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Blackpool Council

Dear Councillor

LICENSING PANEL - THURSDAY, 9TH JULY, 2020

Please find attached additional information for Thursday, 9th July, 2020 meeting of the Licensing Panel, which were received after the agenda had been despatched.

Agenda No Item

- 4. APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE - MARDI GRAS HOTEL, 41-43 LORD STREET, BLACKPOOL, FY1 2BD (Pages 1 - 16)**

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Mardi Gras Hotel Licence Application Supplementary Evidence

Objection from Virnetta Collings

Virnetta confirmed she has been given misleading information to by Ruebens and has withdrawn her objection to our application, she has told Ruebens this also, and spoke to Licencing on the phone. She is now supporting our application.

2nd July 2020

Virnetta Collings

Apollo Hotel

26 Lord Street

Blackpool

FY1 2BD

Tel: 01253 292938

I wish to formally withdraw my objection to the licence application for Mardi Gras Hotel, 41-43 Lord Street. I have no access to email, the original e-mailed application was done for me, therefor I am asking Mr Street to email the retraction for me on my behalf, as I now know the full facts about what is proposed for Mardi Gras and fully support their application.

I have already spoken to Sarah Chadwick on the telephone explaining this and am backng this up with this letter.

Best wishes

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Mardi Gras Hotel Licence Application Supplementary Evidence

Objection from Geoff Brankston

Claim: There is no need for a public licence as there is already 10.

Counter-claim: This is intended to diversify our business to survive in the current climate and to allow for bar meals for those that cannot afford to stay overnight and regular invited clientele who may not like the clientele of open public bars and feel safer in a controlled space ie: the older generation of LBGT people

Claim: Disorder and safety on the outside terrace until 2am

Counter-claim: At present any of our residents can sit on the terrace with no time limit at all, we are proposing with the Environmental health and Polices approval to close the terrace for drinking and socialising at 10pm, allowing smoking only thus actually illuminating the noise that would occur.

Claim: The issues with Fernlea

Counter-claim: This has nothing to do with us, and we are not applying for a public licence in the same vein as The Fernlea has theirs. It is not fair to punish others over their issues.

Claim: Lord Street has never been a street for public bars

Counter-claim: I am amazed at this, as Granby Lodge, the objector's hotel is surrounded by public bars on or just off Lord Street, R-Bar, Flying Handbag, etc etc

Counter-claim summary: As Granby Lodge are the head of BAGS, I expected them to join forces with Ruebens, their objections surely cannot be counted, they are no-where near our hotel, and anything that happens at Mardi Gras would not affect them in any way.

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Mardi Gras Hotel Licence Application Supplementary Evidence

Objection from Ivan Taylor

Claim: To extend the alcohol licence to 2am, including non-residents would in my view lead to increased noise and activity.

Counter-claim I emailed Ivan Taylor to explain about the licence application and got back a vague response, at no time did he take to time nor opportunity to come and talk to us to find out the truth, and not what Ruebens had allegedly told him.

A Scottish man telephoned the Legends hotel next door saying he was a Mr Stewart and suggested they objected to our licence application with a host of untruths and asked them to get Brene Hotel to do the same, the caller of course, withheld their number and no objection was given from Mr Stewart himself. This is another example of victimisation against us at Mardi Gras and scare tactics.

As the Police, Environmental Health, my neighbouring hotels, Lark Inn, Legends and Blackpool Hotel all support my application, along with Scott Benton MP and previous owner of Mardi Gras, I do not accept Ivan Taylors objection as fair or just.

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Mardi Gras Hotel Licence Application Supplementary Evidence

Objection from Iain Ferguson

Claim: I would support a licence for residents and guests

Counter-claim: We already have this and shows no attempt to research before objecting

Claim: The issues with Fernlea

Counter-claim: This has nothing to do with us, and we are not applying for a public licence in the same vein as The Fernlea has theirs. It is not fair to punish others over their issues.

Claim: No matter what the intentions are, why is there a need for a public licence?

Counter-claim: Allegedly, most Lord Street businesses has members of the public in on the quiet, and non-one does things above board, we wanted to do it legally and above board and be able to invite selected members of the public in for bar meals etc.

Claim: The public visit for residential use and not open to the public.

Counter-claim: The owner of Moores is adjoined to Trades Hotel that has a lot more rooms than Mardi Gras and indeed is open to the public 24 hours, he is across a busy road and well away from mardi Gras, so why the double standards?

Claim: Noise echoes

Counter-claim: He claims that the invited guests from Mardi Gras will make more noise than the constant comings and goings in Trades Hotel adjoining him? Non-sense

Claim: Some local hotels have had their licences reviews for excessive noise.

Counter claim: We wholeheartedly agree that indeed hotels and bars should have a yearly review and sanctions where appropriate, like a driving licence scheme, points based system, I am disabled and do NOT want THAT sort of clientele.

Claim: I would suggest a limit of 12 midnight be imposed for the outside area terrace and cctv too.

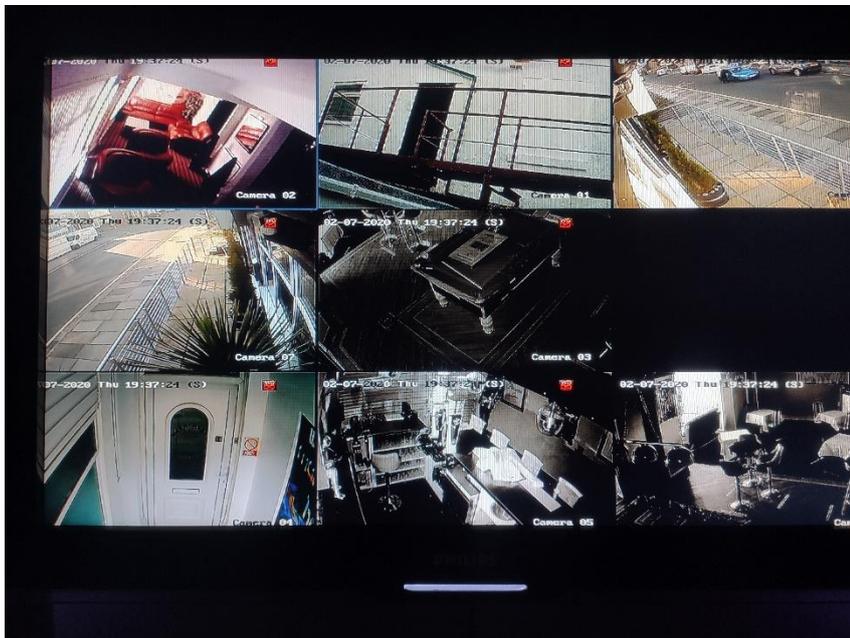
Counter-claim: We have installed wide angle cctv cameras at the door and both ends of the terrace of Mardi Gras that show both sides of Lord Street and is recorded 24 hours a day. We have already agreed with Environmental Heath to go even further and close the terrace for drinking and socialising at 10pm

Mardi Gras Hotel Licence Application Supplementary Evidence

Additional proof – NEW wide angle cctv cameras covering terrace and Lord Street and the footage it captures



Terrace
Left



Terrace
right

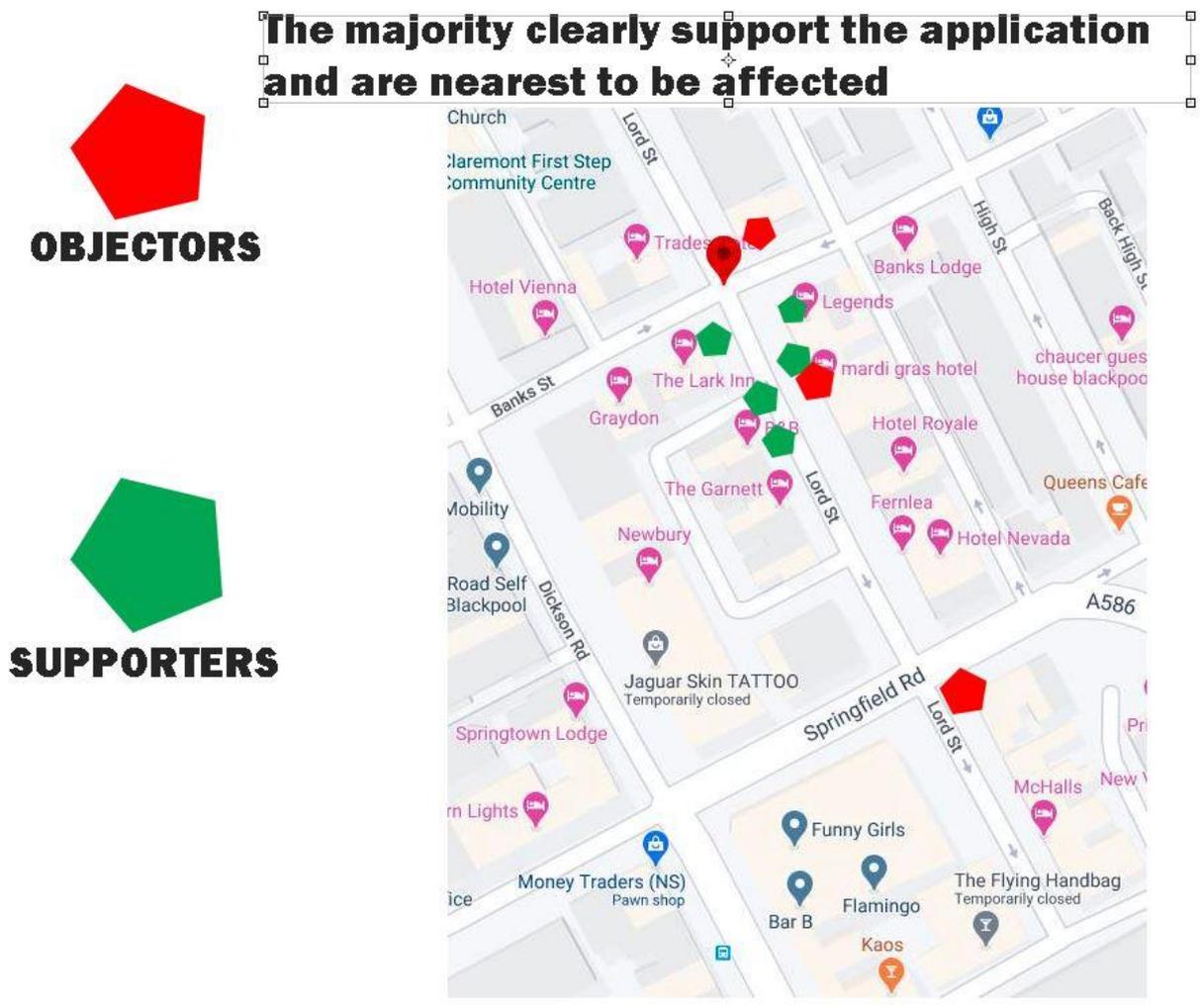
NEW smoking bins x 2



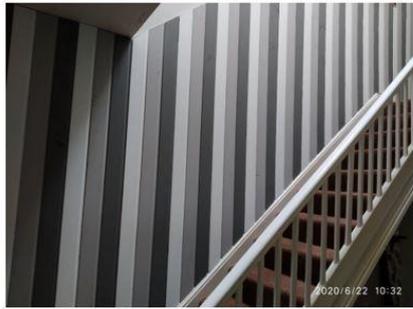
Doorbell for invitation only entry, security measures and cctv over doorway



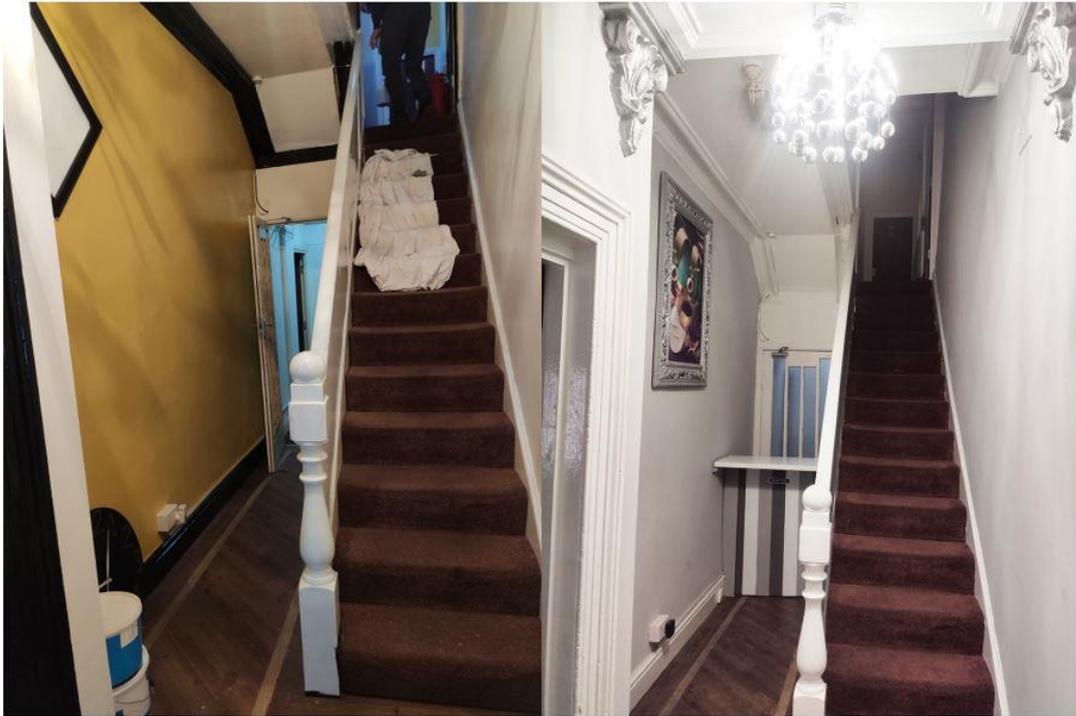
Validity map of objectors and supporters of licence application

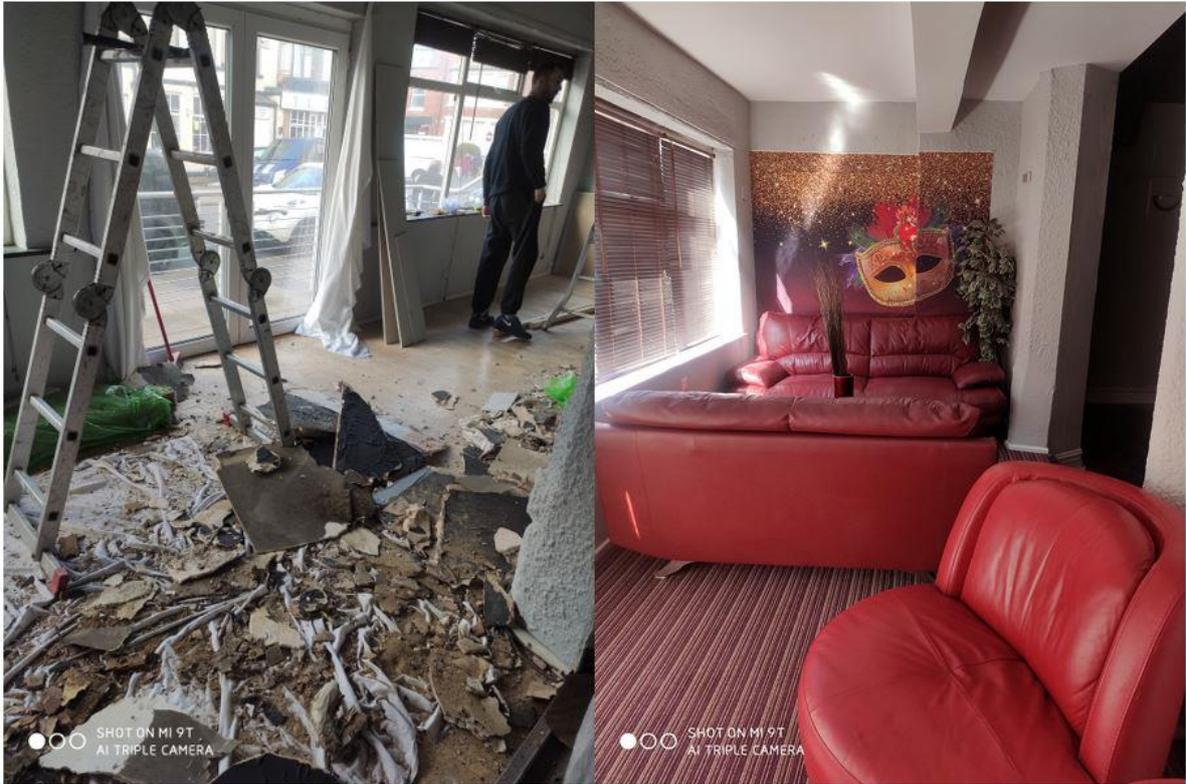


Before and after photos showing commitment to area and time, money and effort ploughed into Mardi Gras



BEFORE AND AFTER





Mardi Gras Hotel Licence Application Supplementary Evidence

Objection from Ruebens

Claim: a significant increase in noise and vibration caused by members of the public entering and exiting the premises.

Counter-claim: Ruebens does not have any guest rooms at all on the ground floor near the entrance and their accommodation is at the back of the hotel, well away from the entrance to Mardi Gras. As we have agreed with the Police to only have selected members of the public until 12:30 am, this should not be an issue, and signage is posted about when leaving the building. We predict the majority of any invited members of the public to be allowed in, will be for bar meals and a drink at lunchtimes and tea times, not late evenings, as this is the kind of invited clientele we are aiming for, NOT people walking in off the street.

Claim: continual foot traffic from non-residential guests will inevitably cause an intolerable nuisance to ourselves and our guests.

Counter-claim: This is a non-sense to claim that every day we will have the full 30 invited members of the public constantly walking up and down the 9ft entrance hall non-stop, and that they will cause more noise than the guests we already have. Ruebens does not have any guest rooms at all on the ground floor near the entrance and their accommodation is at the back of the hotel, well away from the entrance to Mardi Gras.

Claim: People on the external terrace, drinking, sitting or smoking until 2am will cause nuisance to our neighbours and guests.

Counter-claim: At present any of our residents can sit on the terrace with no time limit at all, we are proposing with the Environmental health and Polices approval to close the terrace for drinking and socialising at 10pm, allowing smoking only thus actually illuminating the noise that would occur. The neighbours to the left, across the road have added letters of support to our application, and others did not agree with Ruebens to object, even tho heavily canvassed to do so.

Claim: The issues with Fernlea

Counter-claim: This has nothing to do with us, and we are not applying for a public licence in the same vein as The Fernlea has theirs. It is not fair to punish others over their issues.

Claim: Crime and Disorder, people arriving and leaving late at night, without doubt this will cause disorder.

Counter-claim: As stated earlier, we have agreed to only have invited members of the public until 12:30am with approval from the Police, the sort of people we invite via a bell door entry will be vetted, any heavily under the influence of alcohol will not be allowed in. As stated earlier, we predict the majority of any invited members of the public to be allowed in, will be for bar meals and a drink at lunchtimes and tea times, not late evenings, as this is the kind of invited clientele we are aiming for, NOT people walking in off the street.

Claim: Once the public leave the vicinity of the property, it will add to the frequency of crime and disorder on our street.

Counter claim: This is a total nonsense to claim that a few invited people will immediately leave the Mardi Gras to wreak havoc on Lord Street, once again showing the fear mongering from Ruebens hotel, we predict the majority of any invited members of the public to be allowed in, will be for bar meals and a drink at lunchtimes and tea times, not late evenings, as this is the kind of invited clientele we are aiming for, NOT people walking in off the street. As stated earlier, the Police have approved 12:30am as a cut off time to serve invited members of the public and we have an arrangement with a taxi company to phone for anyone that wishes to use one.

Claim: Mardi Gras will turn it into a drinking street, no security staff, or public cctv in the vicinity of Mardi Gras.

Counter-claim: More fear mongering, what sort of invited guests do they think we want to attract? As stated earlier, the main objective is to diversify in these difficult times to keep the hotel going, we predict the majority of any invited members of the public to be allowed in, will be for bar meals and a drink at lunchtimes and tea times, not late evenings, as this is the kind of invited clientele we are aiming for, NOT people walking in off the street. We have installed wide angle cctv cameras at the door and both ends of the terrace of Mardi Gras that show both sides of Lord Street and is recorded 24 hours a day, yet I do not recall seeing any outside cctv on Ruebens hotel.

Claim: It would be a major threat to our wellbeing and livelihood

Counter-claim: This is nonsense and we have been victimised since the Mardi Gras has had 30,000 pounds spent on it and it has been totally renovated and we have seen the Ruebens attitude change because of this. We were warned by people on Lord Street and even Ashley Harris's friends that this would happen, as they did the same thing to the previous owners and drove them out. Ruebens does not like competition and have orchestrated a witch hunt against us since we applied for the licence. They told us that all of Lord Street has members of the public in on the quiet, and no-one does things above board, because we said we was going to do it legally and above board, it seems we have upset the apple cart. They systematically went round every hotel telling lies to get people on side to object and used their influence on BAGS to do the same (hence Granby Lodge), even then most local businesses either supported our application or refused to object. They have even rang the Police about made up claims of noise to try and taint our reputation when we don't currently live in the hotel. We have been victimised by Ruebens and hope the council can see through it by looking at the past complaints history of them against previous owners.