

Meeting of: LICENSING ACT SUB-COMMITTEE

Date: 23 NOVEMBER 2016

Report of: CHIEF OFFICER (HEALTH & HOUSING)

Reference: DWE

Title: THE CHIEFTAIN, 24 PEDDER STREET, MORECAMBE
APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF PREMISE LICENCE

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

1. Application form (pages 6 to 20)
2. Copy of representation from Other Person (page 21)
3. Copy of current premises Licence (pages 22 to 31)
4. Notice of Hearing (pages 32 to 35)

Details of Application

The Craft Union Pub Company Ltd have submitted an application under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 to vary the premises licence for The Chieftain, 24 Pedder Street, Morecambe, LA4 5DZ.

The current premises licence permits the following: -

Indoor Sporting Events:	Monday to Thursday Friday to Sunday	07:00 to Midnight 07:00 to 01:00	
Performance of Live Music:	Monday to Thursday Friday to Sunday	10:45 to Midnight 10:45 to 01:00	(indoors)
Playing of Recorded Music	Monday to Thursday Friday to Sunday	07:00 to Midnight 07:00 to 01:00	(indoors)
Sale of Alcohol	Monday to Sunday	07:00 to 01:00	(on & off)

The current variation application is to amend the hours for all licensable activities permitted by the premises licence from 07:00hrs to 01:00hrs to 07:00hrs to 02:00hrs for non standard timings including Fridays to Mondays of Bank Holiday weekends, certain Saints Days, Bonfire Night, and from 24th to 30th December inclusive and on New Years Day.

Additionally, to amend the hours for all licensable activities permitted by the premises licence from 07:00hrs to 00:00hrs to 07:00hrs to 03:00hrs on New Year's Eve only. The closing time of the premises on the dates when the hours have been extended will facilitate 30 minutes drinking up time.

Details of the specific dates when non standard timings are to occur is attached at Document No.1

Representations

Under Section 35(3) of the Act, it is necessary for a hearing to be held to consider the application as a single representation has been received from Other Persons.

Mr Wilson who is a director of Pedder Street Investments Limited and landlord of Anderton Court at No.27 Pedder Street, Morecambe, believes the extension to the timings for regulated entertainment and the sale of alcohol until 02:00 hours on certain dates together with the associated later opening times will have an adverse effect on the public nuisance licensing objective.

He contends there is already existing public nuisance associated with Pedder Street car park in the late evening, which is directly in front of his flats, and any extension to the hours of licensable activity at The Chieftain will help to exacerbate the situation.

A copy of the representations are at Document 2.

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 each person who has made such representations agree that a hearing is unnecessary, and
 - (b) having regard to the representations, take such of the steps mentioned in subsection (4) (if any) as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

- (4) The steps are-
 - (a) to modify the conditions of the licence;
 - (b) to reject the whole or part of the application;and for this purpose the conditions of the licence are modified if any of them is altered or omitted or any new condition is added

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

Members may wish to note that paragraph 2.33 of the Guidance issued by the Government under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 states that public nuisance is “not narrowly defined in the 2003 Act and retains its broad common law meaning. It is important to remember that the prevention of public nuisance could therefore include low-level nuisance perhaps affecting a few people living locally as well as major disturbance affecting the whole community”.

Relevant Parts of the Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy

With regard to the prevention of public nuisance, the Policy provides as follows:

8 Prevention of public nuisance

- 8.1 The most obvious aspect of public nuisance is noise. The primary source of noise is amplified music, either uncontained outdoors or emanating from premises, which do not have sufficient measures in place to contain the sound. Late at night or in the early hours of the morning, individuals shouting in the street or groups of people talking in an animated fashion generate a substantial level of noise and in some cases this is aggravated by offensive language.
- 8.2 As customers leave licensed premises, the sound of their conversation can disturb residents. Potentially greater problems arise when customers congregate or accumulate outside the licensed premises. However, it is clear that the person in control of the premises has a responsibility to ensure that disturbance to residents and businesses is kept to a minimum.
- 8.3 In considering licence applications where relevant representations are received, the Licensing Authority will consider the adequacy of measures proposed to deal with the potential for nuisance and disorder having regard to all the circumstances of the application. When addressing public nuisance, the applicant should identify any particular issues which are likely to adversely affect the promotion of the objective to prevent public nuisance, taking account of 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:
 - The steps the applicant has taken or proposes to prevent noise and vibration escaping from the premises, including music, noise from ventilation equipment and human voices. Such measures may include the installation of soundproofing, air conditioning, noise limitation devices and keeping windows closed during specified hours.
 - The steps taken to ensure 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 public nuisance
 - The steps the applicant has taken or proposes to prevent disturbance by patrons arriving at or leaving the premises, for example warning signs at exits, and

warning announcements within the premises, and the use of door supervisors to pass on the message

- The steps the applicant has taken or proposes to prevent queuing, or if queuing is inevitable, to divert queues away from neighbouring premises, or otherwise manage and monitor the queue to prevent disturbance of obstruction, and to prevent patrons congregating outside the premises.
- The implementation of a last admission time, and how the last admission time relates to the closing time of the premises
- The steps the applicant has taken or proposes to take to manage queues so that patrons who will not gain admission before any last admission time are advised accordingly
- The steps the applicant has taken to reduce queuing outside the premises and to minimise the length of time people have to queue at the premises
- The steps the applicant has taken to advise patrons that they will not be admitted if they are causing a disturbance, and the steps taken to implement a procedure for banning patrons who continually leave or arrive at the premises in a manner which causes a public nuisance or disturbance.
- The arrangements made or proposed for parking by patrons and the effect of parking on local residents.
- The arrangements the applicant has made or proposes to make for security lighting at the premises, and the steps the applicant has taken or proposes to take to ensure that lighting will not cause a nuisance to residents.
- Whether there is sufficient provision for public transport for patrons, for example the provision of a free phone taxi service or other arrangements with taxi companies, and whether information is provided to patrons about the most appropriate routes to the nearest transport facilities.
- Whether taxis and private hire vehicles serving the premises or traffic flow from the premises are likely to disturb local residents.
- Whether routes to and from the premises pass residential premises.
- Whether other appropriate measures to prevent nuisance have been taken, such as the use of CCTV or the employment of an adequate number of licensed door supervisors.
- The measures proposed to prevent the consumption or supply of illegal drugs, including any search and disposal procedures.
- The procedures in place for ensuring that no customer leaves with bottles or glasses
- If the applicant has previously held a licence within the area of the Council, the history of any enforcement action arising from those premises.
- Whether the premises would result in increased refuse storage or disposal problems, or additional litter in the vicinity of the premises.
- The steps the applicant has taken or proposes to take in order to ensure that standards of public decency are maintained in any entertainment provided at the premises.
- If appropriate, whether music is played at a lower level towards the end of the evening in a “wind down period”.
- The applicant’s proposals for the length of time between the last sales of alcohol, and the closing of the premises
- The steps the applicant has taken to prevent noise and other public nuisance 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

The above list is not intended to be exhaustive, and the applicant should consider all aspects of the operation that may affect public nuisance.

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 possessions, although again this right is qualified in the public interest.

Conclusion

Members should consider whether to grant the application for variation, modify any conditions of the licence or to reject the whole or part of the application. Members are reminded that they should state the reasons for their decision.