

Supplementary Committee Agenda



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Licensing Sub-Committee Thursday, 4th February, 2010

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping

Time: 10.00 am

Democratic Services: Gary Woodhall (Office of the Chief Executive)
Tel: 01992 564470
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9. REQUEST TO REVIEW A PREMISES LICENCE - THE MINX, 126 HIGH ROAD, LOUGHTON (Pages 3 - 4)

To consider the additional report received following the publication of the agenda.

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Date: 6/1/10

Our ref: PL/9850/DB

Your ref:

Nicola Glasscock
Licensing Section
Epping Forest District Council
High Street, Epping, Essex
CM16 4BZ

David Baker (01992) 564514
email: dbaker@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

Dear Ms. Glasscock

**Minx, 126 High Road, Loughton
Call for review of licence by Police Inspector Tom Simons**

As a responsible authority under the 2003 Licensing Act this planning department makes the following representations on this license review.

Although lying on the High Road the premises lie close to a large number of dwellings, particularly in Smarts Lane and High Beech Road as shown on the attached map. Two small public car parks are located close to the rear of the premises, and they also adjoin houses. The Minx is a form of club premises that should close at 2.30am, with serving of alcohol stopping at 2 am. It attracts large numbers of customers arriving late at night eg 10.30 pm to midnight, and there is often a queuing system in force outside the premises. Many customers will come to this club after being at public houses earlier in the evening. Customers will inevitably park in the 2 car parks available and along nearby residential roads such as High Beech Road, and Smarts Lane.

Having regard to the licensing objective of prevention of public nuisance the planning authority is very concerned that the operation of this premises causes public nuisance to many residents living in the locality. This occurs in a number of forms. Firstly, patrons talking and shouting in the streets when returning to cars in the early hours of the morning (ie 2-3 am) at a time when background noise levels are low and people are sleeping. Secondly, from car doors slamming, and car radios being switched on. Thirdly, from other groups of customers talking and shouting in the street while waiting for cabs. Other anti social problems complained of include litter and bottles being left on streets and in front gardens, and urinating in front gardens.

In November 2007 the club managers applied for an hour's extension of the licence to allow alcohol to be served up to 2am on Fridays and Saturdays, with the premises closing half an hour later. This Planning Authority raised objections to this extension. The Licensing Committee did however grant this licence subject to a number of conditions including the requirement for door supervisors to patrol up to 180metres of the first parts of Smarts Lane and High Beech Road for at least 30 minutes after closing time. Whether this condition was complied with or not there is clear evidence that anti social behaviour and public nuisance has continued to take place in residential side streets. In a similar context it is noted that police have identified 31 crimes (more serious ones than anti social behaviour) along Loughton High Road in September to December 09 , including 22 public order offences and four serious assaults, between 9pm and 3am.

Although it is acknowledged that public nuisance may well not always be caused by patrons of the Minx, the premises do attract considerable numbers of people to a night club form of premises. Many patrons, attracted by late hours of opening, come from outside Loughton, and need cars or taxis to get them home. In this context it is fair to assume that patrons of the Minx do contribute significantly to early morning problems of public nuisance in the locality.

Finally, the planning authority is of the view that any amended licence should restrict the opening times of these premises to 1am - in order to achieve a significant reduction in public nuisance in the early hours of the morning.

Yours faithfully,

David Baker
Planning Officer

Cc Police Inspector Tom Simons
Loughton Police Station
158, High Road, Loughton
Essex IG10 4BE