

EPHING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: Licensing Sub-Committee **Date:** 6 April 2006
Place: Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 10.00 - 11.42 am
Members Present: Mrs M Sartin (Chairman), P McMillan, T Richardson and Mrs P Smith
Other Councillors: (none)
Apologies: (none)
Officers Present: S Harcher (Environmental Services), L Cole (Legal Services Officer), K Tuckey (Environmental Services) and A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer)

159. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with the terms of reference for the Licensing Committee, Councillor Mrs Sartin be elected for the duration of the Sub-Committee meeting.

160. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest pursuant to the Council's Code of Member Conduct.

161. PROCEDURE FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The Sub-Committee noted the agreed procedure for the conduct of business, and the Terms of Reference.

162. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on the grounds that they will involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined below in the relevant Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972:

Agenda Item No	Subject	Exempt Information Paragraph No
6	Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence Application – Mr J Young	4

7	Private Hire Driver's Licence Exemption to Display Plate - Mr Sibley	4
8	Private Hire Driver's Licence Exemption to Display Plate - Mr Lucas.	4

163. CHANGE IN ORDER OF AGENDA.

The sub Committee agreed to take agenda item 6, Mr Young's application, after agenda item 8.

164. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE - EXEMPTION TO DISPLAY PLATE

The Three Councillors that presided over this item were, Councillors Mrs Sartin, McMillan and Richardson.

The Sub-Committee considered an application by Mr Sibley for an exemption to display a Private Hire Vehicle Licence plate. Members noted that officers did not have delegated powers to grant this application and it must come before the Sub Committee for consideration.

The Chairman welcomed the applicant, introduced the members and officers present and explained the procedure that would be followed for the determination of this application.

The applicant made a short statement in support of his application, before answering a number of questions from the members of the Sub Committee. The Sub Committee asked the applicant to leave the chamber while they debated his application in private.

RESOLVED:

That the application made by Mr Sibley for an exemption to display a Private Hire Vehicle License plate be granted.

165. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE - EXEMPTION TO DISPLAY PLATE

The Three Councillors that presided over this item were, Councillors Mrs Sartin, McMillan and Richardson.

The Sub-Committee considered an application by Mr Lucas for an exemption to display a Private Hire Vehicle Licence plate. Members noted that officers did not have delegated powers to grant this application and it must come before the Sub Committee for consideration.

The Chairman welcomed the applicant, introduced the members and officers present and explained the procedure that would be followed for the determination of this application.

The applicant made a short statement in support of his application, before answering a number of questions from the members of the Sub Committee. The Sub Committee

asked the applicant to leave the chamber while they debated his application in private.

RESOLVED:

That the application made by Mr Lucas for an exemption to display a Private Hire Vehicle License plate be granted.

**166. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976
APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE**

The Three Councillors that presided over this item were, Councillors Mrs Sartin, McMillan and Mrs Smith.

The Sub-Committee considered an application by Mr J Young for a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence. Members noted that officers did not have delegated powers to grant this application and, as a result, the application had to be considered by the Sub-Committee.

The Chairman welcomed the applicant, and introduced the members and officers present. The Environmental officer informed the Sub-Committee of the circumstances under which the licence could not be issued under delegated authority.

The applicant made a short statement to the Sub-Committee in support of his application, before answering a number of questions from members of the Sub-Committee.

The Chairman then requested that the applicant leave the Chamber whilst the Sub-Committee debated his application in private. The Chairman invited the applicant back into the Chamber and informed him of the Sub-Committee's decision.

RESOLVED:

That a Hackney Carriage Drivers License be granted to Mr Young subject to the Council's standard terms and conditions.

167. PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the Public and Press be invited back to the meeting for the remaining items of business.

**168. LICENSING ACT 2003 - APPLICATION TO VARY PREMISES LICENCE - MINX,
126 HIGH ROAD, LOUGHTON**

At the behest of the applicants' agents this item was withdrawn and will be considered at the next meeting.

**169. LICENSING ACT 2003 - APPLICATION TO VARY PREMISE LICENCE - THE
GEORGE AND DRAGON, HIGH STREET, EPPING**

The three Councillors that presided over this item were, Councillors Mrs Sartin, McMillan and Richardson. Also present were Ms Siggery, the Manager of the George and Dragon; Mr M Sharp and Mr B Sharp owner and licensee of the Half Moon, Public House, David Davis representing Punch Taverns; Mr R Smith, local resident and Mr C Sassons, local resident.

Members of the Sub-Committee considered an application to vary a premise licence for the George and Dragon, Epping to include the exhibition of films (i.e. Screening of the World Cup), the performance of live music and karaoke.

It was reported that the Districts Councils' Environmental Control officer had withdrawn his objection following discussions held with the Manager of the George and Dragon. However there were also representations received from local residents and from a neighbouring public house, the Half Moon.

Presentation of the Applicant's case

Ms N Siggery, the manager of the George and Dragon explained that in order to stop having to apply for separate one off Temporary Entertainment Notices, they were applying for a blanket variation to cover their occasional musical events. As a resident living on the High Road (above the public house) she was aware of the problems that could be caused by late night venues. Her current licence allows her to open until 1am on Fridays and Saturdays, but they close at 12 midnight as they do not wish to extend their hours. During the week they close at 11 pm.

In response from a question from the chairman Ms Siggery agreed that they would only screen films etc. indoors and not outdoors. Responding to a question from Mr R Smith she clarified that her times of opening for the George and Dragon were from Sunday to Thursday 10.00 to 00.00 and from Friday and Saturday from 10.00 to 01.00. and replied to Mr Sassons that all entertainment would be held indoors and not outside.

Presentations of objector's cases

Mr R Smith, local resident commented that he was concerned that the premise was situated in the centre of the High Street and that any future licence holder could use it to the full extent allowed by its opening hours. He also considered it an imposition on the local community that can also cause public order problems.

Mr C Sassons, local resident commented that he had originally objected because he thought that the George and Dragon was asking for longer opening hours, having listened to the case being explained he wanted to withdraw his objections to the application.

Applicants closing remarks

Ms Siggery wanted to add that they considered themselves to be a community pub that serves the local populace, and were aware of the problems that that could be caused by late night entertainment and opening.

Consideration of application by the committee

The Sub Committee retired to discuss the application in private where they took advice from the relevant officers on restricting the hours the entertainment licence if granted. The Sub Committee took into account the probable causes for the prevention of public nuisance and the prevention of crime and disorder.

RESOLVED:

That the application to vary a premises licence at the George and Dragon be granted, subject to:

1. That the entertainment licence for showing films etc. be restricted to showing indoors only; and
2. The entertainment licence be conditioned to finish at:
 - 11pm on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays, and
 - 12 midnight on Fridays and Saturdays.

CHAIRMAN