

**LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN**  
**COUNCIL MEETING – 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024**

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

**1. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Kirk and which was seconded by Councillor Dixey**

This Council notes:

- I. The UK music industry is a global leader - producing world famous artists and bringing joy to millions. Camden is at its heart. And music is at the heart of Camden life.
- II. In the classical and jazz worlds, the Jazz Café, Conway Hall, the Red Hedgehog and the Fidelio Café are all within the Borough. So is the Royal College of Music. The Royal Opera House, Kings Place and the Barbican lie on its borders. Camden is home to the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and to dozens of semi-professional and amateur orchestras and instrumental groups; the Highgate Choir and scores of others.
- III. Many great albums and film scores have been - and are being - recorded in Air Studios or Camden's other recording venues.
- IV. In contemporary music, with 28 Grassroots venues Camden has one of the highest concentrations of venues anywhere in the country and is famous for its thriving music scene. Camden's music venues have launched the careers of Coldplay, Madness, Amy Winehouse and Dua Lipa among others.
- V. Grassroots music venues in London currently operate with average margins of 0.2%. Twenty-seven London venues ceased offering live music during 2023, with 12 closing entirely.
- VI. The House of Commons Department for Culture, Media and Sport Committee (DCMS) report "Grassroots Music Venues", April 2024, recommended a levy on the largest live music venues to fund grassroots music venues. It called for a voluntary industry scheme by September 2024, failing which the government to introduce a statutory levy at the earliest opportunity.
- VII. The "Agent of Change" (AOC) principle was included in the National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) in 2018. Despite this, abatement notices are still being issued to longstanding venues (e.g. Flying Circus, Newark), and developers are not always held to account for implementing agreed mitigations (e.g. Night & Day in Manchester).
- VIII. The limited inclusion of the AOC principle in the current Local Plan and the strengthening of the principle in the draft new Local Plan.
- IX. The courts have recognised that musicians have a right to practice at home for five hours a day, three on Sunday [e.g. *RBKC v Carrabino (2017)*]. But councils have not consistently applied these rulings, and musicians often do not have the resources to take legal action. The well-publicised conflict between Fiona Fey and Lewisham Council is a striking example.
- X. There is clear evidence that learning to play a musical instrument not only enriches a child culturally but has a substantial beneficial effect on their academic and social development, and yet participation in, and funding

for, music education is both in decline and unequal. Only 15% of state schools pupils received sustained music tuition. The figure is 50% in independent schools.

- XI. Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's call for all children to have the chance to learn a musical instrument at school.
- XII. AI is a powerful tool for creatives, but it is also set to cause significant disruption in the music industry – including negatively impacting creators' ability to protect their IP.

This Council believes:

- A. There are many challenges facing the music industry. Covid and the cost of living crisis hit musicians and venues hard. Brexit has created a hefty barrier to touring and a challenge to the music colleges. Arts Council funding has reduced by 16% over the last seven years and the cuts announced last year were devastating for Camden institutions. Unregulated AI may prevent creatives from earning from their work. At the same time, fewer of our children are learning musical instruments with the sharpest declines in the state sector and for the least privileged children.
- B. The failure to address these challenges today will undermine the future of the music industry in the UK.
- C. Camden is a leader in promoting music at all levels - and should lead by example, by putting safeguards in place to protect musicians and venues, while being fair to all residents of Camden.
- D. Camden Council does excellent work to help schools deliver music education but there is always scope to go further. We believe that every child, from every background, should have the right to a free musical instrument education.
- E. Musicians should not have to go to court to ensure the common law judgements on musicians and noise complaints are respected by local councils.

This Council resolves to:

1. Protect local venues by ensuring that the AOC principle is applied in practice, in particular by:
  - Withholding planning permission for developments next to venues in the absence of enforceable conditions for appropriate soundproofing.
  - Rigorously enforcing such conditions.
2. Furthermore, take the AOC principle into account when assessing complaints about venues, from existing developments, specifically when:
  - a. The complainant has knowingly moved next to an existing venue and then complains about the noise.
  - b. A venue has materially changed its times of operation or there is a significant, measurable and consistent increase in noise levels which could reasonably be considered to impact existing neighbouring residents.

3. Commit to upholding the common law position on musicians practicing at home, so that musicians' can exercise a right to practice in their own home within reasonable hours – and ensuring no musicians who are council tenants are forced out of their home or otherwise penalised for reasonable music practice.
4. Move towards providing every primary school child two years free small-group instrumental lessons, and a free instrument, following the example of Lewisham's Every Child A Musician programme.

This Council calls on the new Government to:

1. Protect venues by acting on the recommendation of the DCMS committee in April 2024 – implementing a levy on the largest music venues after September 2024, if a voluntary levy has not been agreed, or is not raising sufficient funds.
  2. Further protect grassroots music by making the current 75% business rates discount a permanent change for small studios & grassroots venues.
  3. Negotiate free, simple short-term travel for UK artists to perform in the EU, and vice-versa, including transport of equipment and sale of merchandise.
  4. Invest in Music Education including by:
    - Training and recruiting 1000 music teachers.
    - Delivering an Arts pupil premium with funding of at least £90m p/a.
  5. To adopt the following principles regarding the responsible use of AI including:
    - Ensuring AI generated music is identifiable through meta data.
    - Ruling out new extensions to copyright which would allow the use of creative works by AI companies without permission.
    - Requiring records be kept of music used to train algorithms.
    - Introducing a new personality/image right into UK law.
- 2. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Adams and which was seconded by Councillor Parkinson**

The Council notes that:

In the last year there have been no prosecutions carried out by Camden Council against individuals or organisations for flyposting.

This negative effect on the appearance of the streets of Camden could easily be considerably reduced by taking action against those who repeatedly commit this crime. This is literally an eye-level problem.

From drug dealers to Communist Anarchists; from window cleaners to handymen; from wine sellers to those supporting or denigrating others; the effect of this crime on the borough is becoming too much to accept without action.

The Council Resolves:

That when there is sufficient evidence and it is in the public interest, to embark on publicly prosecuting those responsible for this nuisance with a view to discouraging the burgeoning increase of this blight.

**3. To consider the following motion, notice of which was given by Councillor Lenga and which was seconded by Councillor Filer**

This Council notes:

Over the last 14 years, Conservative Governments have wreaked destruction throughout our country. That the last 14 years have been years of waste, mismanagement and chaos, and that this has deeply affected residents across Camden.

This Council further notes:

That the incoming Labour Government will now work to deliver ten years of national renewal through its five missions, these are to:

- Kickstart economic growth
- Make Britain a clean energy superpower
- Take back our streets
- Break down barriers to opportunity
- Build an NHS fit for the future

This Council resolves to:

Work with the Prime Minister and relevant Ministers in the interests of residents across our borough and in pursuit of Camden's four local missions.

Request the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and the relevant Secretaries of State, congratulating them on their election to Government and offering them our co-operation and support, as well as wishing them all the best in their work to improve the lives of the citizens of the UK and Camden.

**ENDS**