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1. THE APPLICATION

On 23rd November 2023, John Gaunt & Partners submitted an application on behalf of the Little Houses Group Limited (“the applicant”), for a new premises licence, in respect of the premises known as Parson’s House Nursery, 11 Heathman’s Road, London, SW6 4TJ.

1.1 Application Requested

The applicant will be operating the premises as a nursery, and rooms will be available for private functions when the nursery is not in use. The applicant has applied for the following licensable activities:

Licensable activities sought:

The provision of films - Indoors Only

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

The sale of alcohol - Both on and off the premises

Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 10:00 to 23:00

Opening hours of the premises

Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 07:00 to 23:30.

A copy of the application form, plan and proposed conditions can be seen on pages **13-35** of this report.

1.2 Applicants Operating Schedule

The applicant has proposed additional steps in the applications operating schedule to promote the four licensing objectives if the application is granted. A copy of the full list of proposed additional steps can be seen on pages **32 and 33** of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

The premises operates as a nursery. The main access to the premises is located on Heathman’s Road. There are primarily residential premises within the area. A map showing the location of the premises and neighbouring licensed premises can be seen on pages **37-39** 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 area. Parsons Green tube station is a 4-minute walk away, Fulham Broadway tube station is a 15-minute walk away and Putney Bridge tube station is a 16-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 two representations from local residents objecting to the licence application. A copy of these representations can be seen on pages **39-47** of this report.

On the 12th January 2024 the applicant's agent requested a letter to be sent to the two objectors. This was circulated to all parties on the 13th January 2024, and a copy of the correspondence and comments can be seen on pages **48-67** of this report.

On the 27th November 2023, the Licensing Section received comments from Planning. A copy of these comments can be seen on pages **68-69** of this report.

On the 1st December 2023, the Licensing team received comments from the Health & Safety Officer. A copy of the emails can be seen on pages **70-72** of this report.

4. OTHER INFORMATION

4.1 Enforcement History

There has been no enforcement history in respect of this premises in the last three years.

4.2 Temporary Event Notices (“TENS”)

There have been no TENS in respect of this premises in the last 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.

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 Statement of Licensing Policy (“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.

5.5 Policy 4 pages 22 and 23 of the SLP states that in determining an application where there has been a relevant representation the Licensing Authority will, where appropriate, take into account the cumulative effect of the number, type and density of licensed premises already existing in the area. Consideration will be given to the proximity to any drug and alcohol treatment site, A&E department or homeless hostel in a local area type remit i.e. applicants need to make the case for how they would not increase further problems for residents/clients nearby.

In coming to any decision regarding cumulative impact the Licensing Authority will consider other mechanisms outside of the licensing regime which may also be available to address this issue, these include but are not limited to:

- Planning controls (where development or change of use is involved, or where trading hours are limited by planning conditions)
- Police and other enforcement of the normal law concerning disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- Police powers to close down instantly any licensed premises or temporary events on grounds of disorder, the likelihood of disorder or excessive noise emanating from the premises, for up to 24 hours.
- The power of the police, other responsible authorities, a local resident, business or Councillor to seek a review of the licence or certificate in question.
- Police and Local Authority power to issue a Closure Notice for up to 48 hours where serious antisocial behaviour is taking place at licensed premises under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- To ensure that residents are protected from the negative impact of late-night local licensing activities the Licensing Authority may decide to adopt an Area Specific Cumulative Impact Policy in relation to a specific area; where the number, type and density of premises providing licensable activities is having a serious negative impact on the local community and local amenities.

5.6 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.

5.8 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.

5.9 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'.
- c) Operators of off-licences in areas problems relating to street drinking and under age drinking are prevalent, measures should be outlined to strictly monitor the way alcohol is sold, specifically where the premises are located close to schools and hostels and similar premises that provide shelter or services to alcohol dependent persons.
- d) It is important to ensure that staff working at off licences are suitably trained and receive appropriate refresher training in their responsibilities under the Act and can discharge their duties in full compliance with the licence conditions and requirements of the Act. This includes the ability to competently check a customer's age with acceptable forms of identification where necessary. The Licensing Authority will particularly consider the following matters where they are material to the individual application:
 - i. The likelihood of any violence, public order or policing problem if the licence is granted;
 - ii. The measures taken to control admission to the premises, and to take reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of crime and disorder and public nuisance immediately outside the premises, where and to the extent that these matters are within their control.

- iii. Past conduct and prior history of complaints against the premises;
- iv. Whether a dispersal policy has been prepared to minimise the potential for disorder as customers leave the premises; and
- v. Any relevant representations.

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.

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.

5.10 Annex 1 pages 37 and 38 of the SLP in relation to public safety, will require the applicant to demonstrate the steps proposed to ensure the physical safety of people using the relevant premises or place. This does not cover the separate need for applicants to provide relevant public safety requirements dealt with by Environmental Health. This is expected to include:

a) Maximum occupancy limits will be specified on the licence only where necessary for the promotion of public safety or the prevention of disorder. Where a capacity limit is already specified in a fire risk assessment, the Licensing Authority will not normally include that limit as a licence condition.

b) Safe capacities will be imposed where necessary for the promotion of public safety or the prevention of disorder on the relevant premises. If no safe capacity has been imposed through other legislation, a responsible authority may consider it necessary for a new capacity to be attached to the premises which would apply at any material time when the licensable activities are taking place and may make representations to that effect.

The types of premises that may be subject to safe capacities will be the following;

i. Nightclubs

ii. Cinemas

iii. Theatres

iv. Other premises where regulated entertainment is being provided within the meaning of the Act, e.g. open public spaces

c) The Licensing Authority will, where appropriate, attach conditions to a licence to ensure public safety, dealing with, but not limited to. the following:

i. Checks on equipment at specified intervals, e.g. gas safety checks;

ii. Standards to be maintained, e.g. temporary electrical installations to comply with British Standards;

iii. The number of people on the premises to ensure it is appropriate having regard to the activities taking place and reliable ways of counting the number;

iv. The steps taken to manage the risk from glass, the use of bottle bins, glass collectors and door supervisors to prevent glass being taken off the premises;

vi: The use of door supervisors to manage the entrance and exit from the premises and to protect public safety as customers leave the premises;

vi. The provision of air conditioning and ventilation;

- vii. Measures to protect against overcrowding; and
- viii. Implement access/support needs for disabled people.

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

e) incident and occurrence book – keeping an incident book on the premises so staff can record any instances of crime, disorder, refused sales, ejections and intimidating behaviour.

f) risks associated with special promotions/events – ensuring compliance with guidance from the Metropolitan Police relating to specific event risk assessments for externally promoted live music events well in advance of the event. Risk assessment forms can be obtained from the Metropolitan Police Licensing Officer.

g) getting home safely - providing information to customers and staff (including contact telephone numbers) regarding safer options available for travelling home late at night - including night buses, licensed taxis and private hire (mini-cabs).

h) overcrowding - developing policies and procedures regarding capacity to prevent overcrowding and patrons possibly becoming aggressive.

i) premises environment - applicants should consider the physical environment of the premises and have regard to issues that could increase the likelihood of patrons becoming agitated or aggressive. This may include procedures regarding door supervision, identification and management of drunken customers and issues of overcrowding and capacity, which may result in patrons becoming aggressive or rowdy.

5.11 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:

j) Deliveries/collections – noise from deliveries to and/or collections (e.g. refuse) from the premises are another common source of complaint. Consider the times of such deliveries/collections and make sure you specify to any contractors that deliveries/collections should not be made at anti-social times. As a guide, the Noise and Nuisance Service recommend that deliveries/collections should only be made between the hours of 7:30am and 9:00pm, depending on the proximity of residential and/or other noise sensitive properties.

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 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.

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.

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.