

(Report of the Licensing Officer, Samantha Potts 7364)

Application – Review of Premises Licence
Premises – The Crown Hotel 148 High Street, Sheerness, Kent

Current Licensable Activities	Days	Current Hours	Comments
Sale of alcohol	Monday - Wednesday	10:00-00:30 nd	
	Thursday - Saturday	10:00-02:30 nd	
	Sunday	12:00-00:00	
	Christmas Eve	10:00-02:00 nd	
	Christmas Day	12:00-00:00	
	New Years Eve	10:00-02:00 nd	
Indoor Sporting Events	Tuesday - Thursday	20:00-23:30	
Performance of Live Music	Saturday	19:00-00:00	
	Sunday	19:00-23:30	
Playing of Recorded Music	Monday - Saturday	10:00-00:00	
	Sunday	12:00-23:30	
	Christmas Eve	10:00-01:00 nd	
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Provisions for Making Music	Monday - Sunday	10:00-00:00	
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Facilities for Dancing	Saturday	19:00-00:00	
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SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF THE LICENCE (in addition to the mandatory conditions)

- ‘CCTV is to be installed in agreement with the police and will cover all exits and entrances and public areas of the licensed premises.
- All CCTV cameras and recording equipment, including video tapes if used, are to be well maintained, kept in good working order and are to be subject to regular testing and inspection, which will be auditable.
- Any recording made via the use of the CCTV will be retained and stored for a minimum of 30 days and made available to the police or local authority on request or in any case within 48 hours of a request being made.
- Any person leaving the licensed premises (excluding the yard area next to the function room) will not be permitted to remove or take with them any bottles or open container that contain or have contained beverages of any kind purchased in the licensed premises.
- Door Staff will be in place from 20:00hrs whenever the premises trade for the sale of alcohol past 23:00hrs, to close of premises.
- Door Staff will wear clothing that is easily identifiable on CCTV such as reflective coats or reflective armbands.

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- If permitted to be a member of the Swale Safe radio system, the premises license holder will ensure active participation.
- No children will be allowed on the premises unless accompanied by an adult.
- No children will be allowed on the premises after 18:00hrs unless attending a function.
- Windows and doors will be closed from 23:00hrs, except for entry and egress.
- All doors and windows to remain closed, except for access and egress when regulated entertainment is taking place.
- Last entry to the premises will be 23:30hrs on a Friday and Saturday night.
- Regular toilet checks will be made to prevent and deter drug use in the premises and these checks recorded.
- Access to the premises will be allowed to the police at any reasonable time in order for swabs to be taken for testing in the Ion Track Drug Trace machine.
- Drinks promotions will not be permitted allowing unlimited supply of alcohol for a set price.
- All staff will be fully trained in licensing law and that training will be auditable.
- All staff will be fully trained in the ‘Challenge 21’ scheme and will be instructed to ask for identification from any person attempting to buy or consuming alcohol who appears to be under the age of 21.
- The forms of identification that will be acceptable will be photographic ID such as a passport, photographic driving licence or a ‘PASS’ approved proof of age card such as the ‘Prove It’ card.
- Any DJ providing entertainment that falls under the category of ‘Making Music’ shall be restricted to the rear function hall, Karaoke is permitted in both the rear function hall and front bar.

Background

Kent Police (Swale Area) have applied for a review of the premises licence of The Crown Hotel, High Street, Sheerness.

The reasons for the request are detailed in the attached review application. In this application the Police have outlined the recent history of the premises and the findings of their recent visits which are mainly crime related in respect of the handling of stolen goods, drug offences and the absence of a permanent DPS.

This premises currently holds a full Premises Licence, which was issued by Swale Borough Council in July 2005, the application was not referred to committee as there were no objections. Since 2005 the licence has been varied four times. There has never been the need for a hearing although the police have raised issues and conditions have been applied.

The premises licence is registered to Mr Steven Norton, he formally took over the licence in December 2007. Since this date five different DPS variations have been applied for. The current DPS Jason Ward was named on the licence in October 2010. He holds a personal licence issued by this Authority. Janet Norton is also named in the review application although it should be noted that she is not named on the premises licence. The aim of the hearing is not to take action against her or to decide if she is guilty of a crime, the police have included information on her to highlight the fact that there are issues with the way this premises is run and managed.

Consultation

The review application was served by Kent Police on the Fire Brigade, Pollution Team, Planning, Child Protection Services, Weights and Measures and Mr Norton.

The application was advertised at the Council Offices and on the premises for a period of 28 days, in line with the Governments Hearings Regulations.

Conclusion

Kent Police have applied for a review of the premises licence. They are requesting that the licence be revoked. Should members not elect to revoke the licence, the Police request that the DPS must be present when the premises is open, a three month suspension be imposed and 6 conditions be added, these are detailed in their 'Grounds for review' document.

Councillors must decide if any of the following are appropriate:

- *Remove/modify any of the current licensable activities.*
- *Remove/modify any of the licence conditions.*
- *Remove the Designated Premises Supervisor. (following the 21 day appeal process and any subsequent appeal by Swale Police or Mr Norton)*
- *Suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months (following the 21 day appeal process and any subsequent appeal by Swale Police or Mr Norton)*
- *Revoke the licence (following the 21 day appeal process and any subsequent appeal by Mr Norton)*
- *Take no action.*

Supporting documents

Application for review from Kent Police
4 Witness Statements/information.
Copy of current Premises Licence
Plan of the area.

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary. You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I Chief Insp Henley

(Insert name of applicant)

apply for the review of a premises licence under section 51 / apply for the review of a club premises certificate under section 87 of the Licensing Act 2003 for the premises described in Part 1 below (delete as applicable)

Part 1 – Premises or club premises details

Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description The Crown Hotel 148 High Street,	
Post town Sheerness	Post code (if known) ME12 1UB

Name of premises licence holder or club holding club premises certificate (if known) Steven Norton
--

Number of premises licence or club premises certificate (if known) SHE/SWALE/189/0070

Part 2 – Applicant details

I am

Please tick yes

- 1) an interested part (please complete (A) or (B) below)
 - a) a person living in the vicinity of the premises
 - b) a body representing persons living in the vicinity of the premises
 - c) a person involved in business in the vicinity of the premises
 - d) a body representing persons involved in business in the vicinity of the premises

- 2) a responsible authority (please complete (C) below)

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

3 a member of the club to which this application relates (please complete (A) below)

(A) DETAILS OF INDIVIDUAL APPLICANT (fill in a applicable)

Please tick

Mr **Mrs** **Miss** **Ms** **Other title**
(for example, Rev)

Surname

First names

Please tick yes

I am 18 years old or over

Current postal address if different from premises address

Post town

Post Code

Daytime contact telephone number

E-mail address (optional)

(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT

Name and address

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address

**Kent Police.
Sittingbourne Police Station,
Central Avenue,
Sittingbourne,
Kent.
ME10 4NR**

Telephone number (if any)

01622 690690

E-mail address (optional)

This application to review relates to the following licensing objective(s)

Please tick one or more boxes

- 1) the prevention of crime and disorder
- 2) public safety
- 3) the prevention of public nuisance
- 4) the protection of children from harm

Please state the ground(s) for review (please read guidance note 1)

The Police request a review of the premises for 3 reasons :

- 1) The premises has become involved in crime, namely handling stolen goods. Not just isolated incidents, but it has been going on for so long that the premises is known as a place to unload stolen goods to either staff or customers.
- 2) There is evidence of drug supply going on within the premises.
- 3) Although there was a DPS on paper for the premises, they were not infact acting as such.

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

Please provide as much information as possible to support the application
(please read guidance note 2)

Please see the attached report

RESTRICTED (when complete)

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

Please tick yes

Have you made an application for review relating to this premises before

If yes please state the date of that application

Day	Month	Year
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

If you have made representations before relating to this premises please state what they were and when you made them

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003


Please tick yes

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FLASE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 3)

Signature of applicant or applicant’s solicitor or other duly authorised agent
(See guidance note 4). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature 

Date 08/11/2010.

Capacity Licensing officer.

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 5) PC Neil Barnes 10051 Licensing Dept. Sittingbourne Police Station Central Avenue.	
Post town Sittingbourne	Post code ME10 4NR
Telephone number (if any) 01622 690690	
If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e mail address your e mail address (optional) 10051@kent.pnn.police.uk	

Notes for Guidance

1. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
2. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
3. The application form must be signed.
4. An applicant’s agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
5. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

Grounds to review (Crown)

The premises known as the "The Crown Hotel" is situated at 148 High Street, Sheerness. The venue has a number of hotel rooms above the bar area although at this time they are not in use. Therefore at the moment the venue consist of a single room bar area with a private function room at the rear. The premises licence is owned by Steven Norton.

We believe the premises are no longer suitable to be run as a public house as they have become a venue for the trading of stolen goods and we suspect the supply of drugs. This information comes from a recently run Police Operation in Sheerness to tackle Serious Acquisitive Crime, it should be mentioned that intelligence reports had linked this type of crime with the supply of Class A and Class B drugs in the Swale area. This point is important to note as there is evidence that drug dealing was also going on at the premises albeit by customers

In May 2010 Kent Police Launched "Operation Invoice" with the intent of tackling/reducing Serious Acquisitive Crime and it followed a government report that highlighted crime in the Swale area. The Operation involved the introduction of Law Enforcement Officers into the Sheerness area whose briefing was to befriend local drug users as they were suspected to be most involved in crime. (For this report these Officers will be referred to as TPO, signifying Test Purchase Officer)

At the beginning of the operation there was no specific intelligence as to which venues/persons were receiving/handling the stolen goods.

On Wednesday the 30th June 2010 the TPO was with a female who stole some goods from Superdrug, this female then took the items to The Crown Public House where she sold them. During this time the TPO waited outside but when the female came out of the public house, they returned to the shops to steal some more items. These were also sold in the Crown Public House. Having obtained the money the female then arranged to purchase some heroin.

Around 11:15hrs on Tuesday the 7th September 2010 the TPO went into the Crown Public House, they were in possession of several items including toiletries and fragrances. In the public house the TPO spoke to Janet Norton and told her that she had some items stolen from Boots to sell. Janet Norton purchased some of the air fresheners from the TPO. Norton then called over a customer who also purchased some of the goods. Janet Norton then gave the TPO an order of things to steal for her. During the conversation Norton made it clear that she regularly buys stolen goods including items for the public house, Janet Norton spoke of her brother, Steven Norton and indicated that he was a drug user. Janet Norton also purchased some items from the TPO for her sister

On Thursday the 9th September 2010 the TPO returned to the Crown around midday. She had again been supplied with some items including perfume. At the Crown Public House the TPO spoke to Janet Norton and told her that she had some more items for sale and stated that she had stolen everything form Boots. Janet Norton purchased several of the items and then another customer (Different person from the person on the 7/09/10) also bought some of the goods. The TPO left the premises for a short

while to try and sell items at another venue but was then called back by Janet Norton via sending her a text message. The TPO did return and Janet Norton purchased several of the remaining items the TPO had left. Janet Norton then again provided a list of items she wanted stolen for her.

Janet Norton was arrested for handling stolen goods on the 8/10/10 and in interview she admitted to buying the items knowing they were stolen.

At the time of these incidents the nominated DPS of the Crown Public House was a Christina Barnes although in fact she was merely a DPS in name only. She had agreed to Steven Norton's request to be the DPS in return for use of the premises for her son's birthday party. Christina Barnes believed that she would be registered as the DPS for only a few weeks. Christina Barnes has in fact stated that she was not paid to be the DPS and actually had no role in the premises other than to clean it in preparation for her son's birthday party she never undertook the DPS duties, it was Steven Norton who was running the pub on a day to day basis. Other than that Christina Barnes has only visited the venue as a customer.

On Friday the 1st October 2010 the Police conducted a Licensing Visit to the Crown Public House, in the gents toilets the Police noticed a missing tile in the wall, which allowed access to the wall cavity. Within this space the Police found a quantity of clip lock bags. This type of bags is often used in drugs supply, we believe that this is further evidenced by where the bags were found, "hidden" in a wall in the gents.

As can be seen the premises are now linked with the trading of stolen goods and this is in turn linked with the supply of drugs. The TPO was directed to the venue by a very active shoplifter from Sheerness, it wasn't simply a lucky guess that they could unload the goods at that venue. The fact that both staff and customers were involved shows that this is quite common.

Where as we accept that trading in stolen goods goes on in some licensed premises if this behaviour was anything other than the norm I would expect the seller to be approaching the customers and at least some of the more naïve customers asking where it came from, but in this case the customers either approached the seller or were introduced to them by Janet Norton once she had conducted her business the customers knew what was going and simply waited their turn to do their shopping. It should be noted that during Operation Invoice only 2 licensed premises were identified. (Both are subject of similar reviews)

Therefore the Police seek the revocation of the premises license, as we believe the premises are too heavily associated with the handling of stolen goods. This public house is a "regular's pub" with both the venue and the clientele involved. A simple implementation of conditions will not stop this, as the sellers will go where the customers are.

The report, which lead to Operation Invoice linked this type of crime with drugs supply, this is further evidenced by the TPO's evidence from the 30th June 2010. Kent

Police believe these premises are linked to drug supply by the Police evidence from the 1st October 2010.

The Police fully accept that Steven Norton has not been implicated in the purchasing of the stolen goods and in fact he was away in Russia during the 2 purchases from the TPO in September, however from the evidence given by Christina Barnes it can be seen that he was effectively the DPS and therefore had that responsibility, please remember the first evidenced instance of handling the stolen goods happened in June 2010. Steven Norton has either willingly allowed it to go on, after all the conduct was blatant, or if he was ignorant of the activities then he is not competent enough to run the venue again the conduct was blatant and anyone in charge should have been aware. As the premises owner he will always have control over the venue and we do not believe he is suitable to run such an establishment. There is also the issue that Steven Norton allowed the premises to run without a proper DPS, he merely got a name for the paperwork and thought; that would suffice. We believe this shows that Mr Norton wants to run a public house without any care or consideration to the rules or the licensing objectives.

If the Licensing Committee decides not to revoke the Licence then the Police ask for:

- 1) For a Personal Licence Holder to be working at the venue at all times that it is open to the public.
- 2) The Premises Licence to be suspended for 3 months. This will allow time for the clientele to move on from this pub, they will not be willing to wait-out 3 months for it to re-open, effectively it gives the venue a chance to reset, i.e. to change DPS/staff and clientele. We also believe that this will act as a significant deterrent to any new DPS to make sure that the premises are run correctly. We know that the findings of this review are not for the purpose of a punishment but if the DPS is removed then the only person who could claim to be punished by the suspension would be the customers. Long term this would be a benefit.
- 3) The fitting of extensive CCTV. i.e.
 1. CCTV to be fitted to a standard agreed to by the police that complies with The CCTV Code of Practice (2008 edition) produced by the Information Commissioners Office, with all public areas, including all access and egress points covered.
 2. The CCTV system will be maintained and serviced on a regular basis and records kept to that effect.
 3. CCTV shall be operational at all time that members of the public and/or staff are on the premises.
 4. Images will be retained for a period of at least one calendar month by whatever means the licence holder deems appropriate.

5. The Police or Local Authority will have access to these images at any reasonable time and in any case within 48 hours of the request for the image being made.
 6. The Police or Local Authority will be allowed to take a recording by way of tape, CD Rom or any other means of the image within 48 hours on the initial request being made by either the Police or Local authority.
-

We also ask the Licensing Review Panel to understand that with this type of Police Operation there is relatively little information that can be passed over. The vast majority of the evidence was provided to us in a statement from DI Kris Hill who is the Officer in overall command of the operation, however he is not a direct witness to any of the events. Therefore we can only supply copies of that statement (appendix A) along with a statement from PC Heather which covers the Licensing visit on the 1st of October 2010 (appendix b). Also included is a statement from Christina Barnes, which covers her position as nominated DPS (appendix C)

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Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

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Please tick

Mr **Mrs** **Miss** **Ms** **Other title**
(for example, Rev)

Surname

First names

Please tick yes

I am 18 years old or over

Current postal address if different from premises address

Post town

Post Code

Daytime contact telephone number

E-mail address (optional)

(B) DETAILS OF OTHER APPLICANT

Name and address

Telephone number (if any)

E-mail address (optional)

Application for the review of a premises licence or club premises certificate under the Licensing Act 2003

(C) DETAILS OF RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY APPLICANT

Name and address

**Kent Police.
Sittingbourne Police Station,
Central Avenue,
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Kent.
ME10 4NR**

Telephone number (if any)

01622 690690

E-mail address (optional)

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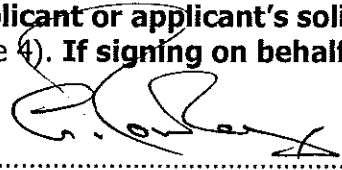
Please tick yes

- I have sent copies of this form and enclosures to the responsible authorities and the premises licence holder or club holding the club premises certificate, as appropriate
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected

IT IS AN OFFENCE, LIABLE ON CONVICTION TO A FINE UP TO LEVEL 5 ON THE STANDARD SCALE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 3)

Signature of applicant or applicant’s solicitor or other duly authorised agent (See guidance note 4). **If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.**

Signature 

Date 08/11/2010

Capacity Licensing officer

Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 5) PC Neil Barnes 10051 Licensing Dept. Sittingbourne Police Station Central Avenue.	
Post town Sittingbourne	Post code ME10 4NR
Telephone number (if any) 01622 690690	
If you would prefer us to correspond with you using an e mail address your e mail address (optional) 10051@kent.pnn.police.uk	

Notes for Guidance

1. The ground(s) for review must be based on one of the licensing objectives.
2. Please list any additional information or details for example dates of problems which are included in the grounds for review if available.
3. The application form must be signed.
4. An applicant’s agent (for example solicitor) may sign the form on their behalf provided that they have actual authority to do so.
5. This is the address which we shall use to correspond with you about this application.

Grounds to review (Crown)

The premises known as the "The Crown Hotel" is situated at 148 High Street, Sheerness. The venue has a number of hotel rooms above the bar area although at this time they are not in use. Therefore at the moment the venue consist of a single room bar area with a private function room at the rear. The premises licence is owned by Steven Norton.

We believe the premises are no longer suitable to be run as a public house as they have become a venue for the trading of stolen goods and we suspect the supply of drugs. This information comes from a recently run Police Operation in Sheerness to tackle Serious Acquisitive Crime, it should be mentioned that intelligence reports had linked this type of crime with the supply of Class A and Class B drugs in the Swale area. This point is important to note as there is evidence that drug dealing was also going on at the premises albeit by customers

In May 2010 Kent Police Launched "Operation Invoice" with the intent of tackling/reducing Serious Acquisitive Crime and it followed a government report that highlighted crime in the Swale area. The Operation involved the introduction of Law Enforcement Officers into the Sheerness area whose briefing was to befriend local drug users as they were suspected to be most involved in crime. (For this report these Officers will be referred to as TPO, signifying Test Purchase Officer)

At the beginning of the operation there was no specific intelligence as to which venues/persons were receiving/handling the stolen goods.

On Wednesday the 30th June 2010 the TPO was with a female who stole some goods from Superdrug, this female then took the items to The Crown Public House where she sold them. During this time the TPO waited outside but when the female came out of the public house, they returned to the shops to steal some more items. These were also sold in the Crown Public House. Having obtained the money the female then arranged to purchase some heroin.

Around 11:15hrs on Tuesday the 7th September 2010 the TPO went into the Crown Public House, they were in possession of several items including toiletries and fragrances. In the public house the TPO spoke to Janet Norton and told her that she had some items stolen from Boots to sell. Janet Norton purchased some of the air fresheners from the TPO. Norton then called over a customer who also purchased some of the goods. Janet Norton then gave the TPO an order of things to steal for her. During the conversation Norton made it clear that she regularly buys stolen goods including items for the public house, Janet Norton spoke of her brother, Steven Norton and indicated that he was a drug user. Janet Norton also purchased some items from the TPO for her sister

On Thursday the 9th September 2010 the TPO returned to the Crown around midday. She had again been supplied with some items including perfume. At the Crown Public House the TPO spoke to Janet Norton and told her that she had some more items for sale and stated that she had stolen everything form Boots. Janet Norton purchased several of the items and then another customer (Different person from the person on the 7/09/10) also bought some of the goods. The TPO left the premises for a short

while to try and sell items at another venue but was then called back by Janet Norton via sending her a text message. The TPO did return and Janet Norton purchased several of the remaining items the TPO had left. Janet Norton then again provided a list of items she wanted stolen for her.

Janet Norton was arrested for handling stolen goods on the 8/10/10 and in interview she admitted to buying the items knowing they were stolen.

At the time of these incidents the nominated DPS of the Crown Public House was a Christina Barnes although in fact she was merely a DPS in name only. She had agreed to Steven Norton's request to be the DPS in return for use of the premises for her son's birthday party. Christina Barnes believed that she would be registered as the DPS for only a few weeks. Christina Barnes has in fact stated that she was not paid to be the DPS and actually had no role in the premises other than to clean it in preparation for her son's birthday party she never undertook the DPS duties, it was Steven Norton who was running the pub on a day to day basis. Other than that Christina Barnes has only visited the venue as a customer.

On Friday the 1st October 2010 the Police conducted a Licensing Visit to the Crown Public House, in the gents toilets the Police noticed a missing tile in the wall, which allowed access to the wall cavity. Within this space the Police found a quantity of clip lock bags. This type of bags is often used in drugs supply, we believe that this is further evidenced by where the bags were found, "hidden" in a wall in the gents.

As can be seen the premises are now linked with the trading of stolen goods and this is in turn linked with the supply of drugs. The TPO was directed to the venue by a very active shoplifter from Sheerness, it wasn't simply a lucky guess that they could unload the goods at that venue. The fact that both staff and customers were involved shows that this is quite common.

Where as we accept that trading in stolen goods goes on in some licensed premises if this behaviour was anything other than the norm I would expect the seller to be approaching the customers and at least some of the more naïve customers asking where it came from, but in this case the customers either approached the seller or were introduced to them by Janet Norton once she had conducted her business the customers knew what was going and simply waited their turn to do their shopping. It should be noted that during Operation Invoice only 2 licensed premises were identified. (Both are subject of similar reviews)

Therefore the Police seek the revocation of the premises license, as we believe the premises are too heavily associated with the handling of stolen goods. This public house is a "regular's pub" with both the venue and the clientele involved. A simple implementation of conditions will not stop this, as the sellers will go where the customers are.

The report, which lead to Operation Invoice linked this type of crime with drugs supply, this is further evidenced by the TPO's evidence from the 30th June 2010. Kent

Police believe these premises are linked to drug supply by the Police evidence from the 1st October 2010.

The Police fully accept that Steven Norton has not been implicated in the purchasing of the stolen goods and in fact he was away in Russia during the 2 purchases from the TPO in September, however from the evidence given by Christina Barnes it can be seen that he was effectively the DPS and therefore had that responsibility, please remember the first evidenced instance of handling the stolen goods happened in June 2010. Steven Norton has either willingly allowed it to go on, after all the conduct was blatant, or if he was ignorant of the activities then he is not competent enough to run the venue again the conduct was blatant and anyone in charge should have been aware. As the premises owner he will always have control over the venue and we do not believe he is suitable to run such an establishment. There is also the issue that Steven Norton allowed the premises to run without a proper DPS, he merely got a name for the paperwork and thought; that would suffice. We believe this shows that Mr Norton wants to run a public house without any care or consideration to the rules or the licensing objectives.

If the Licensing Committee decides not to revoke the Licence then the Police ask for:

- 1) For a Personal Licence Holder to be working at the venue at all times that it is open to the public.
- 2) The Premises Licence to be suspended for 3 months. This will allow time for the clientele to move on from this pub, they will not be willing to wait-out 3 months for it to re-open, effectively it gives the venue a chance to reset, i.e. to change DPS/staff and clientele. We also believe that this will act as a significant deterrent to any new DPS to make sure that the premises are run correctly. We know that the findings of this review are not for the purpose of a punishment but if the DPS is removed then the only person who could claim to be punished by the suspension would be the customers. Long term this would be a benefit.
- 3) The fitting of extensive CCTV. i.e.
 1. CCTV to be fitted to a standard agreed to by the police that complies with The CCTV Code of Practice (2008 edition) produced by the Information Commissioners Office, with all public areas, including all access and egress points covered.
 2. The CCTV system will be maintained and serviced on a regular basis and records kept to that effect.
 3. CCTV shall be operational at all time that members of the public and/or staff are on the premises.
 4. Images will be retained for a period of at least one calendar month by whatever means the licence holder deems appropriate.

5. The Police or Local Authority will have access to these images at any reasonable time and in any case within 48 hours of the request for the image being made.
6. The Police or Local Authority will be allowed to take a recording by way of tape, CD Rom or any other means of the image within 48 hours on the initial request being made by either the Police or Local authority.

We also ask the Licensing Review Panel to understand that with this type of Police Operation there is relatively little information that can be passed over. The vast majority of the evidence was provided to us in a statement from DI Kris Hill who is the Officer in overall command of the operation, however he is not a direct witness to any of the events. Therefore we can only supply copies of that statement (appendix A) along with a statement from PC Heather which covers the Licensing visit on the 1st of October 2010 (appendix b). Also included is a statement from Christina Barnes, which covers her position as nominated DPS (appendix C)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11

WITNESS STATEMENT

URN

46	
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CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

Statement of: **Kris Hill**

Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Detective Inspector**

This statement (consisting of page each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

In the spring of 2010, Kent Police embarked on a lengthy covert investigation called Operation Invoice.

In the months preceding this investigation, the Swale District was experiencing the largest rise in house burglaries of any District in Kent. The Home Office's own data comparing Swale with 14 similar Districts across England and Wales ranked Swale 13th out of 15 for the volume of burglary offences.

In a Home Office survey before Operation Invoice, twice the number of respondents in Swale considered 'Drug Dealing or Misuse to be a big problem in their local area', than respondents nearby in Maidstone.

Intelligence indicated a strong association between the commission of Serious Acquisitive Crime and the Supply of Class A and B Drugs throughout Swale.

The outcome of Operation invoice has confirmed that the ready supply of Class A Drugs in the District has fuelled the increase of Serious Acquisitive Crime.

Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

Typed by:



RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11 (Cont)

Continuation page 2

URN

46	
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Continuation statement of: **Kris Hill**

Similarly, the propensity among some to profit from the proceeds of that Serious Acquisitive Crime has encouraged the steady supply of Class A drugs.

This case is one of many that are the culmination of the Operation Invoice investigation. Collectively these cases have contributed to the network of drugs and crime that has existed in Swale in recent years.

Test Purchase Officers (referred to as "T.P.O.'s") were deployed from MAY 2010 into the area of the Isle of Sheppey and Sittingbourne.

The officers engaged in the operation will only be identified by their pseudonyms. In this particular part of the investigation the relevant officer is "TPO Connie".

Janet Norton is the sister of Steven Norton who is the owner of the Crown Hotel public house in Sheerness High Street. Janet Norton worked at the venue behind the bar.

This public house is being used as an outlet by local thieves to sell stolen property to both the staff (Janet Norton) and the customers. It is also evident that Janet Norton was providing lists of items to be stolen for her.

On Wednesday the 30th June 2010 TPO Connie met up with a female named Shona Connor in Sheerness. This female stated that she needed to go to Superdrug and so TPO Connie went with her. At Superdrug the Connor stole a bottle of Sun Cream. She then told the TPO that she had to go and sell the items and they walked to the Crown Public House. The female went inside as TPO Connie waited outside. A short while later Connor came out of the pub and told TPO Connie that she needed to go and get some more stuff. They then walked back to the shops where Connor stole several more items from different shops. She and TPO Connie returned to the Crown Public House and again the TPO waited outside.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

Typed by:

[Redacted signature area]

RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11 (Cont)

Continuation page 3

URN

46	
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Continuation statement of: **Kris Hill**

Looking inside TPO Connie saw several transactions take place. Connor came out of the Crown Hotel and told TPO Connie that she had made £43, she then made a phone call to her dealer and arranged to pick up two bags of heroin. The conversations and meetings were recorded and exhibited as C/300610/1456.

On Tuesday the 7th September 2010 TPO Connie was issued with the following exhibits:

TLE/102 Glade Essential Oil Electric diffuser clean linen.

TLE/103 Glade Essential Oil Electric diffuser clean linen.

TLE/104 and TLE/105- So Kiss Me 30 ml Eau de Toilette.

TLE/106, TLE/107 and TLE/108 – 3 x Superstar 30 ml Eau de toilette.

TLE/109- CK One Summer.

TLE/111- DKNY be delicious.

TLE/112- DKNY delicious night.

Around 11:15hrs TPO Connie went into the Crown Public House, High Street, Sheerness. Inside TPO Connie spoke to a member of staff who has been identified as Janet Norton. They had a conversation and TPO Connie showed Janet Norton exhibits TLE/102- TLE/112, and asked her if she would be interested in any of them. TPO Connie told Janet that the items had come from Boots and that they had not been paid for. Janet Norton stated that she was really looking for Airwick Plug-ins as the one she had in the pub had been nicked. Janet Norton then called over a male customer to look at TLE/109 the aftershave. Both the customer and Janet Norton enquired about the prices of various items and the customer purchased the aftershave. Janet Norton told TPO Connie that she never buys things from shops. Janet Norton then said that she wanted Ck Eternity and some linen trousers in size 12 for her and some clothes for her 16year old daughter who is also a size 12. Janet then told TPO Connie that a male comes into the pub quite a lot and sells them meat and that she buys airwicks from Shona who sells them at half price. Janet Norton then told TPO Connie that her brother owned the pub and that he was called chunky she also said that he was 44 years old and a skaghead. Janet Norton then contacted her sister on the phone to

Signature

Signature witnessed by

Typed by:



RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11 (Cont)

Continuation page 4

URN

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Continuation statement of: **Kris Hill**

see if she was interested in the perfume. Janet Norton then bought TLE/111 and TLE/112 for her sister. They agreed a price of £20 and a drink. Janet Norton then suggested to TPO Connie that she should try Lisa in the Old House at Home next door. The conversation and meetings were recorded and exhibited as C/070910/1315.

On Thursday the 9th September 2010 TPO Connie was issued with the following exhibits:

TLE/123 Paco Rabanne 1 Million Serial number 3349666007891

TLE/124 Paco Rabanne 1 Million serial number 3349666007891

TLE/125 Serial number 737052320052- Hugo Boss men 100ml EDT.

Around midday TPO Connie went into the Crown Public House and saw Janet Norton behind the bar, she was holding a small baby, they greeted each other and TPO Connie told Janet Norton that she had nicked everything from Boots and had it for sale but there wasn't much left. Janet Norton then agreed a price with TPO Norton and bought several of the items. Janet Norton also tried to contact a friend whom she thought would be interested in some of the items but couldn't get hold of them. TPO Connie was then approached by a male who identified himself as Kai and he purchased TLE/125. Janet Norton asked TPO Connie to return after she had seen Lisa at the Old House at Home. TPO Norton left the Crown and went to the Old House at Home next door but at 12:13hrs she received a text message from Janet Norton saying, "come back". TPO Connie then returned to the Crown Hotel and showed Janet Norton what items she had left. Janet Norton then bought 3 more items and told TPO Connie that she wanted some trousers, jeans and cardigans all size 12. She also wanted some Joop. The conversation and meetings were recorded and exhibited as C/090910/1350

Janet Norton was arrested and during the arrest made a comment that she'd "only bought perfume". This was before the Officers had mentioned perfume. During her interview Janet Norton fully admitted to buying perfume and air fresheners from TPO Connie, she said that she knew they were stolen and that she shouldn't have bought them but she was just

Signature

Signature witnessed by

Typed by:



RESTRICTED (when complete)

MG11 (Cont)

Continuation page 5

URN

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Continuation statement of: **Kris Hill**

stupid. She also admitted to giving TPO Connie a list of items she would buy if Connie were able to get them.

Janet Norton was charged on the 8th October 2010 with one count of intentionally encouraging the commission of an offence and three counts of attempting to handle stolen goods. She was granted bail to appear at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court on the 25th October 2010.

This premises is implicated in the trade of stolen goods that has fuelled the crime and drugs network in Sheerness prior to Operation Invoice. The activity on the 30th June highlights the challenge facing this community very well. A known thief was using this public house as an outlet for her stolen property, and was given lists of property to steal. Immediately after converting her stolen items into cash, she contacted her drug dealer and purchased 2 bags of heroin.

The cyclical nature of crime to fund drug addictions was the root cause of the problems being experienced on the Isle of Sheppey in the months preceding this operation.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

Typed by:



Extract from TPO Mail

On Thursday 17th June 2010 I travelled alone to the vicinity of Sheerness arriving about 12:00 hours. At 13:31 hours the same day I called DEFOE and he answered. I asked if he was at home he said that no-one was home. I asked him if he could see me out an eighth and he was at the House and Home Pub. I said I would come over, I made my way to the House and Home pub, High street, Sheerness. I saw DEFOE and a female whom I shall refer to as ETHERINGTON in the pub garden. We all greeted each other and DEFOE said he would need to weight it out in the toilets. DEFOE asked ETHERINGTON for the scales and she handed them to him and he disappeared for a while. A short while later he returned and handed me one wrap and I handed him £25. This exhibited labelled and marked as C/170610/1721.

Signature

Signature witnessed by

Typed by:

RESTRICTED (When complete)

RESTRICTED (when complete)

WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

URN

46

Statement of CHRISTINA CAROL BARNESAge if under 18 OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation

This statement (consisting of 2 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything in it which I know to be false, or do not believe to be true.

Signature C. BarnesDate 13/10/2010Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (Supply witness details on rear)

I am the holder of a Personal Licence number SWALE PL - 0352 expiring on 1/10/2015. This licence allows me to hold the position of being a designated premises supervisor at a licensed premises. The role of a licensed premises supervisor allows for the sale of alcohol to take place and being responsible for the day to day running of the licensed premises.

About the 20th May 2010 I was approached by a person whom I now know to be Steve Norton who owns the premises licence for the Crown Hotel Public house, 148 High Street, Sheerness. He explained to me that he didn't have a personal licence for his premises at that time and he asked me if I would be the designated premises supervisor for a short period of time, about four weeks to six weeks, until he took his personal licence. This was done on a favour basis, that I could use the rear hall for my sons 18th birthday party and I was not paid.

Signature C. Barnes

Signature witnessed by

PTO

Continuation of Statement of Christina Carol Barnes.

for the role nor did I take on the duties of the designated premises supervisor. This was purely done as a favour for Steve Norton who was still running the Crown Hotel on a daily basis and responsible for the day to day activities of the premises.

Between the 24th day and approximately the 5th June 2010 I did attend the Crown Hotel just to clean and prepare the hall for the party. I have not worked at the premises since then but have attended as a paying customer about ten times at the most between the 24th day and October this year.

I did sign the application to vary the premises ^{supervisor} in the Crown Hotel on a form which I very much regret and would never want to be associated with Criminal acts C. Barnes

Signature Signature witnessed by

WITNESS STATEMENT

CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; Criminal Procedure Rules 2005, Rule 27.1

URN 46

Statement of: **Pc 9735 Heather**

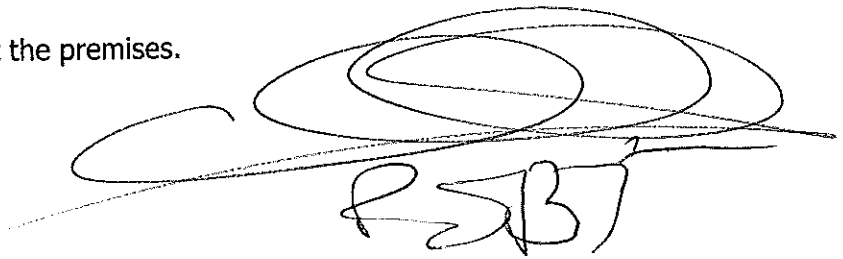
Age if under 18: **Over 18** (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: **Police officer**

This statement (consisting of 1 page each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it, anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature:  Date: **Thursday 14th October 2010**

Tick if witness evidence is visually recorded (supply witness details on rear)

At 2155hrs on Friday 1st October 2010 I was on duty in uniform in the company of other officers from Mid Kent Tactical team when we carried out a licensing check at The Crown public House, 148, High Street Sheerness, Isle of Sheppey. During which time, from within the gents toilets at the rear of the premises, there is only one lockable cubicle. If you stand facing the door of this cubicle on the far wall immediately behind the door up high on the right towards the corner, there was a missing tile which left easy access into the wall cavity behind. It was from within this cavity that I found a quantity of clips bags that I seized and now wish to exhibit as KH/2, and placed into a police evidence bag seal number M01792989. The person in charge that night was shown this bag and advised about the hole, and then we left the premises.



Signature:

Signature witnessed by:

Typed by:

Listen - We are used to dealing with
Notes
i) The above conditions of arrest apply
ALL of
ii) However
The media do not need a permit
to photograph or film



Kent Police

Issued to:-

Rank PC No 9735

Name PC

Area 3 Station CA

Commenced 14/9 2010

Completed 20.....

Signature of Issuing Officer [Signature]

Date of Issue No ca/10/ 7/10

CONFIDENTIAL

RT 1st Oct 10 012

200 200 - 0400

2000 On ledge of East
side of B.

2145 Working side of THE OLD
House of stone, showing
High Street. From the
Gable to left I found a
quantity of chip bags
in a paper wrap.

2145 P. 53. NO 1792970

255 Working side from
The Green Street,
High Street from the
Gable to left there was
a quantity of chip bags
in a paper wrap.

255. In to street
as 1/2.

P. 53. NO 1792989.

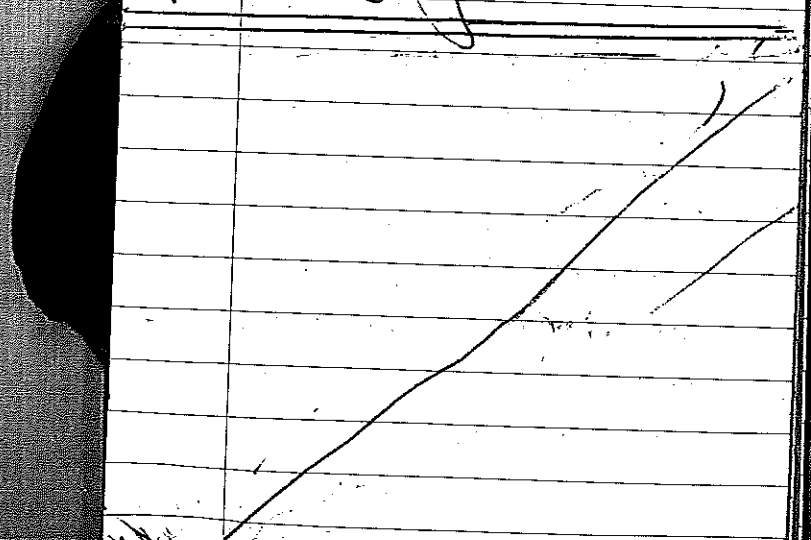
2220 Multiple of Queens Arms

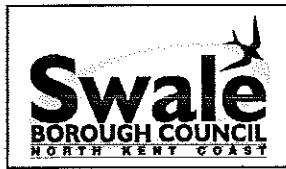
2300 Preserved upon north
part

2005 Billingham multiple

2120 Queens multiple

2140 Old City





Premises Licence number: SHE/SWALE/189/0070

Part 1 – Premises Details

Postal address of premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference:

Crown Hotel
148 High Street

Post Town: Sheerness, Kent

Postcode: ME12 1UB

Telephone number: 01795 667611

Where the licence is time limited, the dates:

No Limitation.

Licensable activities authorised by this licence:

Indoor Sporting Events	Provisions for Making Music (Indoors Only)
Performance of Live Music (Indoors Only)	Facilities for Dancing (Indoors Only)
Playing of Recorded Music (Indoors Only)	Sale of Alcohol (Consumption on and Off)

The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities:

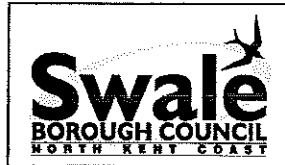
Indoor Sporting Event:	Provisions for Making Music:
Tuesday – Thursday: 20:00hrs – 23:30hrs	Monday – Saturday: 10:00hrs – 00:00hrs
	Sunday: 12:00hrs – 23:30hrs
Performance of Live Music:	Christmas Eve: 10:00hrs – 01:00hrs
Saturday: 19:00hrs – 00:00hrs	Christmas Day: 12:00hrs – 00:00hrs
Sunday: 19:00hrs – 23:30hrs	New Years Eve: 10:00hrs – 02:00hrs
Playing of Recorded Music:	Facilities for Dancing:
Monday – Saturday: 10:00hrs – 00:00hrs	Saturday: 19:00hrs – 00:00hrs
Sunday: 12:00hrs – 23:30hrs	Sunday: 19:00hrs – 23:30hrs
Christmas Eve: 10:00hrs – 01:00hrs	Christmas Eve: 10:00hrs – 01:00hrs
Christmas Day: 12:00hrs – 00:00hrs	Christmas Day: 12:00hrs – 00:00hrs
New Years Eve: 10:00hrs – 02:00hrs	New Years Eve: 10:00hrs – 02:00hrs
	Sale of Alcohol:
	Monday – Wednesday: 10:00hrs – 00:30hrs
	Thursday – Saturday: 10:00hrs – 02:30hrs
	Sunday: 12:00hrs – 00:00hrs
	Christmas Eve: 10:00hrs – 02:00hrs
	Christmas Day: 12:00hrs – 00:00hrs
	New Years Eve: 10:00hrs – 02:00hrs

The opening hours of the premises:

Monday – Wednesday: 10:00hrs – 01:00hrs
Thursday – Saturday: 10:00hrs – 03:00hrs
Sunday: 12:00hrs – 00:30hrs
Christmas Eve: 10:00hrs – 02:30hrs
Christmas Day: 12:00hrs – 00:30hrs
New Years Eve: 10:00hrs – 02:30hrs

Where the licence authorises supply of alcohol, indicate whether for consumption on or off the premises:

Consumption of Alcohol, both on and off the premises.



Premises Licence number: SHE/SWALE/189/0070

Part 2

Name (registered) address, telephone number and e-mail of holder of the premises licence:

Mr Steven James Norton
The Crown PH
148 High Street
Sheerness,
Kent
ME12 1BD

Registered number of holder, company number or charity number:

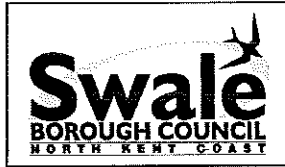
Not Applicable.

Name, address and telephone number of the Designated Premises Supervisor, applicable in premises where the sale of alcohol will take place:

Mr Jason Ward
Address as above

Personal licence number and issuing authority of the personal licence, held by the named designated premises supervisor:

Licence No: SWALE-PL-1053
Issued by: Swale Borough Council
Swale House, East Street
Sittingbourne
Kent, ME10 3HT
Tel: 01795 417364



Premises Licence number: SHE/SWALE/189/0070

Part 3

Mandatory Conditions:

- No sale of alcohol can take place where the designated premises supervisor is not a personal licence holder.
- Any door supervisors must be trained and SIA registered.
- (1) The responsible person shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.
(2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises in a manner which carries a significant risk of leading or contributing to crime and disorder, prejudice to public safety, public nuisance, or harm to children—
 - (a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to—
 - (i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or
 - (ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise);
 - (b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic (other than any promotion or discount available to an individual in respect of alcohol for consumption at a table meal, as defined in section 159 of the Act);
 - (c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less;
 - (d) provision of free or discounted alcohol in relation to the viewing on the premises of a sporting event, where that provision is dependent on—
 - (i) the outcome of a race, competition or other event or process, or
 - (ii) the likelihood of anything occurring or not occurring;
 - (e) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner.
- The responsible person shall ensure that no alcohol is dispensed directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of a disability).
- The responsible person shall ensure that free tap water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.

- The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder shall ensure that an age verification policy applies to the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol. The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and a holographic mark.

The responsible person shall ensure that—

(a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures—

(i) beer or cider: ½ pint;

(ii) gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and

(iii) still wine in a glass: 125 ml; and

(b) customers are made aware of the availability of these measures



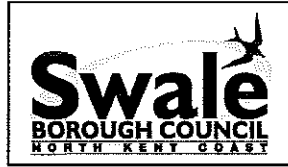
Premises Licence number: SHE/SWALE/189/0070

Part 4

Conditions consistent with the operating schedule:

- CCTV is to be installed in agreement with the police and will cover all exits and entrances and public areas of the licensed premises.
- All CCTV cameras and recording equipment, including video tapes if used, are to be well maintained, kept in good working order and are to be subject to regular testing and inspection, which will be auditable.
- Any recording made via the use of the CCTV will be retained and stored for a minimum of 30 days and made available to the police or local authority on request or in any case within 48 hours of a request being made.
- Any person leaving the licensed premises (excluding the yard area next to the function room) will not be permitted to remove or take with them any bottles or open container that contain or have contained beverages of any kind purchased in the licensed premises.
- Door Staff will be in place from 20:00hrs whenever the premises trade for the sale of alcohol past 23:00hrs, to close of premises.
- Door Staff will wear clothing that is easily identifiable on CCTV such as reflective coats or reflective armbands.
- If permitted to be a member of the Swale Safe radio system, the premises license holder will ensure active participation.
- No children will be allowed on the premises unless accompanied by an adult.
- No children will be allowed on the premises after 18:00hrs unless attending a function.
- Windows and doors will be closed from 23:00hrs, except for entry and egress.
- All doors and windows to remain closed, except for access and egress when regulated entertainment is taking place.
- Last entry to the premises will be 23:30hrs on a Friday and Saturday night.
- Regular toilet checks will be made to prevent and deter drug use in the premises and these checks recorded.
- Access to the premises will be allowed to the police at any reasonable time in order for swabs to be taken for testing in the Ion Track Drug Trace machine.
- Drinks promotions will not be permitted allowing unlimited supply of alcohol for a set price.
- All staff will be fully trained in licensing law and that training will be auditable.
- All staff will be fully trained in the 'Challenge 21' scheme and will be instructed to ask for identification from any person attempting to buy or consuming alcohol who appears to be under the age of 21.

- The forms of identification that will be acceptable will be photographic ID such as a passport, photographic driving licence or a 'PASS' approved proof of age card such as the 'Prove It' card.
- Any DJ providing entertainment that falls under the category of 'Making Music' shall be restricted to the rear function hall, Karaoke is permitted in both the rear function hall and front bar.

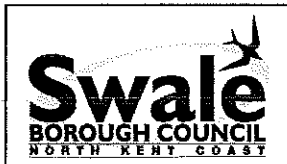


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Part 5

Conditions applied after a committee hearing:

Not Applicable – Application approved as per the Operating Schedule.



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Part 6

Authorisation.

This licence is granted this day 14th of February 2008

On behalf of the Licensing Officer

