

REPRESENTATION OF THE PREMISES LICENCE HOLDER

Licensing Hearing – Review of Premises Licence

The Village Square Karaoke Bar

177 Archway Road
London N6 5BL.

27th July, 2026

Dear Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee,

My name is MR ONYEKACHI 'KATCHI' ONUIRI, and I am the Premises Licence Holder and operator of The Village Square Karaoke Bar. I have managed this business continuously since 2018.

I would firstly like to thank the Committee for allowing me the opportunity to present my representations before you today.

I wish to begin by acknowledging the concerns that have been raised by local residents, the Metropolitan Police and the Licensing Authority. I fully appreciate the importance of the licensing objectives, particularly the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance. As a long-standing business owner within the borough, I share these objectives and have always sought to operate responsibly.

Unfortunately, in October 2025, I was required to travel abroad to undergo a complex and delicate surgical procedure. My recovery took considerably longer than anticipated, and I was only able to return to the United Kingdom in July 2026. During this period, I was absent from the day-to-day management of the premises due to circumstances entirely beyond my control.

Since my return, I have carefully reviewed every concern that has been raised regarding the operation of the venue. Rather than simply responding to the review application, I have treated this as an opportunity to fundamentally improve how the premises operates and to introduce additional safeguards that go significantly beyond our existing licence conditions.

One of the most consistent issues has been anti-social behaviour occurring outside the premises.

I respectfully wish to explain that many of the individuals responsible for these disturbances are not customers of The Village Square Karaoke Bar. They frequently congregate outside the premises without entering the venue and use the surrounding public highway, particularly Cromwell Road, as a meeting place. These individuals have been involved in excessive noise, balloon inhalation, disorderly behaviour and, on occasions, fighting.

Our security staff have repeatedly attempted to disperse these groups. However, once individuals are on the public highway and are not patrons of the premises, our powers are extremely limited. Security personnel are regularly challenged by individuals who insist they are entitled to remain on the public highway.

Despite these limitations, we have never ignored the problem.

We have introduced physical road barriers on Cromwell Road after midnight to discourage vehicles from parking and gathering in the area. Although this has helped on many occasions, some individuals have unfortunately found alternative access routes, maintaining their usual congregating point.

Recognising that more robust measures were required, I have now introduced a completely new operating model for the business.

New Measures Already Implemented

1. Members-Only Venue

The Village Square Karaoke Bar has now been converted into a Members-Only venue.

Every person wishing to use the premises must first become a registered member.

This provides us with:

- Full identification of every customer.
- Complete contact information.
- Greater accountability for customer behaviour.
- The ability to monitor attendance history.
- Immediate suspension or permanent removal of membership where behaviour falls below acceptable standards.

This new membership system creates a level of accountability that simply does not exist within an ordinary licensed venue.

Members understand that poor behaviour, whether inside or immediately outside the premises, may result in losing their membership and therefore losing access to the venue.

2. Electronic ID Scanning System

We have introduced electronic ID scanning technology at the entrance to the premises.

This system enables us to:

- Verify the authenticity of identification documents.
- Prevent underage entry.
- Detect fraudulent identification.
- Record visitor attendance.
- Identify repeat offenders.
- Enforce bans against individuals who have previously caused problems.

The system also supports information sharing within recognised security networks where appropriate and strengthens our ability to work alongside responsible authorities.

3. Enhanced Partnership Working

We are actively exploring opportunities to share appropriate CCTV surveillance and relevant security information with both the Metropolitan Police and the Local Authority where legally permissible.

Our objective is to improve communication, support investigations and demonstrate complete transparency in our operation.

4. Expansion of CCTV Coverage

We are increasing CCTV coverage to include additional external areas surrounding the premises, particularly locations where groups have historically gathered.

This will enable us to identify whether individuals involved in anti-social behaviour have attended the venue or whether they are entirely unrelated to our business.

Where any member is identified engaging in unacceptable behaviour outside the premises, appropriate disciplinary action will be taken, including suspension or permanent exclusion.

Our Commitment

The Village Square Karaoke Bar has operated since 2018 and has become an important social venue within the local community.

We have never sought to ignore concerns raised by residents or the authorities.

Instead, we have continually attempted to address issues using the resources available to us.

The measures now introduced represent the most significant operational changes since the business opened.

These changes have required considerable financial investment and demonstrate our genuine commitment to promoting the licensing objectives.

I respectfully submit that these new measures directly address the concerns raised within the review application and provide a far greater level of control over customers than previously existed.

I firmly believe these improvements will significantly reduce, and hopefully eliminate, the anti-social behaviour associated with the premises.

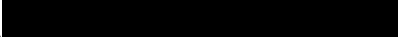
Rather than reviewing or restricting the Premises Licence, I respectfully ask the Committee to allow sufficient time for these enhanced controls to demonstrate their effectiveness.

I remain fully committed to working constructively with the Metropolitan Police, the Licensing Authority, Environmental Health and local residents.

Should any further recommendations be considered reasonable and proportionate, I am willing to work collaboratively to implement them.

The continued success of The Village Square Karaoke Bar depends upon maintaining a safe, respectful and well-managed environment for both our customers and our neighbours.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my representations.

MR ONYEKACHI ONUIRI

Proprietor – The Village Square Karaoke Bar