

**MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL: EXTENDED LIQUOR LICENSING HOURS PROPOSAL**

**1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1. This report seeks the views of Members on a proposal to establish a "Festival Hour", a one hour extension to normal liquor licensing hours between 25 May and 28 August 2000.

**2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 The Rochford and Southend-on-Sea Joint Licensing Committee, the Magistrates' Court, Southend-on-Sea determines applications for Special Orders of Exemption for premises in Rochford District. This is an order to extend the normal liquor licensing hours on such special occasion or occasions as specified in the application. The Committee may, in granting the Order, add such hours as an extension to the general permitted hours as they think appropriate.
- 2.2 Although every application is considered on its merits, the Licensing Committee specify in their Policy Document which occasions will normally be considered as special occasions worthy of benefiting from a one hour extension to drinking hours. Last year, for example, the Committee agreed to consider notable birthdays (eg.21<sup>st</sup>, 30th, etc.), retirement parties, family reunions and Bank Holidays as special occasions for extensions to midnight.

**3 THE "FESTIVAL HOUR"**

- 3.1 A letter dated 31 January 2000 and a copy of a Commons motion has been received from the director of the Millennium Festival Team of the New Millennium Experience Company. The Millennium Festival is a year long celebration taking place throughout the UK, made possible through funding from the National Lottery. A copy of the letter and Commons motion is appended.
- 3.2 The Millennium Festival Team are encouraging Liquor Licensing Justices to grant the "Festival Hour" to pub opening hours, because they believe that it will add to the successful promotion of local community and civic celebrations to the greater public enjoyment of the Festival.
- 3.3 The Millennium Festival had a Commons motion tabled on 16 February 2000, and requests the Council's views.

**4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Extensions to pub licensing hours can increase the potential for noise nuisance to residents and general public disorder and disturbance.
- 4.2 Before making a decision the Licensing Committee will seek the views of the Police on issues relating to public disorder and disturbance.
- 4.3 In addition, extensions are normally only granted for one evening, or several evenings at for example Easter and August Bank holidays, and so even if there is some disturbance, it only lasts a short time.
- 4.2 The Millennium Festival Team are, however, proposing a block extension on every evening between 25 May and 28 August 2000. It is, therefore recommended that Members do not support this proposal because of the potential for noise nuisance and public disorder. Each application for an extension should be considered on its merits by the Licensing Committee considering the need and the potential for disturbance.

**5 RECOMMENDATION**

**5.1 It is proposed that the Committee RESOLVES**

to reply to the Director of the Millennium Festival Team confirming that the Council does not support the "Festival Hour" in principle, because extending the closing hour of pubs to midnight on everyday between 25 May and 28 August 2000 will increase the potential for noise nuisance and public disorder. Each application for an extension of normal liquor licensing hours should be considered on its merits by the Licensing Justices to ensure that public order is maintained and noise nuisance controlled, and that the Council's views be copied to Essex Police and the Clerk to the Joint Licensing Committee.(HHHCC)

Graham Woolhouse

Head of Housing, Health & Community Care

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**Background Papers:**

None.

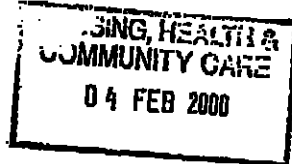
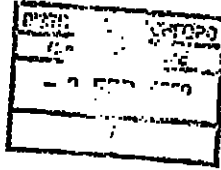
For further information please contact Robert Peacey on (01702) 318053

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Telephone 0207 808 0365 Facsimile 0207 808 6641 Website WWW.festival2000.co.uk

31 January 2000

*GPW - pl. put into the relevant  
CMEC.*

Mr Paul Warren  
Chief Executive  
Rochford District Council  
Council Offices  
South Street  
ROCHFORD  
SS4 1BW



Made possible by the National Lottery

Dear Mr Warren

**Millennium Festival : Extended Licensing Hours Proposal**

The Millennium Festival is a year long celebration taking place throughout the UK, made possible through funding from the National Lottery. Over 5000 groups have already received grants from the Millennium Festival Fund and you may be aware of projects happening in your area.

The majority of the celebratory events are taking place between May and August this year, which will make the summer of 2000 a special time for communities across the UK.

In association with the summer Festival events we are hopeful that local authorities and licensing benches will provide support to the celebrations by looking favourably on applications for extensions to licensing hours and the granting of public entertainment licenses. To this end, we are working closely with the Brewers & Licensed Retailers' Association and the Parliamentary Beer Group to establish what we are calling "Festival Hour", which would encourage an extension to pub opening hours of one hour during the summer period, defined as 25 May - 28 August 2000.

I enclose for your information a copy of the Commons motion which will be tabled on 16 February and I would ask that you copy this letter and the attached motion to the relevant Council committee to seek their general support of our plans.

It would be helpful if you could write to us to advise of your Council's view of these proposals.

Yours sincerely,

*Tim Cattle Jones*

Tim Cattle-Jones,  
Director, Millennium Festival.

**MILLENNIUM FESTIVAL/FESTIVAL HOUR**

**DRAFT EARLY DAY MOTION:**  
(to be tabled on 16 February 2000)

That this House, notes the success of the nation's New Year celebrations, and supports the Millennium Festival which will involve the organisation and promotion of national and local events throughout the year, particularly during the summer months; strongly encourages the granting of the "Festival Hour", a one-hour extension to normal licensing hours, as part of this Special Occasion between 25 May - 28 August 2000, which will add to the successful promotion of local community and civic celebrations to the greater public enjoyment of the Festival; and urges the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and Her Majesty's Government to take an active role in promoting the Festival and the Festival Hour in conjunction with local authorities and licensing benches.

25 May marks not only the spring bank holiday weekend, but coincides with start of the BBC's UK-wide music festival - "Music Live".

