



3 Silver Street, Kettering, Northants. NN16 0BN

Kettering Licensing Department, 3rd August 2012

Please accept this as notification that Bar Sun Leisure would like to make representation in reference to the review of premises license K/12/24180 (Cocoon late night venue). Trade has been falling rapidly since its opening due to the level of violent incidents, inside and outside the venue, deterring the nicer customers from venturing to that end of Silver Street. We know this as fact, firstly, in that customers, who don't visit us anymore, have told us that to be the reason why and also when the venue was the Coliseum and Rehab operated on Montagu Street, trade was fifty percent higher. It has become apparent that despite various warnings from people in authority, such as the Police and Licensing officials, that the operators are running the venue just to rake in as much money as possible regardless of the consequences. You will see from the account of events, supplied in this representation, that due to the frequency and nature of the events, the operators of Cocoon have a blatant disregard for the law. The venue has had three designated premises supervisors and the issues have carried on through all three, proving that the venue is run entirely by the management and not the DPS.

Bar sun leisure strive to abide by the four licensing objectives and are extremely vigilant in checking for under age, drunken and pub watch banned people, turning away many customers on a regular basis. The majority of these people then cross the street and walk straight into Cocoon, unchallenged. It is, invariably, these people that are involved in violent and/ or public order incidents.

Cocoon is now known as a venue where underage, drunk and banned customers can get in without fear of rejection. We have logs of the amount of customers we turn away for various reasons (quite a number) some of which go straight in to Cocoon but this happens too frequently for us to record and unfortunately we don't have names. However, we do have some photo evidence of underage inside the venue.

Violent incidents

26/3/2012 – Two ambulances attended, one following a violent incident resulting in a serious head injury.

7/4/2012 – Large group of males involved in an incident inside the venue that spilled onto the street where numerous assaults occurred resulting in police intervention.

8/4/2012 – Incident inside the venue that spilled out into the street resulting in numerous violent incidents taking place and innocent members of the public assaulted. Police had to pull in officers from all over the county leaving other areas uncovered. Police forced closure of the venue.

21/4/2012 – Police had to attend seven violent incidents from inside the venue.

4/5/2012 – 02:05 – Large fight outside the venue resulting in police intervention.

5/5/2012 –

01:40 - Male arrested stemming from incident inside venue.

02:40 – Fight started inside venue, one male detained who then received a section 27 and had to be removed from town. 4 squad cars, 1 van and 12 officers.

03:00 – Violent incident inside venue spilled out into street resulting in police intervention. 3 cars, 1 van, 10 officers.

03:40 – Altercation with door staff resulting in 4 cars and 8 officers.

06/05/2012 – Known trouble maker (known as) after being inside the venue, involved in violent incident outside where he assaulted a female. 6 officers, 1 van.

26/5/2012 – Male removed from premises ending in argument with door staff. Police intervention. 5 officers.

2/6/2012 – Two males fighting inside the venue resulting in police assistance. 6 officers, 2 vans, one car.

3/6/2012 – Male arrested after incident inside venue. 4 officers attended and van called for.

9/6/2012 –

03:35 – One male fighting with two others. All came from inside the venue.

04:25 – Seven males fighting outside after being in the venue. 8 officers, one van.

23/6/2012 – 00:15 – Incident from inside the venue involving 3 males and one female. Police attendance. 1 van, 1 car, 8 officers.

30/6/2012 –

02:50 – Fight in alleyway stemming from rear entrance in beer garden. 4 officers in attendance.

02:55 – Police dealt with two more males fighting after being exited from beer garden.

7/7/2012 – Large fight in queue for pay booth resulting in serious injuries. Police attended and tried to move on the individuals but they continued to be violent until they were some 200 yards away from the venue. Whilst this was happening an incident occurred inside the venue involving two males and and . They continued arguing in the street.

21/07/2012 – Large fight inside Cocoon which spilled out into Silver Street. Police had to deal with at least a dozen males who were all involved with the incident.

Underage Incidents

6/4/2012 – Miss wet t-shirt competition – Won by who at the time was 15 years old (photos, 6,12,13) She also claims she was unchallenged about her age as can be seen in the screen shots from Facebook (photo's 5 and 7). She also won £100 for this and claims she won by removing her top all together. Photos 1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11,12,13,14and 15 all show other underage customers from the same night, in various states of undress and drinking alcohol. As can be seen by the Facebook conversation, , aged 16 and , aged 17, also entered the competition.

This was reported and followed up by the police at the time but as can be seen from another Facebook conversation between and , aged 15 (photo 16 and 17). Underage are still frequenting the venue and it's clearly obvious that this is common knowledge and the underage element and minors know they will get in unchallenged.

28/04/2012 – A member of security at Bar Sun () worked at an under 18's evening at Enigma in Market Harborough. Later that evening he worked at Bar Sun and turned away 4 males who were underage and had been at Enigma earlier that evening. They walked straight across to Cocoon and walked in unchallenged.

07/07/2012 – An underage female was removed from Cocoon by police who then assaulted a female officer before running off and being chased by numerous police.

Other Issues

04/02/2012 – Large groups of males came from a party in Burton Latimer which police had already attended> They asked everybody not to allow them entry of which Bar Sun turned every party away but every party walked straight over to Cocoon and were allowed entry without question.

09/06/2012 – Large group of male ejected from Bar Sun for pushing / arguing. This continued in the street and police attended the situation. We informed Police that they wouldn't be allowed re-entry. Police spoke to them and then left. The group then when straight into Cocoon even though their security had witnessed the incident.

23/06/2012 – 2 males from Cocoon throwing object at Bar Sun's security in front of their own security. Their security clearly stood there and watched this happen.

30/06/2012 – Two females both unconscious carried out from inside Cocoon by the door staff. One from the front door and one from the rear entrance. Both were put down in the street and left by the door staff, who returned inside. Police were not called but happened to notice the girls. Police then dealt with the incident.

21/07/2012 – Female stretchered out unconscious from the rear entrance of Cocoon and taken to hospital via ambulance.

Various noise complaints have been aimed at Bar Sun with regard to high levels of music on Thursday evenings. The noise is, in fact, coming from Cocoon and Bar Sun is in fact closed on Thursday evenings.

Bar Sun was investigated for the emptying of bottle skips after closing. This is actually a condition of both Bar Sun and Cocoons licence that no emptying shall take place after 21.30hrs. It was found that Bar Sun never does this, however Cocoon were doing this and still continue to do so at around 05.30.

Another condition and despite various warnings, door staff at Cocoon still refuse to wear high vis jackets after 23.00hrs.

There have been various occasions where Cocoon have stayed open later than their licensed times and despite warnings from Police and Licensing authorities they still continue to do so. Three examples of this are as follows.

26/12/2010 – Cocoon was and still is only licenced until 2am on Boxing day. This particular one, they stayed open until 4am and only closed due to large amounts of trouble. This was reported to the town centre officers on duty that evening that they weren't allowed to open past 2am.

26/12/2011 – They advertised opening until 5am, even after various warnings from police and licensing. At 2am they were forced to close by police and then publicly blamed Bar Sun, via facebook and twitter, for them having to close earlier than advertised. Their words were "Bar Sun grassed on us" showing they clearly knew they were ignoring the law and intended to open regardless of warnings.

26/05/2012 – At 5.05 am, Cocoon was still open and music could still be heard. Alcohol was still being issued at this time. The Sergeant on duty spoke to the door staff and told them they should be closed and were in breach of their license. One of the door staff went into the venue to inform management they needed to close. He was gone for approximately 5 minutes and on his return music continued to play for at least another 5 minutes before closing at approximately 5.20 am

Pub watch

Out of 24 people currently barred on Kettering pub watch scheme, ten of those were involved in violent assaults inside Cocoon. Two others whose bans have just expired were on for violent assault at Cocoon.

All the incidents above were witnessed by door staff and management of Bar Sun