

Perseverance Works Freeholders Ltd
4B Printing House Yard
Hackney Road
London E2 7PR

The Licensing Service Manager
Dorothy Hodgkin House
London Borough of Hackney
12 Reading Lane
London E8 1JT

8th September 2008

Dear Sir or Madam:

Re: **Anda de Bridge, 42-44 Kingsland Road, London E2**
Application to vary existing premises licence to extend hours for the supply of alcohol, live music and dancing until 0200 Thursday to Saturday and Sundays and 0230 on days preceeding bank holidays

We are writing to register our objection, as local small businesses and residents at Perseverance Works, to this Application made by Anda de Bridge. We are located adjacent to the Applicants' premises, with Kingsland Road and Cotton Gardens being along two sides of our location. Our company, Perseverance Works Freeholders Ltd (PWFL), is a non-profit making company that manages this site for local businesses and residents; we have in the region of 450 people working and living directly next to Anda de Bridge.

We would like to reiterate our position outlined in our letter to you dated 24th October 2006. In addition, we would like the Licensing Committee to consider the response of 'Anda de Bridge' to our objections. They posted up our letter of objection to Hackney Council in their club window, thereby also giving our names, addresses and telephone numbers. This was both a blatant attempt at intimidation by them and an incitement of their customers; it also contravened the Data Protection Act. It took letters to Meg Hillier MP, Thames Magistrates Court, and numerous telephone calls to Hackney Council Licensing Department before our letter was removed from the club window (please see attached letters). This is extremely inappropriate behaviour from the very people who are responsible for their club and clientele, their adherence to the law, and their commitment to listening to and working with their neighbouring residents and businesses.

We would like to make an objection again to this Appeal for Extended Licensing Hours on the four objectives of the Licensing Act (2003).

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder:

There already exists a great deal of alcohol and drug related crime, prostitution, burglary, car theft, alcohol fuelled violence, and attempts by vandals and burglars to enter the Perseverance Works site via Cotton Gardens. In the last two weeks alone, our security guards have prevented two people from climbing over the gates into Perseverance Works and also apprehended three people who had managed to scale the gates and enter the site. Tragically, there was also a fatal accident as one youth fell from a building at night into Perseverance Works premises.

Living and working in this area has demanded that we provide 24 hour security for the Perseverance Works site to protect employees and businesses; this is because if staff are threatened or equipment is stolen can bring about the closure of a business. We do not

wish the increase of crime and disorder in this area, brought about by the late-night licensing, to encourage the growth of gated communities and the increasing vulnerability of people living and working outside those gates. Gated communities run absolutely counter to our twenty year commitment to the regeneration of this area and encouraging local business development (many of which are now internationally renowned) and fostering employment of local people.

Public Safety

Currently, it is extremely unsafe for residents and people working in local small businesses to walk through this area, enter/exit their homes, within which they also lack safety for fear of violence and street crime. In addition, there is extreme overcrowding in the evenings, and the sheer volume of people attending the huge numbers of clubs already existing in this area, force them to spill out on to the street with the ensuing lack of public safety that entails.

Many of the businesses on the Perseverance Works site work to deadline and outside of office hours and staff have to enter and exit the site with increasing amounts of caution; in addition, some clients fail to be impressed by the environment when they visit the businesses whose services they have engaged.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

There would be a considerable increase in noise pollution in an area where residents already have to deal with loud noise and music late into the night. Unsociable behaviour, drunkenness, sexual acts taking place in the street and against the doors of residents' homes, constitute major disturbances and make it an increasingly unpleasant area in which to live and work.

Protection of Children from Harm

There is an increase in lack of safety for children to walk through this area to their own homes, witnessing criminal activity in the form of drug dealing and prostitution, and being at risk from violent personal attack.

In making a decision on this Appeal by Anda de Bridge for Extended Licensing Hours, we would ask Hackney Council to consider the following points:

- ❑ It has previously been recommended by Hackney Council not to extend the opening hours of Anda de Bridge.
- ❑ In its duty to protect child safety, has the Social Services Department been consulted on this Licensing Hours Extension in order to ensure that measures are taken so that children in this area are protected, and that the environment outside their homes does not adversely affect them?
- ❑ Is Hackney Council's duty to prevent crime and disorder best represented by the granting of this Extended Hours Licence? It is noteworthy that since prohibiting drinking alcohol outside the Town Hall area in Mare Street, crime has significantly reduced - a fact celebrated by the Hackney Council Licensing Application Policy document (2005). We would like to see precisely that kind of planning control in this area of Shoreditch, as crime is rising significantly with the increase in the number of late opening clubs and bars. Furthermore, what measures have been taken - in the form of CCTV, door supervision or the provision for residents to have test or radio pagers so they can have instant communication with the police when criminal activity arises?
- ❑ We believe that granting this Application for Extended Hours does not contribute to the cultural and religious diversity of this area. This is because Anda de Bridge

would not appeal to a great proportion of its' residents and in fact, makes Shoreditch an increasingly monocultural area by simply adding to the large number of late opening clubs and bars that already exist here. Furthermore, this monoculture is directly damaging the growth of live/work units in this area, a positive growth that has played such a crucial part in the regeneration of Shoreditch. The thriving small businesses and family residences of Perseverance Works are testament to the positive nature of this regeneration; and it is precisely this regeneration that is most threatened by the Extended Hours Application by Anda de Bridge.

- We are aware and approve of Hackney Council's initiative to specifically monitor the huge increase in (late opening) clubs and bars in Shoreditch, and to consider the cumulative social and environmental impact that this has had. In the light of this, we feel very strongly that granting another Extended Hours License would counter this incredibly important initiative. We believe that Hackney Council's special policy with regard to Shoreditch to limit the growth of licensed premises and Extended License Applications should be applied in this case.

For these reasons, we strongly object to the proposed Extended Hours Licensing for Anda de Bridge. Please would acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Melanie Osborne
For and on behalf of Perseverance Works Freeholders Ltd

Paul King
Chair, Perseverance Works Freeholders Ltd