

Licensing Sub Committee

Tuesday 10 December 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor Rennie, in the Chair.
Councillor Jordan, Vice Chair.
Councillors Singh (fourth member) and John Smith.

Also in attendance: Sharon Day (Lawyer), Catherine Fox (Lawyer - observing), Fred Prout (Senior Licensing Officer) and Helen Rickman (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 11.15 am and finished at 11.50 am.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

34. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Agreed that Councillor Rennie is appointed Chair and Councillor Jordan is appointed Vice-Chair for this meeting.

35. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the code of conduct.

(Councillor Singh left the meeting at the commencement of this item).

36. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

37. MINT, G/F, 2 UNION STREET, PLYMOUTH - REVIEW OF PREMISES LICENCE

The Committee having –

- (a) considered the report from the Director for Place;
- (b) considered a written representation and heard from a representative of Devon & Cornwall Police that the crime prevention objective was not being upheld as detailed below–
 - the premises had operated without problem until 5 May 2013 when it was noted that the customer base of the club was becoming more aggressive and incidents of disorder surrounding and related to the club had increased;

- the premises were designated as problem premises on the 1 August 2013 due to the increase in violent and public order situations;
- since the review application was made there has been a transfer of the premises licence and the previous designated premises supervisor (DPS) and previous premises licence holder (PLH) no longer had responsibility for the club. The police were of the opinion that the previous DPS and PLH were not in control of the day to day running of the premises or who was admitted. They had previously taken over the premises in June 2012 and the Police commented that there had been deterioration in the premises from the time they took over;
- there were incidents of violence taking place from the 22 June 2013 onwards. Violence occurred at the premises on the following dates:

22/6/13, 29/6/13, 30/6/13, 6/7/13, 25/8/13, 1/9/13, 28/9/13, 6/10/13 and 13/10/13. None of these incidents were reported to the Police by those responsible for running the premises;
- when CCTV had been requested initially it had not been of good quality or had not been made available. Problems with CCTV quality were rectified on the 11 August 2013;
- meetings had taken place with the previous DPS on the 30 July 2013 and 13 September 2013, but no improvement in the situation resulted;
- the lack of cooperation from the management of the premises made it difficult for the Police to effectively deal with matters and this and the increase in violence were having a negative impact on the crime prevention licensing objective;
- the new premises licence holder has closed the premises since he became aware of the problems and has been liaising with police. There has been an agreement for a reduction in terminal hours for licensable activities and the operation of the premises to 00.30 hours which the police consider will be an effective step in ensuring similar problems do not recur. The Police stated that this step was appropriate to take as due to the bad reputation of the club, if it continued with its existing hours there was the potential to attract the same clientele which was likely to undermine the crime prevention licensing objective;

(c) heard from the new premises licence holder that –

- as soon as they had become aware of the problems they had taken immediate action and had forfeited the lease;
- they would consult with the Police regarding any new tenant for the premises and would ensure that the licensing objectives were upheld;

- they would continue to work with the Police and agreed that the best way forward for the venue was for the licensing hours to be reduced as per the agreement reached with the Police;

Having accepted the information provided by the police as outlined above and considered what had been said by the new premises licence holder the committee considered whether any action should be taken.

Members considered that action was appropriate even though there had been a change of premises licence holder because the potential still remained, from what the committee had heard from the Police, for the Crime Prevention licensing objective to be undermined.

Members then considered whether any modification of the conditions of licence would address the concerns outlined by the Police. In considering this point the committee noted that the problems with violence tended to occur between midnight and 3.30am. With this in mind the committee agreed that given the increase in violence that had occurred at the premises in a short period of time and given the agreement by the new premises licence holder, that it was appropriate and proportionate to amend the conditions of licence so that all licensable activities finish at 00.30am and that premises close to the public at 00.30am in order to promote the crime prevention licensing objective.

38. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.

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