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**Date:** 10 July 2020 at 16:23:04 BST  
**Subject:** Consultation : Soho Neighbourhood Plan

Please find comments below on the SNP

## **Section 2. Commercial Activity**

### **Policy 11: Private Members Clubs**

I strongly disagree with this policy and question the justification for its inclusion in the NSF. I appreciate the importance of the creative industries, however, I am unconvinced that their clubs require such special status, the document lists 37 clubs, this is a large number, they invariably have late night licences and high capacities, therefore their protection as proposed is unjustified. These clubs are not an endangered species, they are not are not under threat.

I also disagree with the proposal put forward that for a change of use of an existing club there must be an active marketing test of at least 12 months to establish there is no continuing demand for that use. If it were felt that these clubs were so critical to an area an application for community assets status should be made, this is the correct mechanism to protect valued assets, not the SNP.

## **Section 3 Entertainment and Night-Time Economy**

### **Policy 12: Live Music Venues**

States it is supportive of carefully considered growth in D2 entertainment and live music. It goes on to say, *'this use should be promoted as being primarily viable as an evening activity rather than a late night activity because it is recognised that late night economy generally adds a degree of pressure to local services and can have adverse impact on residential amenity.'* **I strongly propose that any such planning permissions for these types of premises should specify the closing hour of 12 midnight.**

### **Policy 13: Food and Beverage Developments to Protect Existing Residential Amenity.**

Disagree with the need to support proposals for new A1, A3, A5, A5 and D2 uses, the evidence being;

**Soho in April 2020 has; Restaurants = 226, Takeaways = 72, Cafes = 71,  
Pubs = 46, Bars = 39, Clubs = 29. There are 122 late night licences in Soho from 01:00 - 06:00.**

Soho is saturated with such uses and late night licences, residential amenity is already eroded by high levels of noise and disturbance, crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour including street fouling. Mitigating against this is virtually impossible you can control how people behave in the street or prevent the high levels of crime and disorder.

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Resident