



London Borough of Hackney – Decisions taken by the Licensing Sub Committee B on Monday 25 September 2023

Agenda Item No	Topic	Decision
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Items considered in public

6	Application for a Premises Licence: Abney Chapel, Abney Park, 215 Stoke Newington High Street, London, N16 0LH	<p>The Licensing Sub-Committee in considering this decision from the information presented to it within the report and at the hearing of Monday 25 September 2023 has determined that having regard to the promotion of all the licensing objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The prevention of crime and disorder;• Public safety;• Prevention of public nuisance; and• The protection of children from harm, <p>the application for a premises licence has been approved in accordance with the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and the proposed conditions set out in paragraph 8.1 of the report as applied for with the following amendments agreed with the Applicant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The hours for licensable activities, shall be, as agreed: <p><u>Plays</u></p> <table><tbody><tr><td>Monday to Thursday</td><td>09:00 - 23:00</td></tr><tr><td>Friday to Saturday</td><td>09:00 - 00:00</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday</td><td>10:00 - 22:30</td></tr></tbody></table> <p><u>Films</u></p> <table><tbody><tr><td>Monday to Thursday</td><td>09:00 - 23:00</td></tr><tr><td>Friday to Saturday</td><td>09:00 - 00:00</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday</td><td>10:00 - 22:30</td></tr></tbody></table>	Monday to Thursday	09:00 - 23:00	Friday to Saturday	09:00 - 00:00	Sunday	10:00 - 22:30	Monday to Thursday	09:00 - 23:00	Friday to Saturday	09:00 - 00:00	Sunday	10:00 - 22:30
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		<p><u>Live Music</u></p> <p>Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 23:00 Friday to Saturday 09:00 - 00:00 Sunday 10:00 - 22:30</p> <p><u>Recorded Music</u></p> <p>Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 23:00 Friday to Saturday 09:00 - 00:00 Sunday 10:00 - 22:30</p> <p><u>Performance of Dance</u></p> <p>Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 23:00 Friday to Saturday 09:00 - 00:00 Sunday 10:00 - 22:30</p> <p><u>Anything of a similar description</u></p> <p>Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 23:00 Friday to Saturday 09:00 - 00:00 Sunday 10:00 - 22:30</p> <p><u>Late Night Refreshment:</u></p> <p>Friday to Saturday 23:00 - 00:00</p> <p><u>Supply of Alcohol (on and off sales)</u></p>

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		<p>Monday to Thursday 11:00 - 23:00 Friday to Saturday 11:00 - 00:00 Sunday 11:00 - 22:30</p> <p><u>Opening hours</u></p> <p>Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 23:30 Friday to Saturday 09:00 - 00:30 Sunday 10:00 - 23:00</p> <p>The Applicant to provide a revised plan to show the extent of the premises and the red edged area.</p> <p>And an additional condition:</p> <p>The premises licence shall be limited to three days a week in any 7 day week.</p> <p>Reasons for the decision</p> <p>The application for a premises licence has been approved because the Licensing Sub-Committee was satisfied that the licensing objectives would not be undermined.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee took into account that the Licensing Authority made representations on the grounds of Public Nuisance and raised concerns that the original proposed hours of activity were in excess of LP3 Core Hours. The Sub-Committee noted that the Applicant, the London Borough of Hackney, had agreed to reduce the proposed hours of activity to LP3 Core Hours. The Sub-Committee also took into consideration that these reduced hours to Core Hours allayed the Licensing Authority’s concerns about the application, and they were clearer on</p>

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		<p>what was now required by the Applicant for pre-booked events.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee took into account that 28 Other Persons, nearby local residents, had made representations both at the hearing and through several written submissions on the grounds of the four licensing objectives: Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee also took into account that the local residents raised concerns about the impact of the proposals on the natural habitat in the immediate area and the close proximity of the venue to local residencies, and that the Applicant was keen to work with both local residents and the local Abney Park Trust to reach a compromise.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee heard that all the Applicant’s venues in Hackney are the same and the decibels are set the same for each venue. In addition all windows and doors are closed at 21:00. The Sub-Committee took into consideration that the designated area outside of the chapel is where guests can have a drink. The Sub-Committee noted that the Applicant did submit a dispersal policy specific to Abney Chapel, and that the music and events will end 30 minutes before the premises close</p> <p>The Sub-Committee heard the Applicant’s representations that they are pleased to be able to refurbish this Grade Two listed building to bring it back into use in the area. The Applicant confirmed that they do not want to restrict people from walking around the chapel and the park area.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee heard from the Applicant that not all events are alcohol related or have alcohol served. The Applicant explained to the Sub-Committee that there is a minimum of two security staff on the premises at any one time, and an example of the events that will take place at Abney Chapel will be weddings, NHS awaydays, Jewish celebrations and celebration of life and similar events.</p>

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		<p>The Sub-Committee took into consideration that the security staff at the premises would be assessed for each event that is booked. The Sub-Committee noted that the Applicant was seeking to operate the premises with a licence seven days a week which was considered excessive, given the nature and the impact on the area. The Applicant contended that it is difficult to assess what days people want events and what will be included in those events. The Sub-Committee noted that no temporary events had been operated because the building was not yet ready; it was still being refurbished.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee noted that the park opening hours are until 22:00 each day and the noise limit is 93 decibels. The Sub-Committee heard that bats in the nature reserve are a protected species and would be affected by the use of the premises 7 days a week.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee heard the Applicant’s representations that an ecological survey had been undertaken and no concerns were raised. The Sub-Committee noted that the Applicant had received and considered advice from ecological consultants.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee heard that the Stoke Newington High Street is a direct street to access from the cemetery. The Sub-Committee noted Church Street is not safe and it is not paved. Therefore, it is not suitable for guests to be going through late at night.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee heard representations from the local resident that she had lived in the area for 30 years and was very familiar with how the Abney Chapel area operated, and that the local residents were delighted that money was being obtained to refurbish Abney Chapel to bring it back into use. The Sub-Committee heard from the local resident that the core hours are a small change and do not cover the noise issues late at night, resulting in crime and disorder.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee noted that there were concerns about how 70 people in hot weather would manage at the premises until midnight on weekdays, weekends, and the impact on local</p>

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		<p>residents' sleep. The Sub-Committee took into account the local resident's representation that it would be better to have the premises operate three days a week, taking into consideration the impact on local residents and to help preserve the Wildlife in the area.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee heard from the Abney Parks Trust that there were concerns about how the building was going to be used for the various events. The Sub-Committee noted that Abney Parks Trust supported the application to operate the premises more than three days a week if possible, however, they felt it could be managed better, and in a more considered way addressing the public nuisance issue.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee took into consideration the local residents' representations that they were concerned that the cemetery could be potentially damaged by the continual events taking place every day seven days a week. The Sub-Committee took into account that the Applicant acknowledged that Abney Chapel is different to other sites in the borough. The Applicant confirmed that Abney Chapel has no kitchen or facilities for food preparation for a full wedding reception. Therefore, they would not have wedding reception events with food catered. The Sub-Committee also considered that litter clearance will be difficult to control on this site.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee felt that the Applicant needed to either use Temporary Events for a period or to generally operate the premises and prove themselves over a period of time that they can operate for example, 3 days a week without causing noise, nuisance or public nuisance and then consider if appropriate to extend the premises licence. The Sub-Committee felt that the Applicant needed to work with local residents given the unique setting and nature of Abney Chapel, and having a licensed venue used for events in the middle of a cemetery.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee heard from the local resident that there was a need to allow the area to be dark and quiet to preserve the nature reserve. The Sub-Committee heard that the local residents supported a limited number of days, and they would be happy for a compromise to be reached. The Sub-Committee noted that three days of licensable activities would be</p>

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		<p>considered a gentle approach to the use of the site to preserve nature and wildlife. It was also noted that the Abney Parks Trust agreed with the representations made by the local resident.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee was pleased with the Applicant's positive engagement with the Abney Park Trust. The Sub-Committee felt that due to the area and nature reserve, it is necessary to keep the licensable activities limited to a specific number of days. The Sub-Committee took into consideration that there would be no alcohol taken off the premises site, and alcohol would only be consumed on the premises, in the hall of the premises, and in the designated area immediately outside of the chapel.</p> <p>Having taken all of the above factors into consideration the Licensing Sub-Committee was satisfied that this application could be approved without the licensing objectives being undermined.</p> <p>Public Informative:</p> <p>The Premises Licence holder is advised to work with local residents and the Abney Park Trust to prevent noise, nuisance and disturbance to local residents.</p>