



# Haverling

LONDON BOROUGH

## LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE BUDDHA LOUNGE (REVIEW)

### AGENDA

<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Thursday 24 October 2013</b>	<b>Council Chamber - Town Hall</b>
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Members 3: Quorum 2

**COUNCILLORS:**

Peter Gardner (Chairman)  
Denis Breading  
Brian Eagling

**For information about the meeting please contact:**

**Richard Cursons - 01708 432430  
richard.cursons@haverling.gov.uk**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

(if any) - receive

**2 DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Members are invited to disclose any pecuniary interest in any of the items on the agenda at this point of the meeting.

*Members may still disclose any pecuniary interest in an item at any time prior to the consideration of the matter.*

**3 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman will announce details of the arrangements in case of fire or other events that might require the meeting room or building's evacuation.

**4 REPORT OF THE CLERK**

**5 REPORT OF THE LICENSING OFFICER (Pages 1 - 28)**

Application for a Review of the premises licence for The Buddha Lounge 36-38 North Street, Romford RM1 1BH.

**Andrew Beesley  
Committee Administration Manager**



**Havering**  
LONDON BOROUGH

## LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

## REPORT

24 October 2013

Subject Heading:

Procedure for the Hearing  
Licensing Act 2003

Report Author and contact details:

Richard Cursons – Committee Officer  
01708 432430  
[richard.cursons@havering.gov.uk](mailto:richard.cursons@havering.gov.uk)

### REPORT OF THE CLERK

#### PROCEDURE FOR THE HEARING: LICENSING ACT 2003 (REVIEW OF LICENCE)

This is a hearing to consider an application for a review of a licence under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003. The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 will govern the arrangements for the hearing of the application now under consideration. This report accords with the requirements of that Act and the Regulations, and in particular Regulations 21-25 (procedure at the hearing).

#### 1. Membership of the Sub-Committee:

- 1.1 The Sub-Committee comprises three members of the Licensing Committee, with a quorum of two members. **Unless there are objections, in the absence of three members, the hearing shall proceed with the quorum of two.**
- 1.2 A member of the Licensing Committee will be excluded from hearing an application where he or she:
  - 1.2.1 has considered an application in respect of the premises in the previous 12 months as a Member of the Regulatory Services Committee; or
  - 1.2.2 is a Ward Councillor for the Ward in which the premises, subject to the application, are located; or
  - 1.2.3 is a Ward Councillor for a Ward which is likely to be affected by the application or;
  - 1.2.4 has a personal interest in the application.

## **2. Roles of other participants:**

- 2.1 The Legal Advisor is not a party to the hearing. The role of the Legal Advisor is to provide legal advice relating to the application and submissions.
- 2.2 The Clerk is not a party to the hearing. The role of the Clerk is to record the hearing and the decisions of the Sub-Committee, and ensure efficient administration

## **3. Chairman's Briefing meeting:**

- 3.1 Prior to this hearing, the Sub-Committee Chairman will have met the Legal Advisor and/or Clerk to determine whether further clarification is required of any issues contained in the review application or any representation.
- 3.2 During this representation validation meeting, no decision will have been made or discussion held regarding the substantive merits of the review application or representations.

## **4. Location and facilities:**

- 4.1 All hearings will be heard at the Havering Town Hall unless otherwise directed.
- 4.2 Interpreters will be provided by the Council on request, provided notice is given at least five working days before the hearing.

## **5. Notification of attendance:**

- 5.1 The Chairman will enquire of the parties who is in attendance and the parties will indicate their names (and, where relevant, whom they represent). A register will be circulated before the commencement of the hearing on which the applicant, his/her advisers and companions and all interested parties (and/or their representatives) will be asked to record their attendance.

## **6. Procedural matters:**

- 6.1 Prior to the commencement of the hearing, the Chairman of the Sub-Committee will orally inform the parties whether their applications to have certain people attend the hearing (e.g. witnesses) have been granted or refused. Note this relates to people other than those attending on behalf of a party in the capacity as a representative of the party.

- 6.2 Prior to the commencement of the hearing the Chairman of the Sub-Committee will outline the procedure to be followed at the hearing. This will normally be as follows:

**Introduction of the application:**

The party requesting the review will outline:

- details of the application and relevant representations received from the parties;
- relevant legislation ;
- relevant Licensing Policy; and
- the time limit in which the Council must reach a determination.

**Documentary evidence:**

- Documentary or other information in support of applications, representations or notices should be provided to the Clerk of the Sub-Committee at least 7 clear working days before the hearing. If this information is produced at the hearing it will only be taken into account by the Sub-Committee if the Sub-Committee and all the parties consent to its submission. Permission to have this information included in the hearing should be requested at the beginning of the hearing before any oral submissions have been made.
- Statements made by people in support of a party's representation who are not present at the hearing, must be signed by the maker, dated and witnessed by another person. The statement must also contain the witness's full name and occupation.

**Representations:**

- The Chairman will invite each of the parties at the hearing or their representative sequentially to address the Sub-Committee and call any person/s to whom permission has been granted to appear. Each party will be allowed a maximum period of 10 minutes in which to address the Sub-Committee and call persons on his/her behalf.
- This 10 minute period is where each party has the opportunity to orally address the Sub-Committee and clarify any points on which the Sub-Committee has sought clarification prior to the hearing. This 10 minute period should be uninterrupted unless a member of the Sub-Committee or Legal Advisor considers that the speaker is making submissions that are irrelevant, frivolous or vexatious.
- Members of the Sub-Committee may ask questions of any party, at any time during the proceedings. Time taken in dealing with a Member's question will not be taken into account in determining the

length of time available to the party in question to make their representation.

The sequence in which each of the parties will be invited to address the Sub-Committee will normally be in the order of:

- the party requesting the review of the licence
- the Chief Officer of Police;
- the Fire Authority;
- the Health and Safety at Work Enforcing Authority;
- the Local Planning Authority;
- the Local Environmental Health Authority;
- the Local Weights and Measures Authority;
- the Authority Responsible for the Protection of Children from Harm;
- a navigation or other authority responsible for waterways; and
- any other party that has submitted representations in respect of the application, certificate, notice or other matter appearing before the Sub-Committee;
- the party whose premises is the subject of the licence review.

At the discretion of the Sub-Committee the above order may be varied.

#### **Cross-Examination:**

Where witnesses have been permitted by the Sub-Committee to speak at the hearing on behalf of a party, permission must be sought from the Sub-Committee before another party can ask the witness questions. This process of questioning is normally referred to as cross-examination. The Sub-Committee will allow cross-examination only where it is necessary to assist it in considering the representations or application.

#### **Relevance:**

Information submitted at the hearing must be relevant to the applications, representations, or notice and the promotion of the licensing objectives. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee is entitled to exclude any information it considers to be irrelevant whether presented in written or oral form. The licensing objectives are:

**The prevention of crime and disorder;**

**Public safety;**

**The prevention of public nuisance; and**

**The protection of children from harm.**

## **7. Failure of parties to attend the hearing:**

- 7.1 If a party, who has not given prior notice of his/her intention not to attend the hearing, is absent from the hearing the Sub-Committee may either adjourn the hearing or hold the hearing in the party's absence. Where the hearing is held in the absence of a party, the Sub-Committee will still consider the application, representation or notice submitted by that party.

## **8. Adjournments and extension of time:**

- 8.1 The Sub-Committee may adjourn a hearing to a specified date or extend a notice period except where it must make a determination within certain time limits in the following specific applications:
- Review of premises licences following closure orders made under the Licensing Act 2003 where the Sub-committee must make a determination within 28 days of receiving notice of the closure order.
  - Other reviews of premises licenses where the Sub-Committee must make a determination within 28 days of the end of the statutory consultation period.

## **9. Sub-Committee's determination of the hearing:**

- 9.1 At the conclusion of the hearing the Sub-Committee will deliberate in private accompanied by the Clerk and the Legal Advisor who will be available to assist the Sub-Committee with any legal problems but will not participate in any decision making of the Sub-Committee.
- 9.2 The Sub-Committee will normally make its determination and announce its decision at the end of the hearing.
- 9.3 Where all parties have notified the Sub-Committee that a hearing is not required the Sub-Committee must make its determination within 10 working days of being given notice that the hearing is not required.

## **10. Power to exclude people from hearing:**

- 10.1 The public are entitled to attend the hearing as spectators. However, the Sub-Committee may exclude any person from the hearing including any person assisting or representing a party where:
- it considers that the public interest would be best served by excluding the public or the individual person from the hearing; or

- that person is behaving in a disruptive manner. This may include a party who is seeking to be heard at the hearing. In the case where a party is to be excluded, the party may submit to the Sub-Committee in writing any information which they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave the hearing.

**11. Recording of proceedings:**

- 11.1 A written record of the hearing will be produced and kept for 6 years from the date of the determination of the hearing.

**12. Power to vary procedure:**

- 12.1 The Sub-committee may depart from following any of the procedures set out in this document if it considers the departure to be necessary in order to consider an application, notice or representation.





# LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

# REPORT

17 October 2013

**Subject heading:**

**Buddha Lounge**

**36-38 North Street**

**Romford RM1 1BH**

**Premises licence review**

**Report author and contact details:**

**Arthur Hunt, Licensing Officer**

**01708 432777**

This application to review a premises licence is made under section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) by the Metropolitan Police. The application was submitted on 5 September 2013.

### Premises' details

The Buddha Lounge is situated within the pedestrianised area of North Street, Romford. The entrance to the premise is situated on the ground floor and the bar is located on the first floor. There is also an outside terrace area which is utilised as a smoking area.

The premise is obviously closely located to the numerous forms of public transport which serve Romford town centre.

### Application to review

The Metropolitan Police (MPS) submits this application to review The Buddha Lounge premises licence, numbered 2141, in accordance with the provisions of s.51 of the Act.

In line with s.51(3)(a) of the act the licence holder and other Responsible Authorities were informed of the application on the 5 September 2013.

### Requirements upon the Licensing Authority

The provisions of s.51(3)(b) of the Act dictate that the Licensing Authority undertakes certain functions with regard to an application made under this section. The Licensing Authority installed an appropriately worded public notice advertising this application at the premises, at Havering Town Hall and on Havering's website inviting interested persons and responsible authorities to make representations against, or in support of, the application in accordance with appropriate premises licence regulations 38 and 39.

When determining an application for a premises licence review made under s.51 of the Act requires that the relevant Licensing Authority holds a hearing to consider the application and any relevant representations made. During the hearing the Licensing Authority must take any of the following steps it considers necessary to promote the licensing objectives. These steps are:

- (a) to modify the conditions of the premises licence
- (b) to exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence
- (c) to remove the designated premises supervisor from the licence
- (d) to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months
- (e) to revoke the licence

### **Representations**

Inspector Maxine Blackledge submitted the review application on behalf of the Metropolitan Police. Inspector Blackledge's application is based upon the prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance and public safety licensing objectives.

Police seek the reduction of the closing time on Monday-Thursday from 0200 to 0100, Friday from 0400 to 0200, Saturday from 0500 - 0300 and Sunday from 0230 to 0130. Christmas day, Boxing day and New Years Eve from 0500 to 0300. Police also seek the removal of 04.00 finish time on the day following on Sundays preceding each May, Whitsun and August Bank Holiday

The MPS feels that these are wholly reasonable, proportionate and appropriate measures to put into place to promote the licensing objectives.

A further representation was received from an interested party. Mr Phipps, of TLT Solicitors, who represents Freetrade (Romford) Ltd; the long lease holders of the premises. He concurs with the Police that there are clear grounds for concern that the 3 licensing objectives are not being promoted.

Copies of all representations and supporting documentation are attached for reference.



**Application for the Review of a Premises Licence or Club Premises Certificate under the Licensing Act 2003**

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

- Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form.
- If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary.
- You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I, **Police Inspector Maxine Blackledge**, for and on behalf of the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police  
 apply for the review of a **premises licence** under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003  
 for the premises described in Part 1 below

**Part 1 – Premises or club premises details**

**Postal address of premises or club premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description:**

BUDDHA LOUNGE, 36-38 North Street, Romford, Essex.

**Post town:** Romford **Post code:** (if known) RM1 1BH

**Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known):**

T J Events, 1 Royal Terrace, Southend on Sea, Essex SS1 1EA

**Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known):**

002141

**Part 2 – Applicant details**

**I am:**

Please tick Yes

- |          |  |                                     |
|----------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>an individual, body or business which is not a responsible authority</b><br>(please read guidance note 1 and complete (A) or (B) below) | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|          | a) a person living in the vicinity of the premises   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|          | b) a body representing persons living in the vicinity of the premises  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|          | c) a person involved in business in the vicinity of the premises   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|          | d) a body representing persons involved in business in the vicinity of the premises  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| <b>2</b> | <b>a responsible authority (please complete (C) below)</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>3</b> | <b>a member of the club to which this application relates (please complete section (A) below)</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**PROTECTIVE MARKING**

**(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT** (fill in as applicable)

<b>Mr</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Mrs</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Miss</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ms</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Any other title</b> (e.g. Rev.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Surname:</b>					<b>First Names:</b>				
I am 18 years old or over <input type="checkbox"/>									
<b>Current postal address if different from premises address:</b>									
<b>Post town:</b>					<b>Post code:</b>				
<b>Daytime Tel. No.:</b>					<b>Email: (optional)</b>				

**(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT** (fill in as applicable)

<b>Name and Address:</b>	
<b>Telephone Number (if any):</b>	
<b>Email address: (optional)</b>	

**(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT** (fill in as applicable)

<b>Name and Address:</b>	
Inspector Maxine Blackledge, Metropolitan Police Service, Romford Police Station, 19 Main Road, Romford, Essex, RM1 3BJ	
<b>Telephone Number (if any):</b>	01708 779135
<b>Email address: (optional)</b>	maxine.blackledge@met.pnn.police.uk

**This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)**

		Please tick one or more boxes
<b>1</b>	<b>The prevention of crime and disorder</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>2</b>	<b>Public safety</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>3</b>	<b>The prevention of public nuisance</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>4</b>	<b>The protection of children from harm</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please state the ground(s) for review:</b> (please read guidance note 2)		

## PROTECTIVE MARKING

Buddha Lounge Nightclub is failing to promote three of the Licensing objectives, namely the protection of public safety, prevention of crime and disorder, and public nuisance.

Police are primarily concerned with the increasing number of violent and disorderly incidents arising inside and in the vicinity of the premises. These incidents predominately take place in the early hours of the morning and have included a male sustaining significant injury consistent with Grievous Bodily Harm where Emergency services were not informed and the injured party was placed in a mini cab by staff and sent direct to Queens Hospital. Police are also concerned with the high levels of intoxication associated with customers of the premises. Extreme levels of intoxication are often noted to be a common exacerbating factor in those involved in the violent incidents that occur in the vicinity of the premises.

Police seek a reduction of permitted hours for licensable activities and an earlier closing time at the premises, this it is felt would lead to a drastic improvement in matters and reduce the likelihood of attracting the undesirable and criminal element that currently frequent the club.

There are additional concerns regarding the premises ability to adhere to licence conditions, namely the supply of alcohol beyond permitted hours. Police have deployed covert officers to the premise on two occasions and witnessed the sale of alcohol up to 45 minutes beyond permitted hours. Police believe this to be a possible contributor to the level of violence, disorder and noise.

Incidents of crime and disorder remain at an unacceptable level. Despite extensive support and intervention by police licensing officers, the premises continues to undermine the licensing objectives. An action plan to address the levels of violence was agreed in principle and the premise representative failed to respond to an agreed deadline of 14th July 2013 to introduce the action plan.

The MPS has no faith in the ability of the management to operate the premises responsibly and therefore wishes to bring the matter before the sub-committee for consideration.

Police seek the reduction of the closing time on Monday-Thursday from 0200 to 0100, Friday from 0400 to 0200, Saturday from 0500 - 0300 and Sunday from 0230 to 0130. Christmas day, Boxing day and New Years Eve from 0500 to 0300. Police also seek the removal of 04.00 finish time on the day following on Sundays preceding each May, Whitsun and August Bank Holiday

The MPS feels that these are wholly reasonable, proportionate and appropriate measures to put into place to promote the licensing objectives.

**Please provide as much information as possible to support the application: (please read guidance note 3)**



## PROTECTIVE MARKING

Below are details of violence offences since January 2013. Police informed the premise of concerns regarding levels of violence on 29th January 2013 and 2nd April 2013.

5th JANUARY 2013 at 02:06 ABH VIOLENCE Cris 5400218/13 - Male called police stating to have been assaulted by a black doorman working at BUDDHA LOUNGE. On arrival police spoke to victim who stated he had been thrown out of the venue and his mate victim 2 had been punched. Victim 2 was clearly suffering a facial injury to the nose with blood over his face, his nose appeared out of place and he was very unsteady on his feet. According to victims they were assaulted by Door staff as they were ejected from the venue.

26th JANUARY 2013 at 01:55 COMMON ASSAULT VIOLENCE 5401318/13 - Victim was dancing on the dance floor. Suspect/s seemed to have a problem with him as they started bumping into him and pushing into him. He attempted to try and pacify things stating he didn't want any trouble. One of the males punched him on his left cheek. He did not see it coming and fell to the floor, got up and ran away, he bumped into door staff and explained what had happened. He then called police.

15th FEBRUARY 2013 at 01:15 ABH VIOLENCE - 5402513/13 - On police arrival Suspect was being detained by door staff. Suspect was ejected from the venue as he had become aggressive towards door staff after they told he could not smoke inside the venue. He asked for the manager. Victim told Susp he was the manager but Suspect refused to believe him and tried to get back inside the venue and started swearing at everyone. Victim tried to eject the male again he started to lash out with his fist and punched victim in the face causing swelling and bruising to her eye and nose.

24th FEBRUARY 2013 at 04:10 GBH VIOLENCE - 5402952/13 - Police were called to the scene by Mercury CCTV who stated that there was a large fight outside venue. Caller stated approximately 20 males fighting all wearing dark clothing. Upon arrival of police at the scene victim was laying on the floor being seen to by door staff from venue. Victim was not responsive and had been placed in the recovery position on the floor. Witnesses were spoken to and they all state they were in the street outside BUDDHA LOUNGE after it had closed when they saw two groups of males, approximately 20 in total, come from two directions and surrounded Victim, who then ended up on the floor and appeared to be kicked in the head. Victim states he was in venue before the assault. He was not involved in any incidents in the club.

1st APRIL 2013 at 03:20 ROBBERY VIOLENCE - 5404837/13 - Victim left venue and walked to the bus stop on ST EDWARDS WAY (NORTH STREET Stop) whilst waiting suspects 1 and 2 have approached from an unknown direction. Suspect 1 has grabbed the shoulder bag of VIW1. When victim has tried to resist he has punched her a number of times in the left arm and shoulder until she releases the bag. Suspect 2 sat next to victim 2 and tried to grab her bag but grabbed her coat instead.

6th APRIL 2013 at 04:00 ABH VIOLENCE - 5405085/13 - Incident outside of Buddha lounge where male victim is approached by a group consisting of two females and a male, group invade victims personal space and he is then seen to push out, victim walks off and one of the females is seen to run and jump on his back prior to punching him. Victim is then seen to punch the female knocking her to the floor before being chased by the other male who pushes him. Victim had visible injuries, a minor graze to the left forehead, grazing on his forearms and complained of a sore left jaw. This investigation is ongoing.

12th MAY 2013 at 02:55 ABH VIOLENCE - 5406945/13 - Suspect punched victim in face over an argument about contact with his sister. Suspect made off and arrested by police. Victim was punched on the chin and fell unconscious but no lasting injuries. Assault took place whilst victim was directly outside the venue; it is believed he was inside prior to the assault taking place.

25th MAY 2013 at 04:07 ABH & MINOR WOUNDING VIOLENCE - 5407588/13 Argument occurring between 2 parties inside Buddha lounge by cloakroom when leaving and getting coats. Argument then spills out onto foot path and then to subway area and male hits female victim. Suspect admits to being in Buddha and WAS VERY DRUNK. Female victim had bloody nose and swelling on her cheek.

26th MAY 2013 at 01:40 ABH & MINOR WOUNDING VIOLENCE -5407631/13 Two male suspects shout and swear at door staff, believed to be due to previously being barred from the location. Male suspect strikes door staff on the side of the face leaving left eye bloodshot, bruised and swollen. Suspect ran off but caught by police. CCTV form Buddha doesn't capture incident.

8th JUNE at 01:15 ROBBERY VIOLENCE - 5408339/13 Victim was at the venue on the roof terrace smoking when he felt a yank from behind and then noticed his chain had been stolen / taken no suspect seen and no injury's. The matter is reported to staff and in temper the victim punches the door and is then asked to leave the venue. The victim was questioned re false reporting but is adamant on the facts given and states the chain was yanked from his neck.

23rd JUNE 02:00-03:00 GBH VIOLENCE - 5409220/13 Victim and friend were out at venue, they attended the smoking area to have a cigarette. When victim stood up from sitting down to return to the club Suspect has struck Victim in face for no apparent reason. Hospital completed an X-Ray and found victim had a shattered cheek bone and would require surgery to re build.

\*Reported on Monday 24th June 2013 @ 1500hrs by Victim to police. No emergency services called on evening by the club

21st JULY at 02:37 ABH VIOLENCE - 5410681/13 Police were called to the Buddha Lounge by mercury CCTV to a disturbance at the venue. The Victim had left the venue around 0240, as he leaves he bumps into large group of other males, for reason unknown suspect takes a swing at victim and breaks his nose causing him to run straight back into club for protection, the group are pointed out to police and suspect is identified by door staff as person who punched victim male is then arrested. Queens A & E later confirm a broken nose re the injury to victim.

21st JULY at 03:50 ABH VIOLENCE - 5410680/13 Victim and her friend attended Romford front office early hours today to make a report of an attack that happened to her at BUDDHA LOUNGE in Romford. Victim states she does not want to report the allegation but her friends push her down to the Police Station to make a report. She states that while she was with her friend an unknown girl approached her and started crying on her shoulder that her boyfriend want to leave her to go to France. \*\*\*\*\*No full details of the crime report yet as the VIW1 was crying that she want to go home that she was tired she need a sleep.

\*\*\*\*\*Spoke to Nadia and she stated that the attack took place in the street once parties had left the club in the area of kosho.

**PROTECTIVE MARKING**

<b>Have you made an application for review relating to this premises before?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> (Please tick yes)		
	<b>Day</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>
<b>If yes, please state the date of that application:</b>			
<b>If you have made representations before relating to this premises please state what they were and when you made them:</b>			

**PROTECTIVE MARKING**

N/A

Please tick Yes	
I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



PROTECTIVE MARKING

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION.

**Part 3 – Signatures** (please read guidance note 4)

**Signature of applicant or applicant’s solicitor or other duly authorised agent (see guidance note 5). If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	4th September 2013
<b>Capacity:</b>	Police Inspector		

**Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application:** (please read guidance note 6)

<b>Post town:</b>		<b>Post code:</b>	
<b>Telephone Number (if any):</b>			
<b>If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e-mail address, your e-mail address (optional):</b>			

**Notes for Guidance**

1. A responsible authority includes the local police, fire and rescue authority and other statutory bodies which exercise specific functions in the local area.
2. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
3. Please list any additional information or details, for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
4. The application form must be signed.
5. An applicant’s agent (for example, solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
6. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

Retention Period: 7 years  
MP 144/12





**Working together for a safer London**

**Buddha Lounge  
North Street  
Romford**

PC 118 KD David Fern  
Romford Police Station  
19 Main Road  
Romford,  
Essex  
RM1 3BJ

Telephone: 01708 432781  
Email:  
David-  
anthony.fern@met.police.uk  
Date: 29th January 2013

Dear Mr Fletcher,

I would like to request a meeting with you to discuss a rise in assaults being reported from the premises. My concerns are drawn to the last 6 weeks of operation where we have seen 6 crimes relating to assaults with injury.

This is amongst the highest recorded offences within the town centre during this period. I request that you take some immediate action in order to prevent a review of your licence.

The following crimes have been reported to the police.

- 01/12/2012 - 5419143/12 GBH, subject claims to have been punched in the face after talking about football on the roof terrace.
- 15/12/2012 - 5419194/12 ABH subject was causing some disturbance over getting his coat, once in the street a fight occurs.
- 22/12/2012 - 5419619/12 ABH subjects appear to be father and son, have had an altercation with another group inside the club, punched in the face and kicked.
- 05/01/2013 - 5400218/13 ABH subject assaulted by door staff.
- 19/01/2013 - 5101281/13 Common Assault, subject left the club to get some fresh air, another party believed to have been from the club then started a fight with the victim. Club staff took the victim back into the club.

- 26/01/2013 - 5401318/13 ABH subject was punched in the face on the dance floor.

At present your premises is not promoting the licensing objective, prevention of crime and disorder. I would suggest making your door staff more visible inside the club; yellow jackets can often deter disorder just by the presence.

Many of the reports above also indicted that suspects and victims are intoxicated. I would suggest you remind your staff of the offences of serving alcohol to subjects who appear to be drunk, and conduct refresher training. I would also request that any refusal of alcohol is also documented.

The roof terrace was a concern to me previously during one of my visits in 2012, where it was deemed insufficient security patrols are being conducted. This area needs to be better managed; the potential for disorder could easily break out if left unsupervised.

There are two reported incidents of mobile phone theft and like many venues it would appear this is from handbags. I recommended that patrols are conducted regularly and any bags left unattended are removed for safe storage. This simple method has reduced thefts in other venues.

I look forward to meeting you soon to discuss further prevention methods in order to deter crime at the venue.

I want to see improvement in promoting the licensing objectives at these premises, in particular Prevention of crime and disorder, public nuisance.

If I can be of any further assistance in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me in the licensing office.

Yours sincerely

PC David Fern  
Metropolitan police - Havering  
Licensing officer

**The Metropolitan Police as a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 reserve the right to initiate a Review of your Premises License relating to the Licensing Objectives and to seek prosecution in relation to any offences committed under the Licensing Act 2003.**



**Working together for a safer London**

**Buddha Lounge  
North Street  
Romford**

Inspector Maxine Blackledge  
Romford Police Station  
19 Main Road  
Romford,  
Essex  
RM1 3BJ

Telephone: 01708 432781  
Email:  
Maxine.Blackledge@met.police.  
uk  
Date: 2nd April 2013

Dear Mr Fletcher,

You will recall receiving a letter dated 29th January 2013 from PC David Fern, highlighting concern in a rise in assaults being reported from the premises. Your attention was drawn to 6 assault allegations within the previous 6 weeks of operation, which was amongst the highest recorded within the town centre during that period. PC Fern requested you take immediate action in order to prevent a review of your licence.

Since 29th January 2013, the following allegations have been reported from the above premise.

The following crimes have been reported to the police.

2nd Feb - 5401805/13 Theft - Victims handbag was stolen from within a roped off seated area.

16th Feb - 5402513/13 - ABH - male ejected refused re entry who assaulted door staff.

24th Feb 2013 - 5402952/13 - Attempted GBH with intent - This incident happened at 0400 - 0410 hours and involved a group of up to 20 people fighting / in a disturbance where a male was kicked to the floor and sustained a head injury.

3rd March 2013 - Cad 1713 - Group refused re entry into premise which ended in a large disturbance involving 15-20 people outside premise.

Despite making some management / security changes addressing the issues highlighted on 29th January 2013, your premises continues to fail in promoting the licensing objective, prevention of crime and disorder.

We have briefly discussed the above incidents and specifically my concern that the violence offences occur within the latter part of your licensing hours. I also informed you that I have raised your premise as a premise of concern to the responsible authorities group and that your premise will now be subject to a license review.

If I can be of any further assistance in this matter please do not hesitate to contact me in the licensing office.

Yours sincerely

Inspector Maxine Blackledge  
Metropolitan police - Havering  
Licensing officer

**The Metropolitan Police as a Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003 reserve the right to initiate a Review of your Premises License relating to the Licensing Objectives and to seek prosecution in relation to any offences committed under the Licensing Act 2003.**

Buddha Lounge

Meeting held at

Room MH5a, Mercury House, Mercury Gardens, Romford  
Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Present

Joe Fletcher	Licensee	JF
Nadia Girardot		NG
Alan Aylott	Dadds Solicitors	AA
Inspector Maxine Blackledge	Licensing Inspector Havering	MB
PC Jason Rose	Licensing Officer	JR
Arthur Hunt	Licensing Officer -LBH (minutes)	AH

Minutes

AA opened by asking whether a review of the premises licence is pending? MB confirmed that one is not pending; however she is seeking legal advice from the MPS Directorate of Legal Services (DLS) with regards to the premises.

MB introduced the 2 warning letters dated Feb 13 & Apr 13. MB stated that the drugs offences and possession of counterfeit currency could not be held against the premises because it is demonstrated that the door staff were being proactive. AA pointed out that an assault on staff had been mentioned in the April '13 letter. He questioned how this could be held against the premises. There was a discussion about this issue.

Then a list of crimes affecting the premises were produced (copies made for all to consult).

A discussion took place over the roof terrace & location of CCTV cameras, in regard to the allegation of robbery on 08/06 on the roof terrace. AA asked for further information on the crimes. JR agreed to supply the details. NG/JF stated that there was no evidence to support the allegation. No mark on his neck & CCTV is inconclusive whether he was wearing the chain before. AA asked whether any false allegation would be held against the club, to which MB said "No".

AA went onto discuss an allegation of ABH on the 26/05. It could be held that the staff were acting responsibly. NA confirmed that the incident was reported over the town link radio. JR stated that in reviewing the incident, could the door staff have handled the situation in a different manner.

AA asked JF how many door staff were employed? JF stated that there were 9 on Fridays & 8 on Saturdays. NG Stated that the capacity for the club was 749. In response to a question from AA, JF stated that he employed A&G

Protection who had been running for a couple of months, but that the individual door staff had worked at the premises for about 3 years.

JF pointed out that he had been the licensee since 2010. There had not been any concerns before. MB stated that there had been concerns but then the levels of violence had dropped within the town centre and premises. AA asked whether the offences occurred predominantly in or outside the premises. MB stated outside.

JF stated that his door staff cover the boundary of his premises. However on occasions they have gone to the assistance of a police officer in South Street and the cab office for another incident. He also quoted an incident when it was apparent that someone had been assaulted elsewhere in the "strip" but had sent the victim to his premises for First Aid. AA pointed out that other premises he is aware of allow their door staff to patrol in the vicinity of the premises.

A dispersal plan was pointed out as being a condition of the licence. PNGPG2. It was agreed that this should be reviewed/updated with the Police.

JF stated that he would ensure that his door staff are fully conversant with any dispersal plan. He stated that he would get them to sign minutes from a briefing meeting. He was happy to dispense with the services of anyone who did not comply.

AA brought up the subject of the form 696. However, it did not really seem appropriate for this venue, as the DJ's are all employed by the premises. JF stated that they rarely bring in outside DJ's. AA stated that his company have created a "Risk Assessment matrix" which works very well. On occasions it could dictate the use of further door staff following an incident.

MB muted the idea of an early "No Entry" time, to stop the premises inheriting the problems from other venues which closed earlier. She was aware that JF had previously stated that it would not be financially viable to restrict his hours further. JF stated that he could provide data on the flow of customers into his premises. He also mentioned that most of the crimes on the sheet provided appeared to be 2am or earlier. JR stated that most offences appeared to happen on Friday night/Saturday morning.

JR agreed to supply AA with fuller stats and copies of the letters.

It was agreed that AA would consult with Mr Dadds over the matter and then call in JF for a meeting. He agreed to make contact by the 10/07/13.





# Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

## LICENSING ACT 2003 APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE REVIEW

**Bhudda Lounge**  
**36 – 38 South Street, Romford, RM1 1BH**

Notice is hereby given that an application has been made by the Metropolitan Police for a review of the above premises licence.

### GROUNDS FOR REVIEW

An application is made under the “Crime and Disorder”, “Public Safety” and “Prevention of Public Nuisance” licensing objectives following a series of violent and disorderly incidents in and around the premises. Police are also concerned about high levels of intoxication associated with customers of the premises.

Any interested party or responsible authority wishing to make representation on this matter must do so in writing to: Licensing Section, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Mercury House, Mercury Gardens, Romford, RM1 3SL between the 06 September and 03 October 2013.

The public register of Havering’s Licensing Authority containing the grounds for this review may be inspected by appointment at the above address by telephoning 01708 432777 Monday to Friday 09:00hrs to 17:00hrs or at [www.havering.gov.uk](http://www.havering.gov.uk).

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application for a review. On summary conviction a person is liable to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (currently £5000).



**From:** Matthew Phipps [<mailto:matthew.phipps@TLTsolicitors.com>]  
**Sent:** 30 September 2013 17:22  
**To:** Paul Campbell  
**Subject:** Buddha Lounge 36-38 North Street Romford RM1 1BH

Dear Mr Campbell

As you are aware we act for Freetrade (Romford) Ltd, the long lease holders of the above premises.

We understand that a licence review was called on 4 September (or thereabouts). The application that we have seen is not signed but is dated that same day and so we presume that the consultation period will end the close of play on Tuesday 1 October.

Our client will be submitting a representation in order to allow him to be engaged in the licensing process. For the avoidance of doubt please treat this as such a representation. Having read the application there are clear grounds for concern surrounding 3 of the 4 licensing objectives as amply set out in the police application.

Our client is already in discussion with the police around the issues and we anticipate that dialogue continuing.

We are also instructed that our client is in dialogue with the tenant of the premises (the existing premises licence holder, T J Events) and discussions with those individuals continues.

Naturally the points raised caused significant concern and suggests that the licensing objectives have not been promoted as they should.

Our clients have significant experience of operating licensed premises and have always sought (even when such a position has been challenging) to ensure that the licensing objectives are promoted fully. They are considering their options and how they may assist in this promotion.

As the discussion and dialogue with the police and the premises licence holders continues we anticipate seeking resolution and/or seeking improvement so far as they are able to oblige/secure it.

If and/or when the matter comes to be listed for hearing we would be most grateful if you could notify us of that date as we anticipate being instructed to attend. By way of assistance if and/or when you are looking at listing of the matter please could you avoid the 7 and 11 October.

We look forward to hearing from you.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Matthew Phipps  
Partner, Head of Licensing (England & Wales)  
For TLT LLP  
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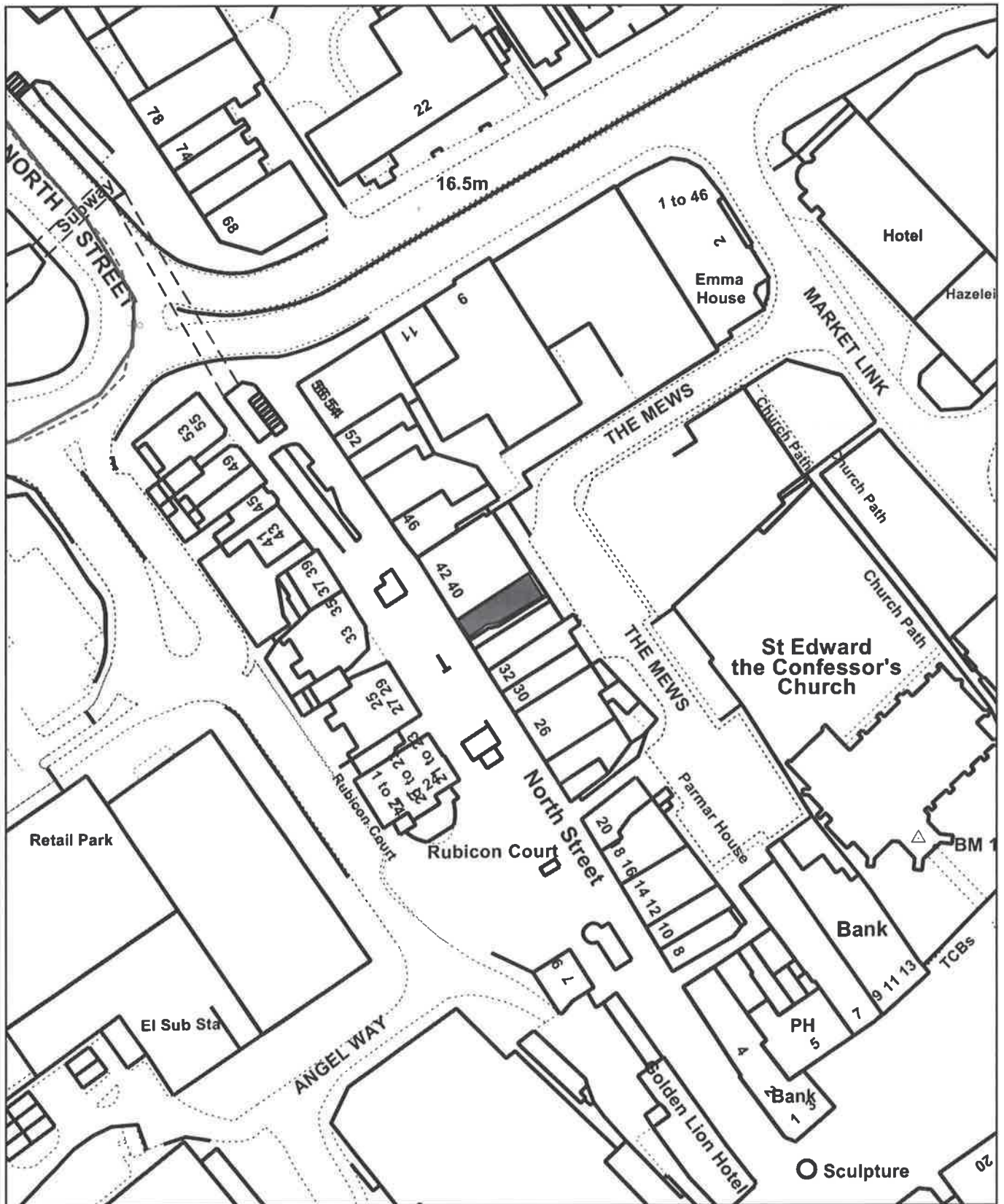
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**Buddha Lounge** N  
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**Date: 02 October 2013**  
**Size: A4**
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