

Meeting of: LICENSING ACT SUB-COMMITTEE

Date: 7th OCTOBER 2009

Report of: LICENSING MANAGER

Reference: SW

Title: MORECAMBE SUPERBOWL
CENTRAL DRIVE
MORECAMBE
LA4 4DW

LICENSING ACT 2003 – APPLICATION FOR REVIEW OF PREMISES
LICENCE

Members of the Sub-Committee have the following documents attached to this report:

- 1. Copy of application for review of premises licence (pages 8 - 65)**
- 2. Copy of notice of review posted on the premises (page 66)**
- 3 Notice of hearing (pages 67 - 70)**

Current Licence under Licensing Act 2003

Morecambe Superbowl, Central Drive, Morecambe, LA4 4DW is currently covered by a premises licence the Licensing Act 2003. The licence provides for the following licensable activities:-

Regulated entertainment including indoor sporting events, the performance of live and recorded music and the provision of facilities for dancing:

Monday to Wednesday	10.00 to 00.00
Thursday	10.00 to 00.30
Friday to Saturday	10.00 to 01.00
Sunday	10.00 to 23.00

The provision of late night refreshment:

Thursday	23.00 to 00.30
Friday to Saturday	23.00 to 01.00
Sunday	23.00 to 00.00

The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption on the premises only:

Monday to Wednesday 10.00 to 00.00

Thursday	10.00 to 00.30
Friday to Saturday	10.00 to 01.00
Sunday	10.00 to 23.00

Details of Review Application

Under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003, the Chief Constable of Lancashire Constabulary has submitted an application for a review of the premises licence for Morecambe Superbowl, Central Drive, Morecambe, LA4 4DW.

A copy of the application for review of the above premises licence, which includes a copy of the current premises licence, is at Document 1.

Legal background to Review Application

Under Section 51 (1) of the Licensing Act 2003, a responsible authority or interested party may apply to the licensing authority for the review of a licence.

The grounds for review must relate to one or more of the licensing objectives and as Members will be aware, these are:

- the prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance and
- the protection of children from harm

An application for review must be copied to the premises licence holder and to the responsible authorities. Once such an application is received, the licensing authority must place a notice at the premises, and there is then a period of 28 days during which representations may be made to the licensing authority.

A copy of the notice which was displayed at the premises during the 28 day period is attached at Document 2. Licensing Enforcement Officers made occasional checks throughout the 28 day period to satisfy that the notice was still in place.

No representations have been received in respect of the review application for Morecambe superbowl from any other responsible authorities, or from any interested parties.

The licensing authority is required to arrange a hearing within 20 working days of the expiry of the period for making representations, and ten working days' notice of the hearing must be given. These time limits have been complied with, and a copy of the Notice of Hearing is attached as Document 3.

Matter for Decision

The Sub-Committee is requested to consider the Chief Constable's application for review of the premises licence.

In accordance with Section 52 (3) and (4) of the Licensing Act 2003, the Sub-Committee must take such of the following steps as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives:

- (a) to modify the conditions of the licence,
- (b) to exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence,
- (c) to remove the designated premises supervisor
- (d) to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months,
- (e) to revoke the licence

The matter for decision, therefore, is which, if any, of these steps should be taken.

Government Guidance under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003

In relation to crime and disorder, Members may wish to note that paragraph 2.1 of the Guidance issued by the Government under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 states that “The steps any licence holder or club might take to prevent crime and disorder are as varied as the premises or clubs where licensable activities may be carried on. Licensing authorities should therefore look to the police as the main source of advice on these matters”.

With regard to the powers of the Licensing Authority on the determination of a review, paragraph 11.16 states that “The licensing authority may decide that no action is necessary if it finds that the review does not require it to take any steps necessary to promote the licensing objectives. In addition, there is nothing to prevent a licensing authority issuing an informal warning to the licence holder and/or to recommend improvement within a particular period of time. It is expected that licensing authorities will regard such warnings as an important mechanism for ensuring that the licensing objectives are effectively promoted and that warnings should be issued in writing to the holder of the licence. However, where responsible authorities like the police or environmental health officers have already issued warnings requiring improvement – either orally or in writing – that have failed as part of their own stepped approach to concerns, licensing authorities should not merely repeat that approach”.

Relevant Parts of the Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy

With regard to the protection of children from harm the Policy provides as follows:

7. Protection of Children

7.1 The Licensing Authority recognises the great variety of premises for which licences may be sought. These will include theatres, cinemas, restaurants, pubs, nightclubs, cafes, take-aways, community halls and schools. Access by children to all types of premises will not be limited in any way unless it is considered necessary to do so in order to protect them from physical, moral or psychological harm. Equally, no premises will be obliged to allow access by children.

7.2 If relevant representations are received in relation to limiting access to children, the Licensing Authority will judge each application on its own individual merits. Examples which may give rise to concern in respect of children would include premises:-

- where entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is provided
- where there is a strong element of gambling taking place (but not, for example, the simple presence of a small number of cash prize gaming machines)

- with a known association with drug taking or dealing
- where there have been convictions of current members of staff for serving alcohol to those under 18
- with a reputation for under age drinking

7.3 In the case of premises which are used for film exhibitions, conditions will be imposed restricting access only to those who meet the required age limit in line with any certificate granted by the British Board of Film Classification or, in specific cases, a certificate given to the film by the Licensing Authority itself.

7.4 The options available for limiting access by children would include:-

- a limit on the hours when children may be present
- a limitation or exclusion when certain activities are taking place
- the requirement to be accompanied by an adult
- access may be limited to parts of the premises but not the whole
- an age limitation (for under 18s)

7.5 The Licensing Authority will not impose any condition which specifically requires access for children to be provided at any premises. Where no restriction or limitation is imposed the issue of access will remain a matter for the discretion of the individual licensee or club.

7.6 Under the Act, certain “responsible authorities” must be notified of and are entitled to make representations about applications for premises licences or club premises certificates or major variations of such licences or certificates, or to ask the licensing authority to review a licence or certificate. Applicants for premises licences and club premises certificates are required to send details of their applications to these bodies. In connection with the protection of children the Licensing Authority considers the local Area Child Protection Committee to be the responsible body to which applications should be copied.

7.7 Where a large number of children are likely to be present on any licensed premises, for example a children’s show or disco, the applicant may wish to consider including in the operating schedule arrangements for the presence of an appropriate number of adult staff to ensure public safety and the protection of the children from harm. The applicant should also consider whether employees working at the premises for such events and having unsupervised contact with children should have an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

7.8 Children may also be present at an event as entertainers, and where they are not accompanied by a parent or guardian, the applicant may wish to consider nominating an adult responsible for such child performers at such performances. The applicant should also consider whether a nominated adult should have had an enhanced CRB check.

7.9 Applicants may wish to include in their operating schedules arrangements to ensure that children will be restricted from viewing age-restricted films classified according to the recommendations of the British Board of Film Classification or the Licensing Authority itself. The Act provides that it is mandatory for a condition to be included in all premises licences and club premises certificates authorising the exhibition of films for the admission of children to the exhibition of any film to be restricted in accordance with the recommendations given to films either by the British Board of Film Classification or by the licensing authority itself.

7.10 The following matters will also be considered in relation to the protection of children from harm:

- Whether access of children to cigarette machines is restricted
- Whether access of children to any gaming machines is restricted
- Where appropriate, the procedures for ensuring that any customer coming onto the premises is over the age of 18
- The steps taken to ensure that, where appropriate, all staff involved in the management of the premises have the capability, responsibility and training to supervise other staff and to ensure that the premises are operated in such a manner as to protect children from harm

7.11 Applicants may wish to indicate in the operating schedule how the protection of children from harm will be addressed. The above items are not intended to be exhaustive, and the applicant should have considered all relevant aspects of the protection of children from harm applicable to the particular premises.

With regard to the prevention of crime and disorder the Policy provides as follows:

9. The prevention of crime and disorder

9.1 The central concerns of licensing in relation to law and order are acts of violence and vandalism brought about by consumption of alcohol and the use of licensed premises as part of a distribution network for illegal drugs.

9.2 It is not the function of licensing to impose good practice in the adoption of wider crime reduction measures, such as those for securing premises outside of trading hours. It is also not a purpose of licensing to require that measures be put in place to enhance the opportunities for gathering evidence in relation to crime of a general nature. However, the Licensing Authority recognises that CCTV cameras at premises have an important role in preventing crime and disorder.

9.4 The Licensing Authority's starting point is to seek a reduction in crime and disorder throughout the area, consistent with its statutory duty under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Licences may be granted if applicants can demonstrate that a positive reduction in crime and disorder will result, or that it will not increase, as a result of the application being granted.

9.5 Where there are relevant representations, the Licensing Authority will generally not grant a licence where it is likely that the premises will be used for unlawful purposes or where it is considered that the use of the premises is likely to cause an increase in crime and disorder in the area or the premises and this cannot be prevented by the imposition of conditions. When addressing crime and disorder, the applicant should identify any particular issues which are likely to adversely affect the promotion of the objective to prevent crime and disorder, taking account the location, size and likely clientele of the premises, and the type of entertainment (if any) to be provided. Such steps as are required to deal with these issues should be included within the applicant's operating schedule, and may include:

- Use of CCTV inside and outside the premises. The Lancashire Constabulary has produced suggested minimum requirements for CCTV and these are available from the Lancashire Constabulary or from the Licensing Authority's administrative staff
- Use of metal detection or other search equipment or procedures
- Crime and disorder risk assessment in relation to the proposed activities
- Measures to prevent the use or supply of illegal drugs and procedures for searching customers
- Ensuring that all staff are appropriately trained
- Ensuring that all staff involved in the management of the premises have the capability, responsibility and training to supervise other staff and to ensure that the premises are operated in such a manner as to prevent crime and disorder
- Employment of sufficient security staff where appropriate, controlling admission, monitoring capacity within the premises as a whole and in separate rooms/levels and patrolling the interior and exterior of the premises (any such staff must be licensed by the Security Industry Authority). The Licensing Authority recognises that there is a greater need for security staff in some premises than in others. For example there will be a greater need for security staff in a town centre nightclub than in a village pub. It will be for the applicant to consider the appropriate number of doorstaff required for the particular premises.
- Ensuring that a register of doorstaff and their working times is maintained
- Participation in Pub Watch, Best Bar None or other relevant schemes and using radio links/pages as a means of connecting to other licensed premises.
- Use of plastic or polycarbonate glasses and bottles, where appropriate, or toughened glass. Applicants are advised that the Government believes that a risk-based, rather than blanket, approach to requiring licensed premises to use safer alternatives is the best way to tackle the problem of glass-related injuries
- Wherever possible, agreed protocols with police and other organisations and a commitment to co-operate and provide such evidence as the Police require.
- Adopting the "Night Safe Initiative" and "Safer Clubbing Guide" as statements of best practice
- Following the trade codes of practice, for example BBPA and Portman Group, and not carrying out any irresponsible drinks promotions
- Providing a suitable environment for customers having regard to the activities going on in the premises, in particular appropriate levels of seating
- Ensuring that there are sufficient transport facilities available to ensure that customers can leave the premises safely and swiftly.
- Maintaining an incident log
- The steps the applicant has taken to prevent crime and disorder issues from occurring in any open air parts of the premises, beer gardens, smoking shelters or areas that are used on an ad-hoc basis by patrons with the management consent for smoking, due to location, control within and management of such areas.

It should be noted that this list is not intended to be exhaustive. It may be appropriate for the applicant to consider other steps. Equally, the Licensing Authority recognises that not all the items in the list will be applicable to all premises.

9.6 Following the receipt of relevant representations, the Licensing Authority will not normally allow a person to be specified as a designated premises supervisor where that is likely to undermine the prevention of crime and disorder by reason of that person's known past conduct. A person is likely to be considered unsuitable if he has previous unspent convictions for a relevant offence, notwithstanding that he may

have been granted a personal licence. However, each case would be considered on its own merits in the light of representations received.

Members will of course be mindful that the Policy covers all types of premises in all types of location, and that not all the measures referred to above will be relevant to all premises.

Members are reminded that they should consider each application on its merits, and in the light of all the written and oral information before them at the hearing

Natural Justice and Human Rights

Members are reminded that they must follow the rules of natural justice, and must also consider human rights implications.

In particular, in accordance with Article 6, all parties are entitled to a fair hearing.

Consideration also needs to be given to the right to respect for private and family life and home, contained within Article 8, although this is a qualified right, and interference is permitted where this is in accordance with the law, or is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety or the prevention of crime and disorder, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. Article 1 of the First Protocol provides that every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions, although again this right is qualified in the public interest.

Conclusion

Members should consider the application for review of the premises licence and any steps it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.