

Appendix W

Kent Police comments relating to Ephesus Review Hearing

Comments Submitted by PC 12876 Comben on 05/08/2022

Whilst Kent Police have no formal representations to make in relation to the review there are concerns which warrant raising. These concerns along with police licensing activity surrounding the venue are outlined below:

There have been two incidents reported to Kent Police which can be attributed to the venue, both were made on **Saturday 8th January 2022 (at 01:55am and 01:58am)** relating to an assault/disturbance that occurred directly outside the venue. The victim of this assault declined to support any prosecution however stated he had been drinking in a club like bar, and although he could not confirm the name, he described the location as Ephesus.

The victim sustained facial injuries, which required hospital treatment, he stated these were caused by three males that had been drinking in the venue and set upon him whilst he was smoking outside the front of the premises.

Since the victim did not wish to support any further police action a crime report was recorded however filed as 'no further action'. CCTV enquiries confirmed a disturbance outside Ephesus, but no coverage of the assault could be found.

Sevenoaks District Council Licensing Department along with Environmental Health were notified of this incident and the subsequent reports that had been made. It was confirmed that no Temporary Event Notices were in place at the time of this disturbance taking place so clearly the venue was operating beyond its agreed hours.

As a result of this incident Police attended the venue **Friday 14th January at 19:00**. The premises licence holder and Designated Premises Supervisor: Mr Chinangir SURUCU was present and spoke with PC 12876 COMBEN and PS 12068 BALLARD. This visit was also part of a licensing visit following a variation application that had been submitted by Mr Surucu to extend the licensable hours. Whilst there were no immediate concerns present at the time of the visit, the recent incident was discussed however Mr Surucu stated he had no knowledge of the incident taking place. The layout of the venue was observed, and general noise concerns were discussed, it was expressed that these matters were being dealt with by Environmental Health however concerns were raised surrounding the local residents reporting gatherings outside the venue.

On **Friday 11th February** Police were notified of a concern that underage sales were taking place within the venue and that an unknown member of staff was propositioning underage girls for sex.

This information was assessed but could not be corroborated.

On **Tuesday 22nd February 2022** Mr Surucu attended Sevenoaks District Council to meet with Police, Environmental Health, and the Licensing Authority. The meeting generally centred around noise complaints and issues relating to patrons leaving the venue later than the scheduled operating hours. Mr Surucu denied that any licensable activity was taking place later than his operating hours

would allow, he stated he was the only person that would be serving drinks from behind the bar as none of his staff were trained, so therefore he was certain that no alcohol would have been served outside of the operating schedule.

Mr Surucu is aware of the hours permitted on his premises licence, this is evident following his use of temporary event notices to extend his hours during 2021 and the two applications to vary the premises licence to extend his hours, both applications were subsequently withdrawn.