

Swale Borough Council

Report to: Licensing Sub – Committee (Under the Licensing Act 2003)
Date: Tuesday 30th November 2017 at 14:00
Report Author: Tom Dunn - Licensing Officer
Subject: The Corn Exchange, Standard Quay, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7BS

Purpose and summary of report:

To consider an application, to which a representation has been made, for a new Premises Licence application under the Licensing Act 2003 – application reference number FAV/SWALE/189/0686

Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to determine the application and decide whether to grant a licence. Members asked to consider the application on its merits.

Background papers: The Licensing Act 2003
DCMS Guidance Documents issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 as amended.
Swale Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy.

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The Licensing Act 2003 Act requires the Council to publish a 'Statement of Licensing Policy' that sets out the policies the Council will general apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decision on applications made under the Act. The Policy will be available at the meeting for reference purposes.

Under the 2003 Act, it is the duty of all licensing authorities that, in carrying out their functions, they must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182. The Guidance cannot anticipate every possible scenario or set of circumstances that may arise. Provided that the licensing authority has properly understood and considered the Guidance, it may depart from it when it has reason to do so. However, as the licensing authority is under a duty to have regard to the Guidance, it will need to give full reasons for its departure from it. This would be a key consideration for the courts should departure from the Guidance result in a determination which gives rise to an appeal or judicial review. Should the need arise the Guidance will be available at the meeting for reference purposes.

The Licensing Authority must, under the Act refer any application for hearing to the Licensing Panel, if relevant representations are made by a responsible authority or other person. A copy of the Council's approved procedure for hearings of the Panel in relation to an application, along with a copy of the Hearings Regulations has been circulated to all parties prior to the meeting.

Report Title: The Corn Exchange, Standard Quay, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7BS

Application for: A premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003.

Purpose of the report

The report advises Members of an application for a Premises Licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003, made by Mrs Nicola White in respect of the premises The Corn Exchange (Appendix A and B) in respect of which nine (9) representations (Appendix C) have been received from members of the public.

Mrs White and Kent Police agreed on 6th November 2017 additional conditions to be adopted on the Operating Schedule (Appendix D).

Issues to be decided

1. Members are asked to determine whether to (i) grant subject to conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule modified to such an extent as considered appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and any mandatory condition, (ii) grant excluding any of the licensable activities applied for, (iii) grant refusing to specify a premises supervisor, or (iv) reject the application.

2. Background

The Licensing Act requires the Council as licensing authority to carry out its various licensing functions so as to promote the following four licensing objectives:

- i) the prevention of crime and disorder;
- ii) the protection of public safety;
- iii) the prevention of public nuisance: and
- iv) the protection of children from harm

3. The Application

- a. On 9th October 2017 an application was received from Mrs Nicola White for the grant of a premises licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of premises The Corn Exchange at Standard Quay, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7BS. The application is for provision of Supply of Alcohol, Live Music and Recorded Music. The proposed hours of operation are:

Supply of Alcohol: Monday – Sunday 10:00 – 22:00

Live and Recorded Music (as per premises opening hours):

Sunday – Thursday 10:00 – 22:00

Friday – Saturday 10:00 – 23:00

Opening Hours

Sunday – Thursday 10:00 – 22:00

Friday – Saturday 10:00 – 23:00

- b. Live and recorded music is deregulated for a Licensed Premises during the hours of 08:00 – 23:00. Therefore although advertised on the Public Notice, the timings fall within these deregulations as per the Deregulation Act 2015 and Live Music Act 2012.
- c. A copy of the application, which includes the operating schedule that details the steps the applicant intends to take to address the licensing objectives, is shown as Appendix A.
- d. The application has been correctly advertised in the local press and a notice has been displayed for the whole of the consultation period. There were minor errors on the blue poster which therefore were reciprocated in the newspaper advert. In particular the application form showed the Opening hours to be Sun – Thur 10:00 – 22:00 but the blue poster showed the proposed Regulated Entertainment hours as 10:00 – 23:00 which will be after the premises have closed. It is for Members of the Sub-Committee to determine if there has been substantial compliance with the requirements of the legislation.
- e. The proposed Designated Premises Supervisor is Mrs Nicola White.

Representations

Responsible authorities:

- Kent and Medway Fire & Rescue Service – No representations
 - Kent County Council Trading Standards – No representations
 - Kent County Council Social services Children & Families – No representations
 - Home Office Immigration – No representations
 - Planning Department – Swale Borough Council – No representations
 - Environmental Health – Swale Borough Council – No representations
 - Kent County Council Public Health – No representations.
 - Kent Police seek the attachment of conditions to clarify those proposed in the operating schedule, and assist in the promotion of the licensing objectives. This includes an agreed amendment for the Sale of Alcohol to be Sunday – Thursday 12:00 – 22:00 and Friday – Saturday 12:00 – 23:00 – Representation form is shown as Appendix D.
- f. There have been nine (9) valid representation received from members of the public. Their comments are shown as Appendix C.

Responsible Authority / Other person	Licensing Objective	Associated Documents	Appendix
Members of the public	Public Nuisance Public Safety	One (1) message through the website and eight (8) emails	C

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4. Policy Considerations

The following provisions of the Secretary of State's Guidance apply to this application:

Chapter 2 – The licensing objectives

Chapter 8 – Applications for premises licences

Chapter 9 – Determining applications

Chapter 10 – Conditions attached to Premises Licences

The following paragraphs of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy apply to this application:

Sections 2.1 to 2.4 – These sections set out the Council's approach with regard to licensing and details other mechanisms to deal with potential problems.

Section 1.1 to 1.4 – These sections set out the four licensing objectives and identifies matters that may be relevant to the promotion of each licensing objective.

5. Determining the application – Options of the Panel

The Panel must, when reaching a decision on the outcome of the application, take into account the licensing objectives. Having had proper regard to the matters above the Panel may:

1. Grant the licence subject to such conditions as are consistent with the operating schedule accompanying the application; modified to such an extent as the Licensing sub-committee considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and any relevant mandatory condition.
2. Exclude from the licence any of the licensable activities applied for.
3. Refuse to specify a person in the licence as premises supervisor.
4. Reject the application.

Members of the Licensing Act 2003 – Licensing Sub – Committee are reminded of their duty under the Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1989 to consider the crime and disorder implications of their decisions and the Licensing Authority's responsibility to co-operate in the reduction of crime and disorder in the Borough.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states:

"Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those function on, and the need to do all that is reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area".

6. Implications Assessment

The decision should be made with regard to the Secretary of the State's guidance and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003. Where the decision departs from either the Guidance or the Policy clear and cogent reasons must be given. Members should be aware that if such a departure is made the risk of appeal / challenge is increased.

7. Human Rights

While all Convention Rights must be considered, those which are of particular relevance to the application are:

- Article 8 – Right to respect for private and family life.
- Article 1 of the First Protocol – Protection of Property
- Article 6(1) – Right to a fair hearing.
- Article 10 – Freedom of Expression

8. Recommendations

Members must ensure that the application is considered on its merits, as well as against the relevant guidance, policy and statutory framework.

9. List of Appendices

Appendix A – Application form
Appendix B – Plan of premises
Appendix C – Representation (Other Persons)
Appendix D – Representation from the Police.
Appendix E – Plan of area
Appendix F – Order of proceedings

10. Appeals

The applicant or any other person (objector) may appeal the Licensing Act 2003 Sub Committee's decision within 21 days beginning with the day on which the Appellant is notified. All/any appeals must be lodged with the Magistrates' Court. Parties should be aware that they MAY incur an Adverse Cost Order should they bring an appeal.