

Meeting of: LICENSING ACT SUB-COMMITTEE

Date: 2ND SEPTEMBER 2013

Report of: LICENSING MANAGER

Reference: WP

Title: THE SQUARE, 20 GREAT JOHN STREET, LANCASTER, LA1 1NG

**APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF LICENCE TO SPECIFY AN
INDIVIDUAL AS DESIGNATED PREMISE SUPERVISOR UNDER THE
LICENSING ACT 2003**

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

- 1. Application Form (pages 6 to 9)**
- 2. Copy of Representation from the Chief Officer of Police, Lancashire Constabulary (page 10)**
- 3. Copy of Current Premises Licence (pages 11 to 19)**
- 4. Notice of Hearing (pages 20 to 23)**

Details of Application

Inns and Leisure Ltd have submitted an application under Section 37 of the Licensing Act 2003 to vary the premises licence to specify Lorraine Marie Jackson who is named in the application as the premise supervisor for The Square, 20 Great John Street, Lancaster.

The current application is to vary a premise licence to specify an individual (Lorraine Marie Jackson) as designated premise supervisor under the Licensing Act 2003

Details of the application to vary the premises licence are set out in the application form, which is Document 1 attached to this report.

Representations

Under Section 39(3) of the Act, it is necessary for a hearing to be held to consider the application, as a notice has been given under section 37(6) by the Chief Officer of Police, Lancashire Constabulary.

The Police have objected to this application on 7th August 2013 based upon their belief that with Lorraine Marie Jackson being specified in this role it would undermine the Licensing Objective of preventing crime and disorder. They believe she is unsuitable to undertake this role based on her record of previously running another city centre public house (Nags Head).

A copy of the representation is at Document 2 attached to this report.

Notice of Hearing

In accordance with the relevant Regulations, the parties have been given notice of the hearing. It was not felt necessary to request any clarification from the parties. The parties

have been required in accordance with the Regulations to indicate at least five working days before the hearing whether they intend to attend and/or be represented at the hearing and if they wish any witness to appear at the hearing. Any responses and any further documentation submitted by any of the parties after the circulation of this agenda will be circulated to Members in advance of the meeting. Members are reminded that documentary or other information submitted on the day of the hearing may only be taken into account with the consent of the Sub-Committee and all the parties.

Matter for Decision

The Sub-Committee is requested to consider the application and the representation.

This is in accordance with Section 35(3) and (4) of the Act which provide as follows:

- (3) Where relevant representations are made, the authority must-
- (a) hold a hearing to consider them, unless the authority, the applicant and chief officer of police who gave the notice agree that a hearing is unnecessary, and
 - (b) having regard to the notice, reject the application if it considers it necessary for the promotion of the crime prevention objective to do so.

Members are reminded that the licensing objectives are:

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

Government Guidance under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003

- 2.12 In the context of crime and disorder and public safety, the preservation of order on premises may give rise to genuine concerns about the competency of the management team charged with the maintenance of order. This may occur, for example, on premises where there are very large numbers of people and alcohol is supplied for consumption, or in premises where there are public order problems.
- 2.13 The designated premises supervisor is the key person who will usually be charged with day to day management of the premises by the premises licence holder, including the prevention of disorder. However, conditions relating to the management competency of designated premises supervisors should not normally be attached to premises licences. A condition of this kind could only be justified as necessary in rare circumstances where it could be demonstrated that in the circumstances associated with particular premises, poor management competency could give rise to issues of crime and disorder and public safety.

Relevant Parts of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy

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

14.0 The prevention of crime and disorder

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 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.
- 14.4 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 door staff required for the particular premises.
 - Ensuring that a register of door staff 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.
- Glasses and glass bottles can be dangerous weapons. As such the Licensing Authority would encourage the use of polycarbonate glasses, in premises. Where a particular issue has been hi-lighted, particularly if the premises has been brought to review by a responsible authority, a condition to this effect may be imposed.
 - It is important that that glasses and bottles are frequently collected to ensure that empty containers do not accumulate in or around the licensed premises. Staff also must prevent the removal of bottles or glasses from the curtilage and grounds of licensed premises, to prevent them being used to cause harm.

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.

- 14.5 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

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 whether to grant the application for variation of the licence to specify an individual as designated premise supervisor under the Licensing Act 2003, or to reject the application. Members are reminded that they should state the reasons for their decision.