

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 28 March 2023 16:29
To: Premises Licensing <Premises.Licensing@manchester.gov.uk>
Subject: The Vine Public House - Representation

[REDACTED]

Good Afternoon

Please find attached my representation to the licensing hearing for the Vine Public House scheduled for 6 April 2023.

I would request that my personal details highlighted in yellow be redacted.

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Vine Public House, Collyhurst
Statement of Representation – 28 March 2023

Preface

My name is [REDACTED]. I have resided at this address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The venue in connection with this representation is ***The Vine Public House (also known as The Valley Public House), Glendower Drive, Manchester, M40 7TD.***

I understand that the events that occurred on Sunday 12 March 2023 are still undergoing investigations and therefore attendance to the hearing, scheduled for 6 April 2023 will be restrictive to members of the public.

The Key Objectives Involving the Representation

The licensing regime has a clear focus on promoting the 4 statutory licensing objectives, which the Licensing Act 2003 denotes as:

1. The prevention of crime and disorder
2. Public safety
3. The prevention of public nuisance
4. The protection of children from harm

In my view, this establishment has yet again breached these objectives, not only on Sunday 12 March 2023, but previously in October 2020, when my representation was again submitted for due consideration, however the license was reinstated, despite hanging in the balance on that occasion alone.

Merely 2 years and 5 months have passed since the previous outbreak of violent crime and disorder emanating from the Vine Public House, involving fighting, rioting, stabbings, and vehicles used as weapons, being rammed into houses and street furniture.

The latest episode of criminal disorder now prevails and manifests itself, not just with the use of knives, but this time we, the residents, members of the public, children and infirm elderly people are now subject to the horrors involving the discharge of firearms, further stabbings and again, vehicles being used as potentially lethal weapons. The Vine Public House undoubtedly is a magnet that consistently attracts disorderly conduct, and on 2 occasions now, this has evidentially developed into a powder keg and ignited.

Notwithstanding the murder of Lee Poole in 2010, where those events spilled out from the same establishment.

The area surrounding the Vine Public House, Glendower Drive, Overcombe Walk, all resembling a war zone. We ultimately found ourselves under house arrest, unable to use our vehicles to go about our normal working day and activities. What further horrific events must unfold before appropriate measures are taken and serious consideration given to the final closure of this attraction for criminality and disorder. The unthinkable will ultimately occur should this matter and the potential consequences be miscalculated.

We had our liberties and freedom of movement removed from us, and this must never be allowed to occur ever again.

Undoubtedly, the authorities will have, and continue to gather evidence during their investigations in relation to these criminal matters, however it does appear convenient that essential CCTV footage was unable to be retrieved as the equipment was “forcibly removed”, and yet this was not reported to Greater Manchester Police.

There is little point into entering the details that unfolded during events that occurred on 12 March 2023, as the authorities will be in possession of such detail.

These events irrefutably contravene the 4 objectives of the licensing conditions. If the residents call police emergency, it often relates to matters associated with, or in connection to The Vine Public House.

No doubt Greater Manchester Police could summarise this upon interrogation of their own crime recording systems.

Please note: This venue is also **classified as a “family venue” where children are permitted**, and whom are also potentially exposed to risk should similar developments occur in future times.

Particulars of Concern

For the purposes of clarity, I shall outline the particulars of concern in the form of numbered paragraphs below, that shall also make ease for reference. All information provided can be clearly apportioned towards breaches of the 4 statutory licensing objectives outlined below:

1. I do not believe that the management and staff engaged with this establishment are adequately trained, experienced, competent, and able to demonstrate key responsibilities in the fulfilment of their roles, and to ensure the safety of patrons and particularly third-party members of the public and residents. **(Objective 2)**

2. I consider that managers and staff employed at the establishment should be completely unbiased and unknown to the community. People employed at this public house have always been well known to the communities, not merely this estate, but beyond. Therefore, this instils a sense of protection, that if in the event of criminal disorder and similar, perpetrators are either protected, or the staff themselves know of the perpetrators and adopt a wall of silence for fear of recrimination. The “missing CCTV” is a clear suggestion of such an observation. This does not instil any confidence into the community, and any event is always presented with bias. The management should be entirely impartial and provide accurate observations and records of events, not be chicanery or misleading. ***(Objectives 1, 2, 3 and potentially 4).***

3. Historically, following on from the reinstatement of the license on the previous occasion, we were advised that the venue was to employ new experienced staff who would manage and control the operation in a more robust manner. We were advised that the venue would be closely monitored for compliance, and ultimately we were assured that there would not be a repeat of such criminal events in future times. How can we possibly be expected to take any further guarantees seriously now, given the further display of criminal disorder and violence imposed upon an innocent community? ***(Objectives 1, 2, 3 and potentially 4).***

4. The establishment has never provided security (SIA Registered) to eject troublesome patrons from the venue, or even prevent their initial entry into the establishment. A fundamental requirement and a first line of defence in the prevention of disorderly conduct. Or perhaps the management opted not to do so. ***(Objectives 1, 2 and 3).***

5. The CCTV system has always proven to be dysfunctional, undergoing repair and now “forcibly removed” if footage is ever requested. A far cry from that expected in the provision of security systems within (and around) a venue open to members of the public. ***(Objectives 1, 2, 3 and potentially 4).***

6. The physical appearance of the venue is poor, particularly at the rear whereby this has been an attraction to homeless people. Old suitcases containing dirty clothing has been seen on several occasions that have been abandoned by the same people. It merely presents itself as a suburban relapse, badly maintained, rotting woodwork, and being near residential houses and children’s play areas, The Vine Public House has simply relapsed into an eyesore. It does not lend itself anymore to providing the community with the same purposes as was intended back in the 1970’s era. It’s called time on itself. There are clearly no inspections undertaken, adequate maintenance regimes in place, which also suggests that testing of the fire alarm system, emergency lighting system, electrical installation, portable firefighting equipment, water hygiene management and possibly even asbestos checks have failed to be complied with, especially within a domain that occupies members of the

public, and within the demands of regulations and statutory instruments that enforce such testing and inspection regimes. **(Objectives 2, 3 and potentially 4).**

7. This premises clearly presents an unwelcome burden on the authorities, particularly Greater Manchester Police, who must receive plentiful calls in relation to the criminal and disorderly events that always develop from the venue. I regretfully envisage what will be presented in future times should the license be reinstated. **(Objectives 1, 2, 3 and potentially 4).**
8. The venue has imposed many unwanted late night and early morning disruption on to the residents, causing alarm and distress on to the community, by failure to adopt and implement its licensing hours accordingly. Patrons have been initially heard, then witnessed spilling out of the venue in the late and early morning hours. These patrons either leaving by taxi, private vehicles or on foot. **(Objectives 1 and 3).**
9. These events call for concern for the potential damage to our vehicles. On one occasion, a group of people who I had witnessed leave the venue, tried the door handles on my vehicle. When I challenged this from my property, a hard object was retrieved from the ground and thrown towards my head. Thankfully missing its intended target but hit my window. This was reported and Greater Manchester Police recorded this as an assault. This is just one example of many that we are presented with, mainly over weekend periods. **(Objectives 1, 2 and 3).**
10. The CCTV recording equipment installed within the premises should have either comprised an NVR (Networked Video Recorder) or device that can also retain footage on a cloud server. The NVR could have sent images to a remote device not retained on the premises, therefore any removal of the equipment, intentional or otherwise, would guarantee the footage remained retrievable. This was not provided and potentially condemning evidence failed to be accessed in the investigation. **(Objectives 1, 2, 3 and potentially 4).**
11. Surely, personal attack or distress alarms should be covertly fitted that connect directly to an alarm receiving centre (ARC) who are able then to contact police emergency. This ensures a swift response and potentially mitigates danger to patrons, public and damage to property. This evidently is not an essential consideration to the venue, or perhaps the management do not wish to invite a police presence into their establishment for one reason or another. Any disorderly conduct or violence that spills out of the venue is always left to the residents to report, and for the management of the establishment to consistently deny afterwards. **(Objectives 1, 2, 3 and potentially 4).**
12. On balance, the venue has a far more negative contribution to offer the community than a positive, and this is clearly evidenced day on day, week on week, month on month. Even during the periods of the license suspension, the community can

breathe a sigh of relief, we never see or hear any issues of concern, the area becomes a place of tranquillity and peace. We begin to enjoy the silence and assurances that allow us to sleep peacefully throughout the night hours.

This brings my representation to a conclusion.

[REDACTED] all information I have submitted is true and correct.

[REDACTED]

DATED: 28 March 2023