

Licensing Sub-Committee – 13 September 2005

Minutes of the meeting of the **Licensing Sub-Committee** held on **13 September 2005** when there were present:-

Cllr Mrs R Brown
Cllr Mrs S A Harper

Cllr T Livings

OFFICERS PRESENT

N Khan	- Solicitor
K Doyland	- Licensing Manager
S Worthington	- Committee Administrator

19 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor T Livings was appointment Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

20 PROCEDURE FOR LICENSING HEARING

The Sub-Committee noted the procedure to be followed in hearing the review.

21 LICENSING APPLICATION

The Sub-Committee considered an application for variation of a premises licence made under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003. The application related to premises known as the Royal Oak, Stambridge Road, Great Stambridge, SS4 2AX. Members had before them the report of the Head of Housing, Health and Community Care setting out the details of the application and the representations received.

The applicant, in support of the application, advised that the intention was for the Royal Oak to operate during hours aligned with those currently permitted under its Supper Hours Certificate. The application for an extension to 1.00 am on Fridays and Saturdays and to midnight on Sunday to Thursday for the provision of alcohol had been made with a view to holding special functions on an infrequent basis. Similarly, the live music element of the application related to infrequent functions. The recorded music element of the application was in connection with the provision of background music inside the premises.

The applicant stressed that the Royal Oak did not attract younger customers; it was a family run business which had a regular customer base, and was not known as a late-opening premises. The intention was to operate the same opening hours as during the past two and a half years, with the exception of infrequent special functions.

The applicant further confirmed that the application for the provision of late night refreshment related to providing hot drinks and snacks for customers inside the premises.

The applicant stressed that the marquee was no longer in use at the premises and that there were no future plans to reintroduce it. In addition, the applicant and his partner had decided to only cater for 3 weddings per annum. In conclusion, the applicant confirmed that the possibility of installing double glazing on the premises was being explored.

Public objectors to the application were particularly concerned that if the applicant was given permission to open to the public during the early hours the villagers' quality of life would be compromised.

The village already had a documented history of youth nuisance and objectors were anxious that increased opening hours could lead to further public nuisance and disturbance associated with customers leaving the pub late at night.

There had been instances of vandalism, erratic driving and even accidents, which villagers feared would intensify, should the applicant be given permission to open later at night.

It was, however, noted that it was not possible to directly attribute such problems to the Royal Oak.

Members, while mindful of the representations made and of the concerns raised by residents, having carefully considered all the evidence were of the view that the conditions proposed were sufficient to address those concerns. The licence could, however, be reviewed in future in the event of any complaints being received.

Resolved

That the application be granted, subject to the conditions set out in the operating schedule. (HHHCC)

The meeting closed at 10.55 am.

Chairman

Date