicant is granted a premises licence with operating hours that are different to the hours permitted by the premises planning permission, the applicant must observe the earlier closing time. Premises operating in breach of their planning permission would be liable to prosecution under planning law. We would suggest that the applicant contacts Planning apply to vary their conditions.

5.7 Annex 1 pages 35 and 36 of the SLP in relation to the prevention of crime and disorder states licence applicants will be expected to demonstrate the following in their operating schedules:

- a) Measures to control excessive consumption and intoxication.
- b) Consideration of any additional measures or restrictions that may be placed on alcohol sales to prevent binge drinking and promote 'sensible drinking'.
- e) Measures to demonstrate compliance Home Office guidance 'Safer Clubbing' in relation to the control of illegal drugs on their premises. They should agree a protocol with the Licensing Authority and the police on the handling of illegal drugs found on their premises.
- g) Conditions will, so far as possible, reflect local crime prevention strategies, and the Licensing Authority will also have regard to the views of the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.
- h) **Crime and disorder in the vicinity of the premises:** this may include the crime and disorder risks arising from persons queuing to enter the premises; persons exiting the premises and customers smoking eating or drinking in outdoor areas and on the highway outside the premises. This can also include crime arising from pickpockets and bag snatchers, particularly in open spaces or crowded areas where alcohol is being consumed.
- j) **CCTV** - using CCTV inside and/or outside the premises together with appropriate procedures and having staff properly trained to use CCTV equipment.
- k) dispersal procedures - establishing appropriate dispersal procedures to minimise the potential for crime and disorder when customers are leaving the premises.
- l) **dealing with and reporting crime and disorder** - training for staff and door security aimed at reducing crime and disorder in the premises and its vicinity and dealing with and reporting incidents if they occur.
- m) **door staff** - considering whether the premises employs a sufficient number of SIA registered door staff, whether Door Premises Supervisors check the legitimacy of the badges and whether SIA staff display their badges prominently. (Note: All door supervisors must be Security Industry Authority (SIA) registered).
- n) **drugs and weapons** - ensuring compliance with relevant guidance regarding illegal drugs and weapons. Attention should be paid to search procedures, procedures for the safe storage and surrender of seized drugs and weapons and drug awareness issues, designing out the ability to take drugs in the premises, etc.
- o) **excessive drinking** - training for staff to recognise when customers are becoming drunk and adopting appropriate 'cut off' procedures for drunken customers, to reduce the likelihood of fights or aggressive behaviour.
- p) **local schemes** – joining and attending local Pubwatch meetings and participating in the Behave or Be Banned Scheme (BOBB) and/or signing up and using the Council's Safety Net Radio scheme.

5.8 Annex 1 pages 38 to 40 of the SLP in relation to the prevention of public nuisance states that the Licensing Authority will particularly consider the following matters where they are material to the individual application:

- i. The Licensing Authority recommends that primarily alcohol led premises such as nightclubs and pubs, located close to any residential premises, implement a dispersal policy at their venue. All relevant staff should be trained on any policy, and all reasonable steps should be taken to ensure it is fully always implemented and adhered to.
- ii. The proximity of residential accommodation;
- iii. The type of use proposed, including the likely numbers of customers, proposed hours of operation and the frequency of activity;
- iv. The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the applicant to prevent noise and vibration escaping from the premises, including music, noise from ventilation equipment, and human voices. Such measures may include the installation of soundproofing, air conditioning, acoustic lobbies and sound limitation devices;
- v. The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the applicant to prevent disturbance by customers arriving at or leaving the premises.
- vi. Limiting the number of people permitted to use a garden or other open-air areas, including those for the use of smoking, at any one time.
- vii. Restricting the use of a garden or other open-air areas, including those for the use of smoking, after a particular time e.g. 11:00pm (or such earlier time as may be considered appropriate).
- viii. The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the applicant to prevent queuing (either by pedestrian or vehicular traffic). If some queuing is inevitable then queues should be diverted away from neighbouring premises or be otherwise managed to prevent disturbance or obstruction;
- ix. The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the applicant to ensure staff leave the premises quietly;
- x. The arrangements made or proposed for parking by patrons, and the effect of parking by patrons on local residents;
- xi. The provision for public transport in the locality (including taxis and private hire vehicles) for patrons;
- xii. The level of likely disturbance from associated vehicular and pedestrian movement to and from the premises;
- xiii. The delivery and collection areas and delivery/collection times;
- xiv. The siting of external lighting, including security lighting that is installed inappropriately;
- xv. The arrangements for refuse disposal, storage, and the prevention/tidying of litter (including fly posters and illegal placards);
- xvi. The history of previous nuisance complaints proved against the premises, particularly where statutory notices have been served on the present licence holder;
- xvii. The history of the applicant in controlling anti-social behaviour and preventing nuisance;
- xviii. The generation of odour, e.g. from the preparation of food;
- xix. Any other relevant activity likely to give rise to nuisance;
- xix. Any other relevant activity likely to give rise to nuisance;
- xx. Any representations made by the Police, or other relevant agency or representative;

The following provides a non-exhaustive list of risks associated with the public nuisance objective that applicants may want to consider when preparing their Operating Schedule:

k) **Late night refreshment** - applicants in respect of late night takeaways should demonstrate that they have assessed the risk of persons congregating in large numbers in the vicinity of their premises. Where appropriate, applicants should demonstrate suitable measures to address this problem.

l) **Light pollution** – this is an increasingly common source of complaint, particularly from illuminated signs and external security lighting. Where provided, illuminated signs should not cause glare to neighbouring properties, ideally being turned off at night, and external lighting should be angled and/or diffused to also prevent nuisance.

m) **Noise and/or vibration** breakout from the provision of regulated entertainment, particularly from (but not limited to) live music – consider what type of entertainment is to be provided, in what room/area of the premises and the suitability of the construction of this room/area to contain sound. Windows are a particular weak-point for noise break-out so consider providing regulated entertainment in a room without windows or with as few windows as possible, particularly windows that face towards nearby 40 residential properties. Where suitable, install a lobby to prevent spillage of noise each time an entrance/exit door is opened.

n) **External Areas** – External areas such as gardens can be the source of noise disturbance to surrounding premises. Consider limiting the use of the garden to a reasonable time and number of people.

o) **Odour** – odour from cooking is a common source of complaint, particularly from restaurants and fastfood takeaways. The Council's Noise and Nuisance Service may therefore require evidence that the kitchen ventilation and/or extract systems are regularly maintained and serviced to ensure that it is operating efficiently and with minimal nuisance to neighbours arising from odour and also noise. This includes the siting of BBQs.

p) **Queue management** - establishing appropriate procedures to avoid the need for customers to queue before entering the premises or, where queuing cannot be avoided, to manage queues so as to minimise the potential for crime and disorder or public nuisance by customers who are queuing.

q) **Ventilation** – where regulated entertainment is to be provided there may be a requirement to keep doors and/or windows closed during its provision to limit noise breakout, consider therefore the provision of air conditioning for the comfort of your customers if doors and windows have to be closed during the summer. However, also note air conditioning can be the source of noise complaints in itself, so careful consideration also needs to be given to the siting of this equipment.

r) **Waste** – consider how and where waste will be stored/disposed of at the end of trading hours, particularly if trading until late at night. This is important because the disposal of glass and/or cans to outside bin areas can be very noisy and give rise to complaints, so it may be necessary to store such items and other non-degradable refuse inside the premises until the next trading day. Consideration should also be given to the time of deliveries to minimize disruption to local residents.

s) **Litter** – for example, litter patrols for late night take-away premises.

6. DETERMINATION

6.1 In determining this application, the Committee must have regard to the representations and take such of the following steps as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The steps are:

(a) Grant the application in full

(b) Grant the application in part – modifying the proposed hours, activities or conditions.

(c) Reject the application

It is the Council's duty under the Licensing Act 2003 ("The Act") to determine applications with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives; Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.

In reaching a decision the Council shall consider the details of any relevant representations received; the applicant's Operating Schedule; the Council's adopted Statement of Licensing Policy and the guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Act.

If the Committee is minded to grant the application conditions may be attached to the licence to alleviate the concerns raised through the representations.