

**KD - Havering Borough
KD - Romford Police Station**

Licensing Authority
London Borough Of Havering
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Your ref:

Our ref:

25th SEPTEMBER 2013

Police submit the following report in response to a closure order issued at HUSH (Formally known as EDGE) 80-84 MARKET PLACE, ROMFORD, ESSEX, RM1 3ER by police under the Licensing Act 2003. Official notification has been received from BARKINGSIDE MAGISTRATES COURT evidencing a hearing on 30th JULY 2013 concerning the above named premises and its closure by police on 28th JULY 2013. The court was satisfied with the use of section 161 by police in the circumstances and determined to use its power under the Licensing Act 2003 to close the venue for a 1 day further after the hearing (30th -31st JULY) allowing the venue to re open on the first of AUGUST 2013. It is unknown why it has taken until now for the court to notify the local authority. Officers including Inspector BLACKLEDGE and I have made several attempts for this notification to be served before now.

Police believe the premises of HUSH are not acting in a responsible manner to promote the licensing objectives during their hours of trading. Officers feel this premise has a negative effect on all 4 licensing objectives, prevention of crime and disorder and public nuisance, protection of children from harm and public safety. Police wish to bring to the sub committee's attention a number of offences that have taken place at the venue along with suggestions on how these issues may be remedied by changes to their current licence.

Firstly, police take this opportunity to summarise the closure order in question.

Closure under section 161 Licensing Act 2003.**Sunday 28th JULY 2013 @ 0200hrs****Crime Ref 5411125/13 ABH (Actual Bodily****Harm)**

EXAMPLE 1 - Police arrived on scene greeted by a large disturbance occurring inside and outside the venue. There were a number of males arguing and pushing each other. Officers could hear glass smashing in the venue. A male was seen lying in the entrance police placed him into the recovery position and started to conduct first aid as the male was incoherent. The venue was full of people and a large majority were against police. As officers were dealing with the injured male a number of people were pushing passed attempting to get outside the venue. Insp BLACKLEDGE (Licensing Inspector for Havering) and other officers on duty received a call via their personal radios for urgent assistance as a large fight was in progress. A number of marked police vehicles and uniformed officers attended immediately. Upon their arrival they were greeted with members of public outside the venue, a glass panel to the entrance smashed with glass all over the public footway and two males with head injuries beside the entrance. The smoking barrier which is normally erected outside the premises was on the floor covered by discarded plastic drinking containers (suggesting drinking outside the premises). Police instantly saw a lack of SIA door staff at the entrance

and if not for the present police officers members of the public could continue to enter unsearched and challenged due to age. Insp BLACKLEDGE established contact with the manager, David BARROS and asked to speak with the DPS (Keith ROACH), she was informed he was inside. Mr BARROS then entered the venue to get him. Whilst waiting INSP BLACKLEDGE witnessed several patrons leave the premises and congregate outside, some unsteady on their feet. The noise level increasing. Mr ROACH appeared when asked what had happened he stated he was unsure. Both males were unable to answer how many persons were inside, relying on a counter. INSP BLACKLEDGE pointed out this would not be an accurate reading as door staff was not in position on the doors. INSP BLACKLEDGE entered the premises and saw approx. 100 patrons, 3 door staff (Not wearing hi visibility jackets). There was a large amount of glass bottles on the tables. INSP BLACKLEDGE enquired if it was a condition to use plastic / polycarbonate containers, Mr ROACH stated only plastic was used. INSP BLACKLEDGE inspected a nearby champagne glass being used by a customer; she found this to be glassware contrary to the licence. INSP BLACKLEDGE asked to see the SIA attendance register, this caused an issue and SIA staff was seen to enter the managers room where the folder was kept, Mr BARROS later admitted the register had not been completed for that evening, upon further inspection by INSP BLACKLEDGE she found more inconsistencies including date errors. Due to the situation INSP BLACKLEDGE informed Mr ROACH the premises was subject to a closure order under section 161 Licensing Act 2003, informing him the closure was effective for 24hrs.

BACKGROUND

This premise is located within Havering boroughs Anti Social Behaviour hotspot and directly opposite residential premises. There are two large bus stops a matter of 200 yards away which service night buses.

In the past year police have received several complaints of violence and anti social behaviour recorded directly against the premises. A number of crimes have also been recorded showing the premise as the venue.

5413473/12 - THEFT MOBILE PHONE

Saturday 1st SEPTEMBER 2012 21:00hrs - Sunday 2nd SEPTEMBER 2012 03:00hrs

EXAMPLE 2 - Suspects unknown have taken victims mobile telephone from her handbag. Victim states she was on the second floor of the venue near the DJ & had her hand/shoulder bag hanging from her right shoulder. She used the phone at 2100 hours on the 01/09/12 & placed it back in her bag. At 0300 hours on the 02/09/12 she went to use the phone again & discovered it was no longer in her bag. She made enquiries with the venue staff who told her that it was not handed in.

5410213/13 - DRUNK AND DISORDERLY Saturday 13th JULY 2013 @ 01:20-01:30 hours

EXAMPLE 3 - Police called to reports of a fight at location, upon attendance Susp and another male appeared to be in a scuffle, officers have separated the males. It appears they had been ejected from the club and for some reason they were arguing and fighting, one male given a Sec 27 (requirement to leave area) however susp continued to be disorderly and generally abusive. He was given several warnings but was quite obviously drunk he was arrested for Drunk and Disorderly.

5410274/13 - ACTUAL BODILY HARM (ABH) Sunday 14th JULY 2013 @ 04:00ours

EXAMPLE 4 - Upon arrival to HUSH NIGHT CLUB MARKET PLACE ROMFORD, police were approached by victim who stated that at approximately 0400 hours as she was leaving the club with friends, suspect has approached her and then punched her once on the nose. Victim does not know suspect, nor why he punched her. Suspect was then pulled into the Club by door staff. Police were unable to establish who suspect was or if he had already left the scene.

CCTV footage for this incident was not readily available to the investigating officer and took 1 week to obtain due to Mr BARROS only attending the venue at weekends and no other staff available to download the footage.

Sunday 28th JULY 2013 @ 02:00hrs, Closure order under section 161 Licensing Act 2003 already referred to.

Other Intelligence or calls to the venue include -

REF KDRT00286059 22nd JUNE 2013

Police were called to an allegation of assault x2 between the club manager and the promoter. There was some pushing between the two but neither males wished to make any allegations against each other and both refused LAS and just wanted to go home and forget about the incident. Both signed officer's pocket books regarding the fact they did not wish to make an official complaint against each other. Promoter was issued a section 27 and instructed to leave the town centre.

REF KDRT00286381 30th JUNE 2013

Police saw a male known to them inside the venue. This particular male was 17 yrs of age therefore concerns are raised with HUSH in relation person's underage entering their premises and possible supply of alcohol to minors.

REF KDRT00286916 13th JULY 2013

Male ejected from venue for disorderly behavior. Police noticed that the male had a thumb cuff on that was locked to the males hand, police spoke to the Door supervisor it became apparent that he had placed the Thumb cuffs on the male in order to restrain him and then misplaced the key. Very strong words of advice were given re the use of equipment and being liable for injuries caused especially as he did not have a spare key to remove the thumb cuff.

REF KDRT00286937 14th JULY 2013

Police visit and speak to door supervisors. Whilst talking they informed officers, that they had a new promotion night running where they were expecting at least 150 people. The door supervisors raised concerns there were not enough of them working. Apparently they had stressed this to the management. Police were informed as a rule they only normally have two working which caused an issue the previous night, where members of the public had to assist them in restraining a male leaving their door and venue unsupervised. Officers asked manager, David BARROS if there were conditions in place for door supervisors and he couldn't answer them.

At 0325 hours police were called to attend and report an assault. Whilst on way another fight broke out which appeared to be a domestic, all persons involved had been in the venue at the time and prior.

On the 17th JULY 2013 I attended the premises and had a meeting with Mr BARROS in relation to underage sales / admission and served an official warning letter. I raised concerns over recent issue such as delays in obtaining CCTV re crime report above (5410274/13), Lack of SIA on duty for numbers at the premises, the use of thumb restraints by SIA. Mr BARROS was left in no uncertain terms that this needs to improve on all fronts. Mr BARROS also agreed to complete a Met police form 696 for all DJ promotions in the future.

**** POINT OF NOTE ****

In all of the five examples shown above the offending times are after 0100hrs. Police submit that this is the critical time for potential issues to take place. Victims become even more vulnerable due to intoxication; offenders become even more violent due to intoxication. Romford town centre needs a quick dispersal zone when pubs, clubs and other venues close. With a 0400hrs finish time (Fri & Sat) this only increases the chances of crime and disorder and offences against public safety and public nuisance. This premise by the sheer nature of the examples above has shown they can not operate without such incidents taking place.

Police would also like to bring to the sub committee's attention that **Annex 3 clearly states the premises will implement a written queue management and dispersal policies. To date, this has not been received by the local authority.** Every time the premise has opened they have been in clear breach of this condition.

Further to the above observation police have received numerous calls to the immediate locality, it is impossible to ascertain if these premises are involved in all these incidents as callers / victims have left prior to police arrival. These disturbances do however have an impact on residents in the area, police sirens and blue lights disturb residents when responding to such disturbances in the area. A further CAD has been logged solely against the premises address with alcohol issues -

Sunday 06th JANUARY 2013 @ 1306hrs

CAD KD3632

Police called to a collapse/ illness alcohol related. Immediate response vehicle dispatched.

Police believe the majority of Hush's customer base are under the influence of alcohol in different degrees. The potential for violence is often felt throughout the night at this location; add this to concerns from their very own door staff in relation to feeling vulnerable, this poses a serious question against level of effectiveness for the licensing objectives.

SIA door staff have proven to be an effective tool in the combat against crime and disorder along with aiding public safety. Police encourage the use of such staff during the hours of operation but fear either not enough are being used **OR** staff that take matters into their own hands such as using restraining equipment referred to above are being employed.

Police therefore seek a reduction of permitted hours for licensable activities and an earlier closing time at the premises, it is felt this would lead to a drastic improvement in matters and reduce the likelihood of attracting the undesirable and criminal element that currently frequent the club. The MPS has no faith in the ability of the management to operate the premises responsibly under the current hours of trading.

In conclusion police respectfully request that consideration be made to the following recommendations /amendments to the current licence.

*** A reduction in trading hours until 0200hrs on all evenings**

*** A reduction in the supply of Alcohol, Late night Refreshment and other licensable activity until 0130hrs**

*** Last entry point for customer's one hour before closing time on each occasion the premise opens**

*** Provide a written queue management and dispersal policies as shown in Annex 3, this has not been received to date.**

*** A member of staff able to operate, download CCTV footage MUST be on duty at all times the premises is open for business. Staff MUST assist police and authority in their enquires.**

*** Scan Net initiative (Or such like) to be implemented within 2 months - To be installed and used during all opening hours of the venue, no one enters unless I.D'd via scan net, condition of entry.**

Scan Net is a photo ID scan system which is used to monitor everyone who goes into the venue, with information able to be shared between other premises to ensure that when a person is barred from one premise they will be unable to enter any other venues currently using the system. It is able to detect fake IDs and can identify whether an individual has been banned anywhere else in the UK.

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

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 Jason ROSE
Licensing Officer
Havering Borough



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London

Mr David BARROS
HUSH NIGHTCLUB,
80-84, MARKET PLACE,
ROMFORD,
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RM1 3ER

Your Reference:

Our Reference:

Pc Jason ROSE 282KD

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Date: 4th JULY 2013

Dear Mr Barros,

Re: HUSH NIGHTCLUB 80-84, MARKET PLACE, ROMFORD, ESSEX, RM1 3ER

In confirmation of our telephone conversation dated Thursday 4th JULY 2013 at 1725hrs, I wish to draw your attention to concerns that have arisen from observations made by my colleagues when visiting your premises on 30th JUNE 2013

On this particular date, officers recognised a number of known persons that were present with in your premises as customers. One of these males is currently 17 years of age. As stated during our conversation, it is unacceptable that persons underage are entering your premises and having the opportunity to purchase alcohol.

This letter is designed as a **WARNING** officially notifying you that failure to promote the licensing objectives, in this case the protection of children from harm **MAY** lead to the police seeking a Review of your premises licence.

If you do not understand anything referred to in this letter or if I can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact me in the Licensing Office at Mercury House on **01708 432781**.

Yours Sincerely

Jason ROSE
Licensing Officer
Havering Borough Police

cc. Arthur Hunt, Licensing Officer - London Borough of Havering
cc. Maxine BLACKLEDGE, Licensing Inspector - Havering Borough Police
cc. Net Bar Ltd - Premises Licence Holder