
DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING OF ALCOHOL AND GAMBLING SUB-COMMITTEE

15 JANUARY 2013

Present –

MEMBERS:

Councillors Lawson (Chairman), Mrs Green and G Sutton

OFFICERS:

B Lisgarten	Legal Governance Team Leader
R Hill	Licensing Team Leader
S Taylor	Senior Assistant Licensing Officer
T Coston	Member Support Officer
P Duff	Member Support Officer

Other Persons Present:

Ms Yvonne Fry	SYD Promotions/Applicant
Mr Steve Chenery	Joint Owner of the Premises
Mr Graeme Cushion	Poppleston Allen Solicitors – Applicant’s Representative
Mr Andrew Stott	Poppleston Allen Solicitors – Applicant’s Representative

The meeting began at 3:00 pm

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those present he would introduce the Sub-Committee and the Officers when it was appropriate.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2012 were agreed by the Members present and then signed by the Chairman.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

5. APPLICATION TO VARY PREMISES LICENCE

The application was for:

**The White Hart
30 – 32 High Street
Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire
HP1 3AE**

Everyone introduced themselves and the list of attendees can be seen above. The Chairman noted that the Objector was not present at the meeting and advised that the Sub-Committee would take the written representatives into account when making a decision.

The Chairman declared that he was the Ward Councillor for Adeyfield East. He said he was aware of the location and had visited the premises in past years.

Councillor Mrs Green said that she was the Ward Councillor for Berkhamsted West. She said she was aware of the location and had visited the premises in the past.

Councillor G Sutton said that he was the Ward Councillor for Leverstock Green. He said he was aware of the location and had also visited the premises in the past.

The Chairman asked the Members of the Sub-Committee if they had read the Agenda and all documents at hand. Councillor G Sutton and Mrs Green confirmed they had.

The Chairman asked whether all legal obligations had been complied with. S Taylor confirmed that they had.

The Chairman then invited Mr Cushion to make oral representations to the Committee for an agreed time of five minutes.

Mr Cushion explained that the application was fairly straightforward and was a request for an extension of opening hours for an additional one hour and thirty minutes on Fridays and Saturdays. He said it was a difficult market at present and there were various other local premises to compete with. Ms Fry had owned the premises since 2005 and felt a good relationship had been built with the local residents, the Police and Environmental Health. An agreement had been made with the Police to upgrade the CCTV in the premises, should the application be granted. Mr Cushion explained that Ms Fry hadn't received any complaints in the past from the objector and had tried to make contact with them but hadn't received a response. He said the premises licence holders generally refrained from advertising promotions and deals, and were strict when it came to individuals consuming high levels of alcohol in the premises. The applicant was a regular attendee at Pubwatch, kept a log of any incidents that occurred and dealt with any complaints seriously and appropriately. Mr Cushion advised that the applicant had received support from the Landlord of the Rose & Crown pub, which closed at the time of the applicants proposed hours, and felt that this would encourage individuals to leave the Old Town at the same time instead of departing one premises and going to another.

The Chairman asked if a noise limiting device had been fitted at the premises. Ms Fry confirmed that a device was fitted approximately 2-3 years ago by Environmental Health.

Councillor Mrs Green asked the applicant if any complaints had been received from local residents prior to this application. Ms Fry advised that they hadn't received any complaints since the Landlord of another local premise had left.

Councillor Mrs Green referred to the outside patio area at the back of the White Hart, and queried what time it would become unavailable for public use. Mr Cushion replied the doors would close at 11pm and the patio area would be out of use after that time.

The Chairman said smoking was one particular issue that was hard to manage and asked if there would be door attendants at the front of the premise to try to control the issue. Mr Cushion agreed that smoking wasn't an uncommon issue and confirmed that door staff would be present outside of the premises to try and manage the problem. He said the door staff encouraged individuals to be quiet and respectful when leaving the premises or going outside to smoke.

The Chairman said the issue of noise pollution could be caused by various premises in the Old Town or by individuals passing through. He said he couldn't find a reason to object to the application. He asked the Sub-Committee if they had anything further to add.

Councillor G Sutton and Mrs Green also shared the Chairman's view and confirmed they had nothing further to add.

All three Councillors then agreed (unanimously) to grant the application to vary the premises Licence.

Agreed:

The Licensing of Alcohol and Gambling Sub-Committee, having had regard to the guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, Dacorum Borough Council's own Licensing Policy and the Licensing Objectives of the Licensing Act 2003, and having taken into account all oral and written representations, agree to grant the application for variation of the premises licence as set out in the application, subject to the following conditions, as agreed between the applicant and the Police:

1. Within a period of 3 months commencing from the date of the grant of the premises licence the CCTV system at the premises will be brought up to the standard recommended in the Home Office and ACPO UK Police Requirements for Digital CCTV Systems.
2. The digital closed circuit television system shall be compatible with the requirements of Hertfordshire Constabulary. All entry and exit points will be covered to enable frontal identification of every person entering the premises in any light condition.
3. The CCTV shall continually record whilst the premises is open for licensable activities and during times when customers remain on the premises. All recordings shall be stored for a minimum period of 31 days with date and time stamping. Recordings shall be made available immediately upon the request of Police or authorised officer throughout the preceding 31 day period.
4. A staff member from the premises who is knowledgeable with the operation of the CCTV system shall be on the premises at all times when the premises are open to the public. This staff member must be able to show a Police or authorised officer recent data or footage with a minimum of delay when requested.

The meeting finished at 3:14 pm