



## Event Information

### Introduction

Due to the effects of COVID-19 Margot Bar and Restaurant is struggling to make ends meet. With current COVID-19 guidelines and social distancing the bars capacity has been reduced from 240 to around 64.

Being a basement bar, the venue has very little outdoor space, it remained closed during the period when outdoor venues were allowed to trade as opening just wasn't viable.

The bar is now open but under current restrictions and guidelines it is losing more money whilst open than it was when closed during lockdown - we decided that we would have to think outside the box to help keep the business afloat and save the jobs of our employees.

We, the owners and management, have come up with a unique and novel idea to help keep the bar in business whilst also helping to raise much needed funding for one of our affiliated charities, Downs Syndrome Association. We have managed to secure a 9-month licence, subject to licensing, for a service yard area to the rear of Castle Court Shopping Centre. (site plan attached on page 13)

We have organised many successful events with the Downs Syndrome Association over the past 20 years. Previous fund-raising events include a charity auction night with world renowned comedians John Bishop and Johnny Vegas. The fund-raising capabilities of charities such as Downs Syndrome Association have been severely curtailed over the last 14 months due to the pandemic and these events will help raise much needed funds to assist this charity in continuing their incredible work.

A total budget of around £100,000 will be spent to create a unique and bespoke outdoor area which will include, bars, toilets, food stations, VIP areas and enough seating for around 240 patrons.

## **Proposed Events**

The types of events that are proposed for the area include, charity comedy nights, live bands, Oktoberfest events, Christmas Markets etc. These events will allow those patrons coming to socialise in Belfast to experience something a little bit different and also something they can enjoy safely in an outdoor environment as we now know that COVID-19 is not as transmissible outdoors as it is indoors.

We propose to run these events weekly from Wednesday to Sunday although these dates may change slightly depending on bank holidays, Christmas holidays etc.