

Annex 11

Representations against the review (in support of the premises licence holder)

IP17 Representation

My name is xxxxx and I am the owner and landlord of premises known as 64 Aldermans Hill, Palmers Green, London, N13 4PP.

These premises have a restaurant at front elevation, pavement level and six bedsits on two upper floors of the property, bedsit rooms both front and rear. I have owned these premises for 37 years but have only personally managed the property since 2003.

I write to you regarding your letter dated 23rd April 2020, addressed to my tenant of the commercial premises/restaurant, Mr Arjan Borufi of Broomfield Coffee Bar Ltd. Suffice it to say, I am deeply concerned with the contents of your communication.

My current tenants, Mr Borufi and his wife Tila, have grasped the correct formula to make their business a success and I am delighted by their entrepreneurial style and approach.

I have spoken to Mr & Mrs Borufi regarding the noise and the potential for nuisance and they will ensure that going forward this is strictly monitored and I have also provided them with a noise decibel reader in order that they can subjectively monitor the noise emanating from their premises when they are hosting events.

I do wish to attest to the character of my tenants. I believe Mr & Mrs Borufi to be an honest and hard-working couple and originally from Albania.

They have been in residence in UK for 18 years and are British Citizens. They own their own house in Enfield and have two children and a third expected in August. In addition, they have adopted three children through the London Borough Enfield's adoption service. I have no doubt that your Council's Social Services Department rigorously vetted their applications and can confirm my impression of them.

I would request that you apply some leniency to this matter and note that I will work with Mr & Mrs Borufi to address any concerns that you may have regarding their adherence to the requirements of their licence.

IP18 Representation

I have taken an interest in the above application to review this establishment's license because I am a member of various local residents' networks and had previously heard some concerns about men gathering on the pavement. However I have now seen the full application and note that the main reason for the proceedings is noise nuisance.

The bar appears to be a social space for East European workers who probably lead quite disadvantaged and lonely lives. The fact that they come from a different culture may feel uncomfortable to some residents, but we live in a multicultural city and these are hard times for everyone, in which we must show extra tolerance and understanding.

I do not live on top of these premises and I sympathise with the residents who are being disturbed by the music. But I have lived in an old building before, where insulation was poor, and we could hear the music and TV from the flats above and below. We were advised by the Local Authority that this is a very common problem in older properties and little can be done.

If I chose to live above or next to a bar, such as Broomfield Cafe, I would know to expect music, loud voices, and clanking of bottles being placed in the recycling bin. All of us have visited bars and restaurants with loud music, there are thousands of them around London.

As to people on the pavement, before the lockdown it was very common to see people gathered on the pavements outside pubs, and this was considered normal. Now, and provided distancing rules are reasonably followed during the lockdown, we should show some tolerance.

The records suggest that the owners have tried all along to comply with the numerous and onerous instructions received (including, I note, keeping records of trainings, records of refusals, etc etc -- a heavy administrative burden for such a small outfit) , albeit with some delays and not to perfection. The impression from the records is that at times the authorities have been particularly harsh - for example, when the owners were apparently stopped from being at the premises redecorating and preparing for selling take-aways (which they probably need to do to survive as a business) on the basis that it was a non-essential trip, when, by contrast, builders and decorators were allowed to travel and to work during the lockdown.

In short, I note that there is no record of serious criminal offences , or regular drunken behaviour or other serious disturbances. If that were the case, my neighbours and us would support the application, but in essence the issue is that immediate neighbours are disturbed by noise, which is regrettable but perhaps something that can be alleviated with volume control.

On the basis of the records available, I believe that the Licensing Authority's request

for a total ban on music is excessive and hope that a fair and proportionate arrangement can be put in place.