

Licensing Sub Committee

Tuesday 23 September 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Rennie, in the Chair.
Councillor Mrs Bowyer, Vice Chair.
Councillor Morris.

Absent: Councillor Sparling (Fourth member).

Also in attendance: Ann Gillbanks (Senior Lawyer), Fred Prout (Senior Licensing Officer) and Lynn Young (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.30 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.

12. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

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

13. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chair welcomed Councillor Morris to his inaugural Licensing Sub Committee meeting with Plymouth City Council.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

15. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

16. PRIVATE SHOP, 31 ATHENAEUM PLACE, PLYMOUTH, PL1 2RG, RENEWAL AND VARIATION OF SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE (SEX SHOP)

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) considered the representations from the applicant;
- (c) considered the written representation received in support of the application;

(d) heard from the applicant that –

- the application made was for the renewal of the sex establishment licence and that the sex shop had been in operation for over 20 years;
- the application was also to request approval to the variation of the shop frontage appearance which was looking dilapidated;
- the current colour looked austere and the change of colour was to make the shop look less austere with a warmer appearance and a more inviting, welcoming and friendlier look;
- the colour had been changed in other premises in the country;
- the colour requested was purple and was considered a friendlier look;
- the windows were 83 cm wide and the proposed shields were 53 cm deep and 52 cm across;
- three examples of shields had been provided, the shield headed ‘+18 years only’ was to be displayed on the inner door of the premises as this was a legal requirement;
- the application was that the other two shields were to be displayed on the front window;

In response to members’ questions it was reported that –

- (e) the application also included the request to change the whole background ‘blank out’ of the windows to include the decal including the wording ‘your intimate lifestyle’;
- (f) it was hoped that the change to the frontage would be inviting to customers and increase custom and although footfall may increase it was not expected to be significantly so.

Members considered all of the representations made by the applicant and the representation supporting the application. Members also noted that no representations against the application had been received.

Members agreed to grant the application for the renewal of the sexual establishment licence.

With regard to the application to vary the appearance of the front of the premises, members considered that the changes proposed would not adversely affect the licensing objective of Protecting the Nature, Amenity and Character of a Neighbourhood and agreed to the following:

To approve -

- the application to change the external colouring to purple;
- the application to display the window decal containing the words ‘your intimate lifestyle’;
- the application to display the shield headed ‘+18 years only’ on the inside door of the premises;
- the application to display up to two shields headed ‘PRIVATESHOP’ on the front window;

To reject the application to display the shield headed 'BE who YOU want to be' as this did not mention that the premises were an adult shop and did not give any information as to what type of establishment it was.

17. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

There were no items of exempt business.