



The Licensing Department
The London Borough of Merton
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12th October 2018

Re:- Application for Variation to Premises Licence LN/000001184 (CMYK)

Dear Sir/Madam,

On 1st October 2018, an application was received from TASOO Ltd for a Premises Licence to be varied under Section 34 Licensing Act 2003 at the premises currently known as The Pod Bar, 105-109 The Broadway, Wimbledon, SW19 1QG.

The application can be summarised as follows:-

- To change the name of the premises to CYMK.
- To extend permitted hours for all currently licensed activities by 30 minutes to 2:30am, Monday to Saturday.
- To remove/amend certain conditions that are no longer deemed appropriate to the proposed change in operation.
- To add a condition regarding use of Body Worn Video Cameras by security staff.

The terms of the variation, if granted, will not come into effect until the substantial refurbishment has been completed and the venue is being promoted as LGBT friendly.

The Metropolitan Police Service fully supports this application, as it is our view that the Premises Licence Variation will have a positive effect on three of the four Licensing Objectives, namely:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder**
- The prevention of Public Nuisance**
- Public Safety.**

Currently, The Pod Bar is a small, poorly lit nightclub, playing House and Garage music to clientele in their 20s. It is in desperate need of redecoration and has been left behind by other venues in Wimbledon that have upgraded and re-branded. The occasional assault takes place inside the premises, and despite the excellent staff's best efforts, The Pod contributes to more than a fair share of Wimbledon's night time incidents of disorder and Anti Social Behaviour. Without a significant upgrade soon, the venue will deteriorate and crime/ASB will increase.

There are two more late night venues in Wimbledon Down Centre vying for a similar market, Smash (opposite) and Tunnel 267, further along The Broadway. Tunnel 267 is licensed to

sell alcohol to 3am, closing at 3:30am Monday to Saturday. Smash, is also licensed to sell alcohol to 3am, close at 3:30 Friday and Saturday, to 2am (2:30am close) Monday to Thursday. Currently, when The Pod closes at 2:30am, customers often take the option of rushing to Smash or Tunnel 267 for a final half hour of drinking. This can promote reckless and excessive alcohol consumption. Extending the applicant's closing time by 30 minutes will remove the last hour rush to other venues and create a more effective staggered dispersal.

The additional half hour across licensed activities, and removal/amendment of certain restrictive conditions will allow the applicant to undertake a full refurbishment of the venue and re-open as a gay friendly venue. I have had several meetings with the applicant to discuss the proposed refurbishment in great detail and my recommendations have been fully accepted. Communication between us is excellent and I have full confidence in the licence holder's ability to operate a safe and responsible late night venue.

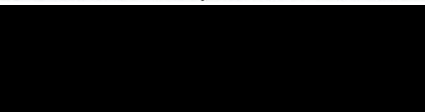
CYMK will be marketed as an LGBT friendly venue and the benefits of this to Wimbledon town centre are potentially huge. The risk of crime and ASB connected to the venue will most certainly plummet. Diversity within the Night Time Economy is well documented as important in reducing crime and promoting public safety.

When the PoNaNa nightclub opposite re-branded to Smash in 2017, the reduction in crime and ASB was instant. The quality of the clientele improved and change in atmosphere was immediate. The knock on effect was noticed by other venues in that area of the town centre as the quality of clientele increased. Wimbledon town centre has become safer as nicer people, less inclined to be involved in ASB or disorder, are drawn to the area. I am confident that the change from The Pod to CYMK will have the same effect.

I firmly believe that the creation of CYMK will have a positive effect on the overall profile of Wimbledon's NTE by reducing risk of crime and increasing safety. The terms of the proposed variation will not have a negative impact on any of the four licensing objectives.

I fully support this application and I recommend that the Premises Licence Variation is granted.

Yours Faithfully

A solid black rectangular box redacting the signature of the Licensing Officer.

Russ Stevens PC 3852SW 191701

Licensing Officer