

Swale Borough Council

Report to: Licensing Sub – Committee (Under the Licensing Act 2003)
Date: 10th May 2016 at 10:00am
Report Author: Angela Seaward – Senior Licensing Officer
Subject: Austin News 4U – 176 Invicta Road, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2AG

Purpose and summary of report:

To consider an application, to which a representation has been made, for a variation of an existing Premises Licence application under the Licensing Act 2003 – application reference number SHE/SWALE/189/0392

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
Home Office 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: Austin News 4U, 176 Invicta Road, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2AG

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 Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003, made by Jaswinder Sidu, in respect of the premises Austin News 4U (Appendix A and B) in respect of which one(1) representation (Appendix C) has been received from an other person.

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 3rd March 2016 an application was received from Jaswinder Sidu for the variation of a premises licence under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of premises Austin News 4U at 176 Invicta Road, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2AG. The application is for:

- (1) An extension of Licensable hours to 06:30 – 23:00 Monday to Saturday and 08:30 – 21:00 on Sundays
- (2) Change of layout to premises

The current opening hours are:

06:30 – 22:00 Monday to Friday, 07:30 – 22:00 Saturdays and 08:30 – 21:00 on Sunday

The current hours for licensable activities are:

08:30 – 22:00 Monday to Saturday and 10:00 – 21:00 on Sundays

- b. 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**
- c. The application has been correctly advertised in the local press and a notice has been displayed for the whole of the consultation period.
- d. The Designated Premises Supervisor is Mrs Jaswinder Sidu

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
 - Planning Department – Swale Borough Council – No representations
 - Environmental Pollution – Swale Borough Council – No representations
 - Kent County Council Public Health – No representations.
 - Kent Police – Agreed Conditions
1. CCTV will be provided in the form of a recordable system, capable of providing pictures of evidential quality in all lighting conditions particularly facial recognition.
 - Cameras shall encompass all ingress and egress to the premises, fire exits and all areas where the sale and supply of alcohol occurs.
 - Equipment must be maintained in good working order, be correctly time and date stamped, recordings MUST be kept in date order, numbered sequentially and kept for a period of 31 days and handed to Police on demand.
 - The premises licence holder must ensure at all times a DPS or appointed member of staff is capable and competent at downloading CCTV footage in a recordable format to the Police and Local Authority on demand.
 - The recording equipment and any discs/tapes shall be kept in a secure environment under the control of the DPS or other responsible named individual.
 - In the event of technical failure of the CCTV equipment the premises licence holder or DPS must report the failure to the Police Licensing Officer immediately (licensing.north.division@kent.pnn.police.uk)
 2. All persons that sell or supply alcohol to customers must have licensing training.
 - Training should take place within six weeks of employment and any new employees will be supervised until the training has taken place.
 - Refresher training should be repeated a minimum of every six months or earlier if required due to changes of legislation.
 - Training records must be kept on the premises and shall contain the nature, content and frequency of all training.
 - Records must be made available for inspection by Police, Police Licensing Officer and authorised officers from the Local Authority on demand either electronically or hard copy.
 3. The premises licence holder or designated premises supervisor must keep an incident register.

Staff to be trained to complete an incident book/records immediately after the incident but no later than the end of their shift.

The register must be kept on the premises and will detail

- Day, date and time of incident
- Nature of incident
- Resolution

Each entry is to be checked and signed by the DPS/Licensee no later than 1 week after the entry has been made.

- e. There has been one valid representation received from an other person. Their comments are shown as **Appendix C**.

Other person	Licensing Objective	Associated Documents	Appendix
Mr B Targar	Crime and Disorder Public Nuisance Protection of children from harm	Letter	C

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 – Plan of area
- Appendix E – 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.