



**CITY OF DURHAM  
PARISH COUNCIL**

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1 November 2021

Dear Licensing team,

**Re: Application for a minor variation of a premises licence by Belle Leisure Limited for Jimmy Allen's 19-21 Elvet Bridge Durham DH1 3AA**

With reference to the above licensing application, the City of Durham Parish Council wishes to object to this application under the objective of preventing crime and disorder.

This application seeks permission to remove a condition from the operating schedule of the current premises licence relating to the capacity limit on the premises. The Parish Council understands that, at present, the condition states the capacity is 210 in the premises however, following a visit by the Fire Service, the capacity is now 400 and therefore Belle Leisure Ltd is seeking to remove this condition.

The Parish Council Licensing Committee considered this application at its meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2021. In reaching its decision, the Parish Council Licensing Committee had regard to the Licensing Act 2003, the Section 182 Guidance and the County Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2019 to 2024. The Parish Council Licensing Committee feels that, should this application be granted in its current form, it will fail to uphold this important licensing objectives.

The prevention of crime is both an objective of the Licensing Act 2003 and an important responsibility of the Council under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is important, therefore, that the applicant is able to demonstrate to the Licensing Authority the practical steps that will be taken to further this objective, which may also contribute to reducing instances of accidental and intentional injuries.

The Parish Council can see no further steps having been made by this applicant, in order to address the increased risk to crime and disorder that almost double the capacity permitted within this premises would undoubtedly give rise to.

The single most important factor in tackling crime and disorder of any kind in clubs is the quality of door supervisors. A well trained team of professional door staff can be extremely effective in preventing crime and any related problems.

The Parish Council would have expected a further commitment associated with this application that a greater number of door staff would be employed in order to deal with any incidents of crime and disorder. Particularly in light of recent news around Durham City regarding the use of drugs and spiking taking place in premises.

For the reasons set out above, this application should therefore be refused in its current form.

Yours sincerely,

**Adam Shanley**  
**Clerk to the City of Durham Parish Council**