

APPENDIX – OFFICER FILE NOTES FROM MONITORING IN MARCH/APRIL 2022

21/03114/NOINRI – Nokie from The Wickes, Knowle (The venue) – 1 April 2022

Phil Tidridge

Arrived on site at 20:05 and went straight to xxxx East Mews, approaching from the non venue side. Went to upstairs child's bedroom which faces towards the venue (window was cracked open). Music commenced at 20:20 and was clearly an Adele tribute Act as expected. The style of music meant it was not very bassy but was still intrusive and would interfere with the enjoyment of the property, particularly during the more up tempo songs. 5 minute recording made on a Norsonics 150 noise meter.

Then went to xxxx Brandt House passing by the venue to observe it was not busy. Made additional observations from the main kitchen/dining room on the upper floor (French patio doors to Juliet balcony ajar). Noise impacts comparable to xxx East Mews. 5 minute recording made.

Music stopped at 21:30 so assumed that event was over as business owner (Mr Madgwick) had advised they would be aiming to finish events in April at 21:30.

NOTE - it was subsequently reported that this was just a break and music recommenced after I left and went on to about 10:30. Both residents also advised that the noise impacts from the same performer on the Saturday night was similar to that observed.

Noise monitoring – The Wicks, Knowle – Officer Notes (HARRY VENESS)

Saturday 9th 2022

Arrived at xxx Brandt House at 20:30.

Act started at 20:50.

Customer opened French doors in living room facing towards venue slightly to simulate what music sounds like in warmer months. Music from the venue was loud and clearly audible from customer property. This is made worse when customers enter and exit through the venue's front doors.

Sound level metre was set up in customer living room.

Both music and act talking to audience were audible word for word through the performance.

Venue was busy throughout the performance, with at least 30 customers in attendance.

Act stopped at 22:10.

Should be noted that noise from customers leaving was also very audible in customer property, and not managed in anyway by venue staff.

Officer waited for 10mins before leaving in case act started up again.

Saturday 23rd 2022

Act already performing by time of officer arrival at 20:30.

Conducted walk around venue before making way to xxx East Mews. Venue was far less busy for this performance, with around 10 guests in attendance across two tables.

Entered xxx East Mews at 20:45 and was shown to customer's daughter's bedroom, where SLM was set up and recordings taken. Customer slightly opened window in bedroom. Customer and I commented on the quality of the performance (a George Michael tribute act on this occasion). Customer mentioned that act the evening before had been a live jazz band which customer said he much preferred, despite the fact it still impacted his property. Music was highly audible within customer property, with all spoken words being clear.

Left xxxx East Mews at 21:30

Walked over to xxxx West Mews at 21:30

Set up recording equipment in customer living room. Again customer slightly opened window facing towards venue. Music was audible from customer property, though less so than at xxx East Mews. Customer explained that her main issue with the music was the frequency of performances. Should be noted windows in xxx West Mews were single glazing. Location of property was also slightly further than other two residences visited.

Act finished at 22:30.

Music from venue stopped at 22:40.

Re: The Wicks Noise Monitoring 15th April 2022 (DAVID INGRAM)

As requested, here are my thoughts subsequent to my monitoring visit on the evening of 15th April 2022 (Good Friday). I will initially set out my observations and then provide my professional viewpoint based on the observations.

- 20:15 - Arrived on site and parked on Knowle Avenue opposite The Wicks. Walked around the locality to familiarise myself with the orientation of The Wicks bistro and bar. Walked past and saw that the stage was prepared for an Elvis tribute act although the performance has not yet started. There were not many people in the bar that I could see at this time.
- 20:23 - Walked back to and sat in the car, when I called xxxx, the complainant, to say that I was outside and although the Elvis act has not yet started, the stage was set up for the performance.
- 20:25 – As I was talking to the complainant, the Elvis tribute act started with 'Blue Suede Shoes', which I could hear from my vantage point in the car.
- 20:30 - I then proceeded to xxxx Brandt House and set up the SLM in the lounge with the microphone at 1.5m pointing at window which was slightly ajar. From the window, I could see directly down on to the front façade of The Wicks, which was only a matter of metres away.

Whilst sitting in the complainants lounge I could hear the following:

- 20:39 'Return to Sender'
- 20:42 Slower ballad type song, which I could not identify
- 20:53 'Save the last dance for me', could hear the lyrics *It's now or never; So darling, save the last dance for me* (repeated several times)
- 20:56 New slow ballad song with the lyrics '*I just can't help believing*' (repeated several times) Some clapping heard from the audience.
- 20:58 New song started 'The Wonder of you', heard lyrics '*That's the Wonder, the wonder of you*' again repeated several times.
- 21:02 New song – didn't recognise this one.
- 21:07 New song 'Like a Bridge over Troubled Water' was clearly heard. Interesting as I always thought this was a Simon and Garfunkel song? During this performance there was a sudden short burst of volume, indicating that the front door to the bar had been opened.
- 21:15 Went for a short walk to establish the number of clientele in the bar. Through the window I could see only 14 – 15 patrons enjoying the performance. Returned to xxxx Brandt House and sat in lounge.
- 21:31 New song but was unaware of its name but it sounded like an German umpah style of song.
- 21:31 King Creole was heard being sung, could hear '*He goes by the name of King Creole*'
- 21:38 New song 'Sweet Caroline' could be clearly heard. Lyrics '*reaching out, touching me, touching you*'.

- 21:40 New song 'Burning Love' clearly heard, lyrics '*Just a hunk, a hunk of burning love*'.
- 21:46 New song 'Suspicious Minds' lyrics heard '*Were caught in a trap, I can't walk out, because I love you too much baby*'
- 22:00 New song Dancing Queen by Abba clearly heard which was evidently a recording, indicating that the Elvis tribute act had concluded. Initially quite loud and then volume dropped significantly to inaudible.
- 22:05 All quiet and left xxx Brandt House

The volume of music inside of xxx Brandt House was clearly audible and intrusive and sufficient to interfere with the normal activities of the occupant in the normal activity of watching television or indeed listening to their own music at a reasonable volume. I consider that the volume of the music from the performance was sufficient to cause a statutory noise nuisance, even though the tribute act was a single performer with a backing track and with many of the songs performed as ballads.

Given The Wick as a venue holds live music acts on most Friday and Saturday nights it is reasonable to assume that these performances would present similar if not greater noise impacts to residents, especially if the performance is from a band and of a more lively genre. I am of the view that the venue's construction and its proximity to multiple units of residential accommodation makes this an unsuitable venue for regular live music.

18.3.22 – Noise monitoring carried out by AT from xxxxx property at xxx Brandt House, Knowle Village.

Arrived at South Square at approximately 1950hrs and walked around area surrounding Wicks. Live music - 'Barry Martin' so I understand was playing and was set up in the right hand corner as facing Wicks, with speakers facing into the premises and away from the residential flat that I monitored from. It appeared to be quite quiet inside the premises with few people – possible 10 attending. Monitored noise level from inside lounge of customer's property with both lounge window open and closed. This faces the Square. The bedroom was on the same orientation and was the immediate room next to lounge so I believe that the resident would experience a very similar noise impact from their bedroom to the lounge.

I made several recordings using the Norsonics sound level meter, having calibrated it and recorded the audio too. Even with the door closed in the resident's property, it was possible to hear the music, but with the door slightly ajar for ventilation, it was possible to hear the words as well. There was a short break in the middle of the entertainment, but it culminated with a rendition of Neil Diamonds 'Sweet Caroline' and finished at approximately 2125hrs. Whenever the door to the venue opened the music and words were louder. The music didn't appear to be being played at an extraordinarily loud level – merely at a level that would entertain the audience. However, the music and every word would easily be heard in the bedroom of the property. It is my view that the venue is not well enough insulated and is so close to residential properties that even with the best noise management it would still cause public nuisance if live or recorded music was being played regularly at the premises and the only control really would be to suitably restrict the number of occasions that such music could be played. E.g. to once a month or not permit live/ recorded music at all.

Abigail Toms

Environmental Protection Manager