

## Licensing Sub-Committee – 29 September 2005

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Licensing Sub-Committee** held on **29 September 2005** when there were present:-

Cllr R A Oatham  
Cllr Mrs M A Starke

Cllr M G B Starke

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

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

### **37 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr M G B Starke was appointed Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

### **38 PROCEDURE FOR LICENSING HEARING**

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

### **39 LICENSING APPLICATION**

The Sub-Committee considered an application for variation of a club premises licence made under section 84 of the Licensing Act 2003. The application related to premises known as Hullbridge Sports and Social Club, Lower Road, Hullbridge, SS5 6BP. 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.

In support of the application, the applicants stressed that the extension of hours to 0100 hours for licensable activities on Fridays and Saturdays would not apply every week, but would only apply to infrequent, special events, should the need arise. On such occasions the intention would be that the serving of alcohol would end at 12.30 am, with 30 minutes' drinking up time after that, thus closing the club at 1.00 am.

It was noted that the hours applied for relating to the supply of alcohol were from 12 noon – 2300 hours Monday to Thursday, from 1200 noon – 0100 Fridays and Saturdays and from 12 noon – 2230 hours on Sundays.

The club had experienced problems associated with 21<sup>st</sup> birthday parties, with guests creating noise and disturbance in the premises' car park. The club had therefore recently changed its rules so that bookings were no longer accepted for 21<sup>st</sup> birthday parties.

The applicant confirmed that it would be possible to display a notice at the Lower Road entrance to the club on occasions when special functions were to be held at the premises finishing at or later than midnight.

Responding to enquiries raised by Members, the applicant advised that:-

- The patio area was situated at the front of the premises, not facing any of the residential properties in the vicinity, and was outside the front doors of the club.
- Customers were able to go out to the patio area during the times that the club was currently licensed to open. The applicant was, however, prepared to limit this to 10.00 pm.
- The club did organise around 4 functions per year in order to fund raise, but the majority of functions held at the premises were private ones.
- The club did not have a noise limiter for music played at the premises; when the doors and windows were closed there were no problems associated with music.

Objectors were particularly concerned that any increase in the hours of licensable activity on Fridays and Saturdays would lead to an increase in people lingering outside the premises in Lower Road and causing disturbance. Customers leaving the club tended to congregate in Lower Road, arguing and fighting, and combined with a lack of policing, this led to public disturbance.

There was concern that people attending special functions at the club often became intoxicated and subsequently abusive on leaving the premises. Residents perceived that often customers who had been banned from the Anchor and Smugglers Den were admitted into the club.

Responding to concerns raised by objectors relating to unacceptable behaviour by members of the club, the applicant stressed that other club members could request a review of club membership, particularly in cases, as was suggested, where there were instances of under-age members being admitted. Club staff automatically asked for proof of I.D. from any members who looked younger than 18, and expected club members to inform them of any individuals who caused problems.

Members, while mindful of the representations made, having given careful consideration to all the evidence, were of the view that the amendments made to the original application adequately addressed the concerns relating to public nuisance and disturbance. The licence could, however, be reviewed in future in the event of any complaints being received by the Council.

### **Resolved**

That the application be granted, subject to the conditions set out in the operating schedule, subject to the hours of supply of alcohol on the premises being from 1200 – 2300 Monday – Thursday and from 1200 – 0100 on

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Fridays and Saturdays and from 1200 – 2230 on Sundays and subject to the following supplementary conditions:-

- That customers should be clear of the patio area by 10.00 pm daily.
- That a notice of any functions likely to continue after 12 midnight to be fixed in a position that would be clearly visible at the road entrance to the premises on Lower Road, such notice to be fixed as soon as practicable, and in any event at least 48 hours in advance of any function taking place. (HHHCC)

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and closed at 11.45 am.

Chairman .....

Date .....