

Client: Cordage 32 Ltd

Site: The Horse & Groom Ltd, East Street, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 2TU

Date: 21st October 2021

Project: Noise Management Plan to protect against Commercial noise sources associated with the Public House

Written by: Mr Michael D Vine ~ BSc Hons, MIOA

Scope: A pub patron management plan that demonstrates how noise will be minimised in order to protect amenity in relation to use of the public house & public house garden for internal & external music events, and thereafter retained.

Site Description:

Sudbury is a market town in Suffolk, England, on the River Stour near the Essex border, 60 miles north-east of London. East Street lies to the Northeast of the Town Centre and quite a busy through road. Upper East Street runs to the North of the scheme with the public house situated on the corner of East Street and Upper East Street.

The proposed site is located in a residential area with dwellings situated in all locations. East Street is located immediately to the front of the public house and to the East of the scheme. The public house car park is to remain to the West of the public house, with the proposed dwelling located to the West of the public house (in the outbuilding). The public house garden will also reduce in size and be situated immediately to the South of the public house & to the East of the proposed dwelling. The public house car park will only have 6 x parking spaces and be located immediately to the rear of the public house building.

The proposal is for the conversion of an outbuilding into a residential dwelling, the building is located to the ear of the public house & car park.

The dwelling will be converted using robust measures to ensure the noise impact is low, these measures include:

- 1. Locate windows serving noise sensitive dwellings away from the public house façade and locate them on screened façade
- 2. Bathrooms/Eaves Space located on Eastern façade to further protect noise sensitive rooms
- 3. Upgrade façade facing the public house with an internal wall lining to improve acoustic performance
- 4. Reconfigure the internal layout to accommodate the noise sensitive rooms
- 5. Install an alternative ventilation system to ensure the dwelling is ventilated when windows are closed

Therefore, this noise management plan is designed to control the commercial noise associated with the Public House. The types of noise associated with a Public House are hard to quantity numerically, so this management plan puts emphasis on the Public House to control all potential noise sources.

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Required Level of reduction – Noise Policy:

The required levels of reduction are hard to establish but music noise should be inaudible within the residential dwellings after certain times. This will not be possible for external music events so measures will be taken to minimise the impact of these on the dwellings. Other noise sources, such as vehicle movements etc are not required to be inaudible but attempts are to be made to control these also. The majority of music events produced by the public house will be internal and controlled by the management, with some external events. It is understood that the music will cease no later than 2300hrs in order to reduce the impact on the dwellings. The live music act allows live music until 2300hrs, and it is recommended that both live & amplified music stops before this time on every occasion.

This NMP has been based on the finding of the associated report (18681) undertaken between 20th to 21st July 2021.

There were no music events in operation at the venue and it is understood that this was the case moving forward, however this document is to assist with any future events that may take place at the public house. This noise associated with any future events should be controlled via the venue before/during music events rather than a noise limiter as a limiter can diminish the quality of such events (although this is an option if the venue so desires or it is required in the future). The music associated with any future events (both live & amplified) should cease no later than 2300hrs, no take place more than 30 times per year and operate no more than once a week, as per the information contained in Table 1 of DEFRA Noise from Pubs and Clubs – Phase I report¹.

Event Frequency	Suggested Regulations	Outcome if Criteria met
Entertainment < 30 times/year*	LAeq, 15mins (EN) should not exceed LA90(WEN) by more than 5dB	EN will generally be audible but not overly obtrusive inside noise sensitive properties
Entertainment > 30 times/year*	LAeq (EN) should not exceed LA90 (WEN) by more than 5dB and the L10 (EN) should not exceed L90 (WEN) by more than 5dB in any 1/3 octave band between 40 and 160Hz.	EN will generally be audible but not overly obtrusive inside noise sensitive properties
Entertainment >once/week or continues beyond 2300hrs	LAeq (EN) should not exceed L90 (WEN) and L10 (EN) should not exceed L90 (WEN) in any 1/3 octave band between 40 and 160Hz.	EN will be virtually inaudible inside noise sensitive properties.

EN = Entertainment Noise

WEN - Representative background noise levels without entertainment noise

*Not more than once a week and ends by 2300hrs

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Live Music Act, 2012:

April 2015 Update to Live Music Act 2012 Guidance

The Live Music Act 2012 de-regulated live music in venues, providing certain criteria are met. This means that it is now possible to hold a gig in an alcohol licensed venue, without the need to be licensed for Live Music or applying for a temporary event notice (TEN).

The Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order 2014, in force from 6th April 2015, further deregulates live music.

What does the 2012 Act allow?

- The venue must be licensed for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises i.e. a pub, club, restaurant or bar.
- Alcohol must be on sale during the performance.
- A work place

If the above apply, then live music is deregulated either where:

- It is unamplified and takes place between 8am and 11pm with no limit on the audience number; or
- It is *amplified*, the audience is 200 or less and it takes place between 8am and 11pm.

As long as the above criteria are met, any conditions attached to your license relating to live music will not apply and are therefore not enforceable by any of the responsible authorities. Examples of such conditions range from "Doors and windows needing to be closed", to complex conditions relating to noise limiters and maximum specified sound levels.

Changes to the law

The Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order 2014

Live music – audience limit

Since the Live Music Act came into force, the DCMS have carried out a review to determine whether the provision of live music has increased without negatively impacting on licensing objectives (set out in the Licensing Act 2003). As a result of the review the audience limit for amplified music sees an increase from 200 to 500 as of 6 April 2015. This limit is in line with the maximum numbers of persons permitted under a TEN.

Recorded music

The Live Music Act 2012 did not apply to recorded music, only live music.

This has now been amended based on the argument that it is not always possible to distinguish between live music and recorded music, as demonstrated by the popularity of electronic dance music acts on the live music scene.

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As of the 6th April 2015, all recorded music in alcohol "on-licensed" premises played between 8am and 11pm, to an audience of up to 500 people, will no longer require a licence or conditions in respect of regulated entertainment be enforceable.

Noise nuisance – a reminder

Whenever a venue hosts live music or play recorded music they need to be mindful of the many legal provisions which aim to combat noise nuisance. These still apply despite the Live Music Act and the Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order. In particular Local Authorities have powers to immediately deal with excessive noise coming from licensed premises, during night hours – between 11pm and 7am. Local residents can make complaints against outlets which can be acted on immediately. Before 11pm music noise from a venue can still be deemed a nuisance if Council Officers deem that nearby residents are suffering intrusive noise from de-regulated entertainment. If your current licence has conditions that aim to limit noise, it would be sensible to continue to observe these to protect yourselves from complaints.

Removal of the exemption

Licence restrictions relating to live music or recorded music will no longer apply in the circumstances set out above. However, it is important that you observe the legal criteria, for example don't play beyond 11pm or have more than 500 in the audience. Failure to comply could mean your licence being reviewed or even prosecution. If your licence is reviewed the licensing authority is able to impose additional conditions on your licence and remove your right to the new exemptions. Prosecution for licensing offences carries a maximum fine of £20,000 and/or up to 6 months imprisonment. Venues without the benefit of Live and Recorded Music on their licence would lose the right host these types of activities entirely.

Guidance

In brief, the effect of these changes is to promote live music venues however it does potentially increase competition as any premises with an alcohol licence can be used to host gigs, whether they have been deemed suitable or are fit for purpose. It gives some flexibility to established venues, to be sensible in respect of any current licence conditions on a concert-by-concert basis. As explained, the exemption can be removed so venues should be very careful in respect of causing noise issues to local residents. It should be stressed that conditions relating to the sale of alcohol will still apply, if alcohol is being sold. Conditions may include restrictions on age limits, alcohol being ancillary to a table meal, last entry times or a requirement to provide door supervisor/s.

Non-Commercial Premises

From 6 April 2015, live music and recorded music, will not require a licence if it takes place between 08:00 and 23:00, for an audience of no more than 500 persons, in non-residential Local Authority premises, hospitals, schools or community premises (church, village and community halls or similar).

With the above act in mind, it is recommended that all music events cease by 2300hrs and that the venue ensure the music noise level at the residential façade is not intrusive during events. The venue should still ensure suitable conditions and measures are implemented to reduce the impact of the events on the residential dwellings.

Dealing with complaints:

The venue will identify a Designated Premises Supervisor who will be responsible for keeping a log of all complaints received and offer measures of how the complaints will be resolved. The client will keep the log on the premises, and this can be inspected by the LPA at any time.

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Implementing the Noise Management Plan:

The supervisor will review the implementation of the plan on an annual basis, then prepare a report with recommendations for improvements where identified. As previously stated, regular music noise level (MNL) audibility tests will be undertaken by the venue to ensure the MNL is not causing an adverse impact and within the recommended guidelines. The music for any event (live or amplified) will stop before 2300hrs. Live music is controlled under the live music act, 2012 which permits amplified live music until 2300hrs, irrespective of the licence conditions. This act supersedes the durations stated in the venue licence. Therefore, it is recommended that all music is stopped no later than 2300hrs as per the requirements of the live music act, 2012. The act was amended on 6th April 2015 to include recorded music as well as live music.

The table below indicates the noise sources apparent from the Public House & also the measures to be taken by the management to ensure the impact is negligible.

Component	Noise Management Plan – Measures to be Taken
Internal Music Noise	1. Ensure all windows & doors are kept closed during regulated entertainment
	Install self-closers on all exit doors of the PH
	3. Control of music levels & hours of music – in accordance with premises licence & live
	music act
	4. Ensuring all music stops at 2300hrs – as per live music act
	5. Live music events taking place in accordance with the live music act, with music ceasing
	at 2300hrs
	6. All music events will be advertised in advance outside of the pub
	7. Temporary event notice to be applied or if any music to continue beyond 2300hrs
External Music Noise	 Position speakers to face away from the dwellings
	2. All events to cease before 2300hrs as per the live music act
	3. All external events to be advertised in advance outside of the pub
	Control hours & volume of music to be played
	Regular checks by the venue of the MNL being played
	6. Regular correspondence with the neighbours relating to such events
Deliveries & Collections:	1. All goods deliveries to the premises and waste collections shall only take place between
	0700hrs and 1900hrs Monday to Friday
Garden Area:	1. Ensure the garden is closed at 2300hrs
	2. Ensure the area is not used after this time period
	3. Place signs inside & outside the garden to ask patrons to respect the neighbours
	4. All doors kept closed after 2300hrs with signage indicating garden is closed.
	5. Staff to monitor and implement
Customers & Car Park:	1. Signs placed around the car park to ask customers to respect the neighbours
	2. Ask customers to refrain from shouting, using horns etc
	3. Ask customers using taxis from the venue to do so in a respectful way
	4. Staff asking customers to use path to access car park quietly to respect the neighbours
Refuse collections &	1. No noise generating waste including glass/bottles shall be brought outside of the
recycling etc:	building any time between 2100hrs and 0800hrs the next day
	2. The bin store shall not be used at any time between 2100hrs and 0800hrs. Although
	food waste may be removed at any time during opening hours
	3. All goods deliveries to the premises and waste collections shall only take place
	between 0700hrs and 1900hrs Monday to Friday
Staff Training:	1. Ensure staff are aware of Noise management plan
Stan Haining.	2. Staff to receive induction and refresher training on noise management. Training to be
	specific to noise control requirements and measures in place for the premises.
	 Ensure staff monitor internal music noise levels and these levels are reduced if required.
	 Ensure staff implement the emphasis of leaving the premises quietly.
	5. Ensure the staff are aware of the taxi locations and car parking restrictions (control of
	stereo, shouting etc)

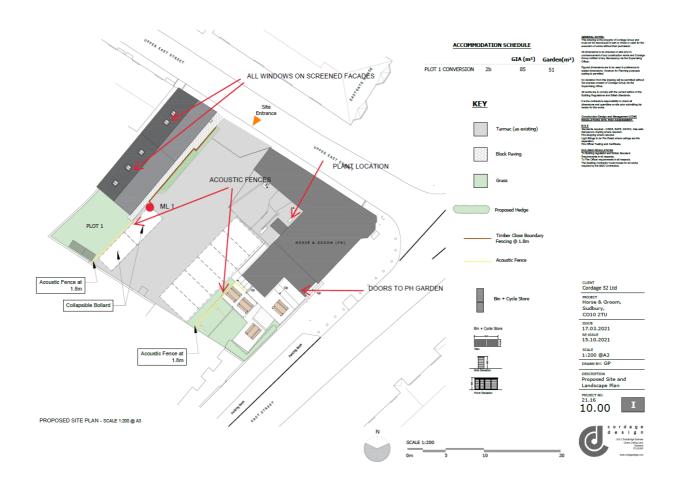
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The purpose of the noise management plan is to ensure the venue provides some robust measures to ensure that the noise created within the venue (and external areas) does not have an adverse impact on the residential scheme.

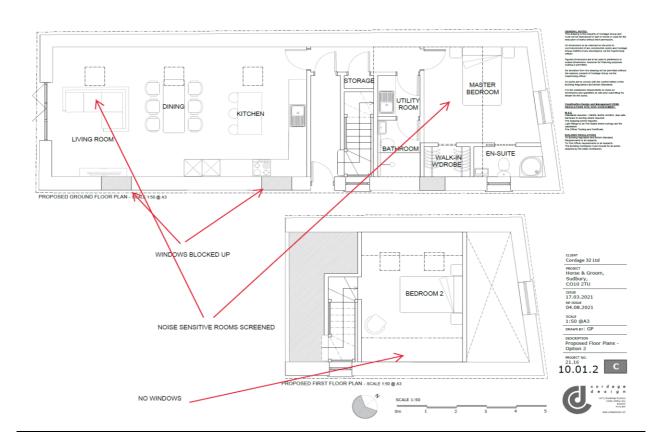
The immediate area is residential, indicating that the venue and local residents have enjoyed a good relationship with one another, and noise has not proven to cause any nuisance to date. The residential buildings will be built with good acoustic design at the forefront of the build process, the client has indicated that they are prepared to take steps to upgrade and improve the internal acoustic criteria of the purpose-built dwellings to ensure the external noise sources do not have an adverse impact on the proposed residential dwellings.

These details combined with the noise management plan should ensure that the future residents of the residential scheme are not adversely affected by the noise sources apparent within the Public House.



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