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## LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

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**MINUTES** of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Tuesday, 10 May 2016 from 10.08 - 10.45 am.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Bobbin (Chairman), Paul Fleming and Ghlin Whelan.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Jayne Bolas, Kellie MacKenzie and Angela Seaward.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr Gurvinder Sidhu and Gurdip Singh.

**APOLOGY:** Councillor Prescott.

**656 FIRE EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Chairman ensured that those present were aware of the emergency evacuation procedure.

**657 NOTIFICATION OF CHAIRMAN AND OUTLINE OF PROCEDURE**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the procedure that would be followed.

**658 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

**659 VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003**

Mr Gurvinder Sidhu introduced himself as the applicant's son and confirmed that he would be speaking on her behalf.

In response to a query from the Legal Adviser, Mr Sidhu confirmed that his mother was happy with the conditions proposed by Kent Police shown in the papers. He advised that most of the conditions had already been implemented.

Mrs Angela Seaward, Senior Licensing Officer, introduced the application for a variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003, made by Mrs Sidhu in respect of Austin News 4U, 176 Invicta Road, Sheerness, as set out in Appendix A of the Committee report. The application was for an extension of licensable hours to 06:30 – 23:00 Monday to Friday 07:30 to 23:00 Saturday and 08:30 – 21:00 on Sundays and a change of layout to the premises.

Mrs Seaward reported that one valid representation raising objection had been received, and this was set out at Appendix C of the Committee report. She reminded Members that the application should be considered on its merits.

Mr Sidhu presented the applicant's case. He explained that his mother had been operating the business from the premises for the last thirteen years. With regard to

concerns raised he explained that in the period his mother had been operating the business, no issues relating to alcohol had been raised with them by licensing officers or indeed the local community. Mr Sidhu stated that they worked closely with Kent Police and also did everything they could as a business to work closely with the local community. With regard to concerns about litter and anti-social behaviour, Mr Sidhu advised that there was emergency lighting at the front and back of the premises and also that they arranged for the front of the premises from numbers 170 to 176 Invicta Road and rear of the alleyway to be cleaned three times per week.

In response to queries from Members, Mr Sidhu stated that they were not aware of any issues with regard to the back alley. He explained that they were requesting the variation in order to allow them to compete with surrounding businesses. He advised that Richmond Street School was about a 10 minute walk from their premises.

A Member asked Mr Sidhu what action they undertook to prevent underage sales. Mr Sidhu advised that they had installed cameras on top of each check-out, as suggested by Kent Police. They also ensured that they logged every refusal and ensured staff were trained every six months.

Members of the Sub-Committee adjourned to make their decision at 10.25am. Members of the Sub-Committee, the Legal Adviser and the Democratic Services Officer returned at 10.43am, when the meeting was re-convened.

The decision, as set out at Appendix I to these minutes was announced.

***Resolved: The Sub-Committee agreed to grant the variation of the licence as applied for subject to conditions.***

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel