

Date 21 April 2016

Sittingbourne Snooker and Social
7-11 High Street
Sittingbourne
ME10 4AY

I have completed a short timeline of our activity with the DPS of Sittingbourne snooker club Mr Bradley Wright. This will give an idea of the steps Mr Wright has been taking to achieve compliance with the fire safety legislation.

On the 15th Jan 2016 a joint visit was completed with Police and local authority licensing. This was an opportunity for the fire service to complete a short audit and also set the safe occupancy figures within the premises. During the visit some areas of concern were raised with Bradley and a Schedule of work issued covering our concerns and also the occupancy figures were given to Licensing and Bradley.

The week of 14 March 2016 Fire Safety Inspector Joe Bowerman visited the snooker club and found that no action had yet been taken to rectify any of this issues that had been highlighted. Bradley explained to Joe that he had made contact with a company to carry out a fire risk assessment for him, and that this was scheduled to be completed that week. Bradley also explained that he wanted to have the fire risk assessment done first before carrying out any of the work in case anything else was highlighted to him through the risk assessment. This was confirmed to me via a phone call from Joe and I advised Joe to revisit soon and see how he is getting on.

On 23 March- Joe received an email from Bradley Wright informing him that the risk assessment had been completed that day and he was now waiting the copy to be written up and sent to him:

Afternoon,

The fire risk assessment was carried out last night and I have been advised it will be completed and sent over at the end of the week or latest beginning of next week due to Easter weekend.

So on that basis would you like to arrange a meeting towards the end of next week to come in and run through it with me to make sure your happy with everything?

Kind Regards

Bradley

23 or 24 March- Joe had a phone call from Bradley Wright asking if the repairs on the final exit doors on the first and second floors and the fire alarm are the most important issues to be rectified, as this was advised to him by his risk assessor. This was agreed by both parties that this should be actioned ASAP.

29th March- Joe received a phone call from Bradley stating that risk assessment had now arrived via email and a meeting was arranged for the 31st March.

31st March - visit completed with Joe and Bradley – Joe then emailed me a list of completed work. Email content attached for information:

Just got back from talking to Bradley at the snooker club, this is what has been done so far:

1. Fire Risk assessment has now been completed by an outside company, Bradley is working through the checklist of work to be done and the finished copy of the risk assessment is on its way.
2. Fire alarm is now fully working throughout the building
3. Emergency lighting and signage have been tested and logged
4. Manual call point that was broken has been repaired
5. Sounder and flashing beacons have now been fitted in both the first and second floor smoking areas, all linked the to fire alarm
6. Smoking area decking has now been replaced, all gaps to be filled and completed end of this week / next week.
7. Emergency lighting has now been fitted to the outside fire escape staircase, leading from the second floor function room.
8. Emergency lighting / signage now fitted to escape from rear of first floor snooker room.

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9. 30mins fire protection plasterboard being fitted to escape route from first floor snooker room.
10. Push bar for fire exit door from first floor snooker room was being fitted during my visit. Bradly has stated this will also include a sounder to deter people from opening the door. The door after this that leads to the outside staircase will be fitted with a break glass lock, so that the fire exit is available 24/7 without needing to be unlocked by staff.
11. Bradley has assured me that the DJ set up will be linked to the fire alarm, so that the music shuts off and lights go on when the fire alarm is activated. This is due to be completed within the next 7-10 days.

He still has a way to go, but he is halfway through the work that's been identified. He has a plan of what's being done next, starting with the strips, seals and self closers on the fire doors. He has a query about the doors that lead up to the function room from the snooker room / dance floor, the ones at the top of the open staircase? He has asked if they have to be repaired as his risk assessment said they were not formerly part of the escape route... your thoughts?

Joseph Bowerman

8 April - Joe recieved a phone call from Bradley to say he had received a hard copy of the risk assessment. He then invited Joe Bowerman to visit the premises to view the risk assessment and look at further progress he had made. Joe then emailed me with the following update:

Bradley from Sittingbourne Snooker Club just rung me, he's had more work done:

1 – Hard copy of the FRA now arrived

2 – 7 x Emergency lighting has been installed, 2 of which are now above the bar

3 – Push bar now fitted to first floor exit door

4 – Fire resisting plasterboard now fitted to exit route

5 – Break glass lock and screamer alarm for door being fitted tomorrow

I am visiting on Thursday 14th at 15:00 and Bradley will be giving me a photo copy of his FRA.

Cheers,

Joseph Bowerman

14 April – Joe met Bradley at the snooker club. Bradley emailed Joe a copy of the fire risk assessment, which Joe then forwarded onto me. A full inspection of the work carried out so far was done by Joe, with Bradley asking advice on the risk assessment as the assessor had asked for eight heat detectors to be fitted on the first floor.

1 May follow up visit is booked in to see how the final repairs are going.

When I first attended the Snooker club it had a fair amount of work which was required to get it to an acceptable standard and improve the safety for the customers; however that said this was nothing out of the ordinary when visiting the older buildings in the area we cover. Bradley on the first visit seemed very keen to invest his time and money into the premises and get it where it needed to be although there was a slight delay in work starting it has progressed very quickly.

We as a service have adopted the better business for all approach of working with the business owners to achieve compliance. I think Bradley has been a prime example of what we are trying to achieve with this approach. He has rectified all the areas we have highlighted and even some that we would have given him more time than he has taken for the repairs to be achieved.

I hope this is helpful for the review on the license.

Kind regards

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Dylan Collard

Fire Safety Manager