

Licensing Sub-Committee

Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held in Committee Room No. 2 (Bad Münstereifel Room), Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the 7th December 2012.

Present:

Cllr. Feacey (Chairman);

Cllrs. Davey, Shorter.

Also Present:

Licensing Manager, Licensing Officer, Legal Advisor, Member Services & Scrutiny Support Officer.

PC Julian Postlethwaite – Applicant's Representative.

Special Sergeant Matthew Prigmore – Witness.

Mr T Klaric – Licence Holder.

Ms C Newing – Designated Premises Supervisor and Licence Holder.

248 Election of Chairman

Resolved:

That Councillor Feacey be elected as Chairman for this Meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

249 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Sub-Committee held on the 5th September 2011 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

250 Platform 5, 117 Station Road, Ashford, Kent – Review of the Premises Licence

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all those present. Members confirmed that they had read the papers relating to the application. The Chairman explained the procedure to be followed at the meeting and the appeal process.

The Licensing Manager then gave a brief summary of his report. The application for the review of the premises licence of Platform 5 had been received from Chief

Inspector Bradley on behalf of the Chief Officer of Police. Where an application for a review had been accepted by the Licensing Authority the Act required that a notice was displayed on the premises, in a position where it can be seen from the outside of the premises, stating that an application to review the premises licence had been made. A notice must also be displayed at the Council's offices and on its website. The notices had been displayed correctly.

The premises licence, as contained in Appendix F to the Licensing Manager's Report, permitted the following activities:

<i>Alcohol Sales (on the premises only)</i>	<i>Regulated Entertainment</i>	<i>Late Night Refreshment</i>
Sunday 11:00 - 23:00	Sunday 11:00 - 23:00	
Monday 11:00 - 23:00	Monday 11:00 - 23:00	
Tuesday 11:00 - 23:00	Tuesday 11:00 - 23:00	
Wednesday 11:00 - 23:00	Wednesday 11:00 - 23:00	
Thursday 11:00 - 23:00	Thursday 11:00 - 23:00	
Friday 11:00 - 02:00	Friday 11:00 - 02:00	Friday 23:00 - 02:00
Saturday 11:00 - 02:00	Saturday 11:00 - 02:00	Saturday 23:00 - 02:00

Since the licence was issued in February 2011, three applications for minor variations had been submitted. Two of these were for changes to the layout in the two bar areas and the third application was made to include the outside area in the permitted area for licensable activities. All three minor variations were granted.

The application for the review by Kent Police related to the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm licensing objectives. In summary the application for a review stated the following problems:

- The sale of alcohol to persons under 18 years of age
- The consumption of alcohol by children
- The lack of age verification policies
- The use of unregistered door staff
- The ineffectiveness of the premises' management.

The application for the review of the premises licence was based upon events on 30th June, 16th July, 30th September, 5th October and 19th October 2012. Additional information in the form of witness statements from police officers and a special constable had been provided:

- Special Sergeant Prigmore re: incident on 30th June 2012
- PC Pickett re: incident on 5th October 2012
- PC Smith re: incident on 5th October 2012
- Special Sergeant Prigmore re: incident on 5th October 2012
- PC Haines re: incident on 5th October 2012

The Police had provided a summary of the observations after viewing the CCTV from Platform 5 covering the event on 5th October 2012. This could be found in Appendix C to the Licensing Manager's Report. The Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act suggested that where authorised persons and responsible authorities had concerns about problems identified at a premises, it was good practice for them to give licence holders early warning of their concerns and the need for improvement, and where possible they should advise the licence or certificate holder of the steps they needed to take to address those concerns. A failure by the licence holder to respond to such warnings was expected to lead to a decision to apply for a review. A number of meetings had been held with the licence holder by the Police and others to inform the relevant parties of the Police's concerns and to make suggestions as to appropriate steps to promote the licensing objectives. A summary of these meetings had been provided by the Police and could be found in Appendix D to the Licensing Manager's Report.

No other representations from other persons or responsible authorities were received during the 28-day notice period.

One noise complaint was received by the Council regarding an event at Platform 5 on Saturday 4th August 2012. This related to music played in the marquee and was collaborated by the Police. The licence holder was advised of the complaint and advised to ensure that the music levels were restricted as to not cause a nuisance.

Where the Licensing Authority considered that action under its statutory powers was appropriate, it could take any of the following steps:

- to modify the conditions of the premises licence (which includes adding new conditions or any alteration or omission of an existing condition), for example, by reducing the hours of opening or by requiring door supervisors at particular times;
- to exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence, for example, to exclude the performance of live music or playing of recorded music (where it is not within the incidental live and recorded music exemption);
- to remove the designated premises supervisor, for example, because they consider that the problems are the result of poor management;
- to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
- or revoke the licence.

The options available to the Sub-Committee were set out in paragraphs 45 and 47 in the Licensing Manager's Report. If the Sub-Committee believed that steps should be taken to promote the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance and/or the protection of children from harm licensing objectives, they could consider the conditions requested by Kent Police:

- a) No persons under 18 to be permitted on the premises at any time. Alternatively the Sub-Committee may wish to consider, that persons under 18 may be permitted on the premises up to 21:00 if accompanied by an adult, and only if they are having a table meal.
- b) At least one member of door staff per 50 customers on duty from 21:00 on Friday and Saturday nights. The same condition to apply for any organised, ticketed or advertised event on any other night.
- c) The Licence Holder will ensure that all staff are trained on age awareness and that all staff training records are regularly audited and will be available to all of the responsible authorities at their request.
- d) The Licence Holder will ensure that an incident book is maintained at the premises and that all staff will be trained in its use. The book will be bound and clearly marked with the following information:
 - Time & date of incident
 - Full description of incident
 - Details of description of any person involved in the incident
 - Any action taken by staff
 - Name of staff member making the entry
- e) At least one personal licence holder to be on duty at the premises from 18:00.
- f) A CCTV system shall be designed, installed and maintained in proper working order, to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority and in consultation with Kent Police. Such system shall:
 - Be operated by properly trained staff
 - Be in operation at all times that the premises are being used for a licensable activity
 - Ensure coverage of all entrances and exits to the licensed premises, internally and externally
 - Ensure coverage of such other areas as may be required by the Licensing Authority and Kent Police
 - Provide continuous recording facilities for each camera to a good standard of clarity. Such recordings shall be retained (on tape or otherwise) for a period of one month, and shall be supplied to the Licensing Authority or a Police Officer on request.

PC Julian Postlethwaite advised the Sub-Committee that Chief Inspector Bradley, the District Commander for Shepway, had submitted the application for the review; however he was the Police Licensing Officer for the Area and would be representing the Chief Inspector. He would give the Sub-Committee an overview of the events that had lead to the review being applied for:

- 30th June 2012 – An all day music event had taken place. Police had attended the premises regarding a missing person. Special Sergeant Prigmore had spoken to the bar manager who had been unable advise how many people were in the premises or identify patrons under the age of 18. Special Sergeant Prigmore had spoken to a 16 year old female who appeared intoxicated and had lost her 15 year old friend. The Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) was not present.
- 16th July 2012 – An under 18 event was hosted at the premises. The Police Licensing Officer had attended and had confiscated a bottle of cider from a 15 year old outside of the premises. Mr Klaric was advised that the individual should not be allowed back into the premises. He was later observed inside the premises by the same officer.
- PC Julian Postlethwaite spoke to the door man who, on investigation, provided false details and was not Security Industry Authority (SIA) registered. Following this discovery Mr Klaric was interviewed and was unaware of the requirements under the SIA regulations.
- 30th September 2012 – an assault occurred in the street near to the premises, this was still being investigated which meant that the officer could not elaborate further. On reviewing the CCTV footage from that evening it was clear that drinks were still being poured after 02:00, there was no Temporary Event Notice in place and Mr Klaric was at the bar. Money could not be seen changing hands. There was a 16 year old, who was known to PC Julian Postlethwaite, in the premises who was visibly drinking alcohol and appeared intoxicated.
- 5th October 2012 – At 21:03 staff at the premises called the Police to report a disturbance which was ‘out of control’ and advised that the fire alarm had been set off. Upon arrival officers had noticed a large number of youths present, a number of which were clearly intoxicated. PC Julian Postlethwaite was unaware of the type of event that had taken place (18th birthday party or an under 18’s event), however there were a number of under 18’s present and alcohol had been on sale. PC Suzy Pickett had seized a doctored driving licence, which was available to view as evidence should this be necessary. Neither the DPS nor Mr Klaric were present at the premises.
- 19th October 2012 - PC Julian Postlethwaite attended the premises with Sergeant Allcott. A young male in the smoking area had no identification and appeared to be under 18, PC Julian Postlethwaite informed Mr Kinge, the bar manager, that he should be removed from the premises. Upon further investigation the young male was found to be 17 years old.

In summary the review had been sought due to the premises serving beyond the permitted hours, the inability of staff to differentiate between patrons over and under 18 years old, the employment of unlicensed door staff and the apparent lack of identification checks.

In response to questions from the Sub-Committee PC Julian Postlethwaite advised that the information in the witness statements was taken from the Police Officers' pocket notebooks. He had met with Mr Klaric and Ms Newing on a number of occasions and whilst they did appear to take on board the advice that had been provided he felt that it had made no difference to the running of the premises. The decision to apply for a review had not been taken lightly and there appeared to be a lack of guidance provided to staff.

Special Sergeant Prigmore advised that on the two occasions that he had spoken to Mr Kinge, the bar manager, he had been unhelpful and unable to advise of how many patrons were in the premises. He had appeared uninterested in helping and appeared to regard the Police presence as a hindrance.

Mr Klaric advised the Sub-Committee that Mr Kinge had had a troubled past and was shy of authority and appeared withdrawn, but he was not being disrespectful. Procedures were followed and meetings were held with staff before the start of each shift. It was not always possible to spot fake identification; an issue which he had discussed with the Police. The premises had had a bad reputation previously, but in the time that he had been in charge there had not been a single fight relating to the premises. The Police were given access to the premises and he felt that they had a good relationship with them. The issue with the illegal SIA door man was unfortunate. Mr Klaric had been provided with incorrect details from the individual involved, who had previously worked at Hustle Nightclub. He had not been aware that he needed to have a licence to employ door staff and this was in the process of being rectified.

The event that had taken place on the 5th October 2012 had been an 18th birthday party. It had been made clear to the organiser that no under 18's would be permitted into the premises and ID checks would be carried out. 35 people were expected to attend, however due to a 'Facebook Flash' over 200 people had turned up, which had taken staff by surprise. He had advised his staff, by telephone, to turn off the music and to confiscate any alcohol that had been taken into the premises.

Some issues had been experienced with people jumping over the perimeter fence between Platform 5 and Hustle Nightclub. He had installed new fencing around the whole perimeter. On the two occasions when under 18 events had been held the bar had been closed. An incident book was kept and he had installed CCTV at the premises at considerable expense. He felt that reputation was important and was conscious that seven people relied on the premises for employment. Mr Klaric stated that he had already brought in a policy of no under 20's in Platform 5 and that he was happy for this to be a condition on his licence.

Ms Newing further advised that they had requested a town radio, however this had not yet been provided. This resulted in the premises effectively being cut off from other premises in the town. She added that on the night of the 30th September no money had been taken for drinks after 02:00. Witnesses to the fight down the road were invited into the premises to await the arrival of the Police and provided with a free drink. She felt that there was no excuse for the incidents that had occurred, however they were looking to train their staff further.

In response to questions from the Sub-Committee PC Julian Postlethwaite advised that Ashford Partnership Against Crime provided the town radios and co-ordinated PubWatch. He confirmed that Mr Klaric and Ms Newing had requested a radio on a number of occasions.

Mr Klaric stated that they were strict on procedures being followed; ID checks were carried out on entry and if more than two drinks were being purchased ID was requested for all individuals in that group. He had requested guidance on what to look for on a fake ID.

Ms Newing requested advice on ID samples and example paperwork that could assist with the training of the staff. The Licensing Manager advised that the DPS course run by the British Institute of Innkeepers would be useful and the course documentation would assist with the training of staff.

The Licensing Manager then summed up the nature of the application and the issues for the Sub-Committee to consider.

In response to a question from the Sub-Committee, Mr Klaric confirmed he was happy to have a condition regarding a 20 year old and older age restriction on his licence.

The Sub-Committee then retired to make their decision.

On return the Legal Advisor read out the decision.

Resolved:

That given the evidence presented to them and the views presented at the hearing, the Sub-Committee grant the review of the Premises Licence and the following additional conditions be applied to the licence:

- 1. No persons under 20 to be permitted on the premises at any time.**
- 2. All staff to operate the Challenge 21 Scheme.**
- 3. At least one member of door staff per 50 customers on duty from 21:00 on Friday and Saturday nights. The same condition to apply for any organised, ticketed or advertised event on any other night.**
- 4. The Licence Holder will ensure that all staff are trained on age awareness and that all staff training records are regularly audited and will be available to all of the responsible authorities at their request.**
- 5. The Licence Holder will ensure that an incident book is maintained at the premises and that all staff will be trained in its use. The book will be bound and clearly marked with the following information:**
 - Time & date of incident**
 - Full description of incident**

- Details of description of any person involved in the incident
 - Any action taken by staff
 - Name of staff member making the entry
6. At least one personal licence holder to be on duty at the premises from 18:00.
7. A CCTV system shall be designed, installed and maintained in proper working order, to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority and in consultation with Kent Police. Such system shall:
- Be operated by properly trained staff
 - Be in operation at all times that the premises are being used for a licensable activity
 - Ensure coverage of all entrances and exits to the licensed premises, internally and externally
 - Ensure coverage of such other areas as may be required by the Licensing Authority and Kent Police
 - Provide continuous recording facilities for each camera to a good standard of clarity. Such recordings shall be retained (on tape or otherwise) for a period of one month, and shall be supplied to the Licensing Authority or a Police Officer on request.

The Licensing Manager be given delegated authority to make minor amendments to the wording of the conditions as necessary.

The Chairman advised Mr Klaric that the Sub-Committee acknowledged his public spiritedness. He urged him to take on board the comments made at the Meeting and that the running of the premises needed to improve.
