

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: Licensing Sub-Committee **Date:** 22 January 2013

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping **Time:** 10.50 - 11.35 am

Members Present: R Morgan (Chairman), A Boyce and Mrs R Gadsby

Other Councillors:

Apologies:

Officers Present: A Hendry (Democratic Services Officer), K Tuckey (Senior Licensing Officer), N Clarke (Licensing Officer) and L Cole (Legal Services Officer)

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

53. PROCEDURE FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The Sub-Committee noted the agreed procedure for the Conduct of Business and the Terms of Reference.

54. VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE - THEATRE RESOURCES, GT. STONEY HIGH STREET, ONGAR, CM5 0AD

The Chairman welcomed the participants and introduced the Members and Officers present and requested that the participants introduce themselves to the Sub-Committee. In attendance was Rachael Loukes, the General Manager for Theatre Resources and David Graves, an objector.

The Chairman outlined the procedure that would be followed for the determination of the application.

(a) The Application before the Sub-Committee

The Legal Officer informed the Sub-Committee that an application had been received from Theatre Resources for a variation to the premises licence for their premises at Great Stony, High Street, Ongar; requesting a variation to:

- remove the current condition of non-sale of alcohol;
- add the sale of alcohol Monday to Sunday 12.00 to 23.00;
- add recorded music Monday to Saturday 10.00 to 24.00 and Sunday 18.00 to 24.00;
- amend the times of other licensable activities as follows:

- plays Monday to Friday 17.00 to 24.00, Saturday 14.00 to 24.00 and Sunday 18.00 to 24.00;
- Films Monday to Sunday 13.00 to 24.00;
- Live music Monday to Friday 17.00 to 24.00, Saturday 14.00 to 24.00 and Sunday 18.00 to 24.00;
- Facilities for dancing Monday to Sunday 10.00 to 23.00.

Objections had been received from 8 interested parties.

(b) Presentation of the Applicant's Case

The applicant, Rachael Loukes, said that they would not sell alcohol in the restaurant or the café but only at set functions as they were losing out on their events to raise funds. They would, of course, not sell any alcohol at children's events or any combined events.

They would not hire out the premises for birthday parties or weddings.

They would like to sell alcohol in the intermissions of their theatre performances.

(c) Questions from the Sub-Committee

Councillor Morgan asked if the whole premises was to be licensed and was told that they were.

Councillor Morgan then asked for clarification about where the main bar would be and was told that it would be situated just off the main dining room. They would also sell alcohol in the theatre. This would be available for corporate events that are held there, sometime during the day and also in the evenings.

Councillor Morgan then asked if the residents could access the bar and buy alcohol. He was told that they live at the side of the building and would only be able to buy alcohol at any specific events that they were invited to.

Councillor Gadsby wanted to know if the bar would be open every day. She was told that it would only be open for specific events.

Councillor Boyce said he thought there was a school hall in the curtilage; would this be accessible from the areas selling alcohol? Ms Loukes replied that it would not be and neither would the general public have access to these areas. The café would only sell soft drinks.

Councillor Gadsby asked who would be running the bar area and was told that it would be a Hazel Scott, their licence holder.

(d) Questions from the Objector

The objector Mr Graves said that the applicant had stated that the reason for the application was to raise money. Could she guarantee they would not hold any parties etc. there. Ms Loukes said she could guarantee that they would not hold parties and only use it for specific events.

Mr Graves asked if she could give a cast iron guarantee to this effect. Ms Loukes said she would guarantee it in writing, no parties or weddings.

Mr Graves then asked Ms Loukes to clarify what the capacity of the premises was. She replied that the Theatre held 120 people, the dining room held 50, the café held 100 and there was 50 parking spaces.

Mr Graves asked if the café set up was mentioned in their planning permission. Ms Loukes said she did not know.

He then asked if, when they held corporate events and they had spare bedrooms, would they rent them out to the people at the events. Ms Loukes said that it was possible to do this.

(e) Presentation of the Objector's case

Mr Graves said that he was speaking for the residents association as well as himself. He noted that this organisation was a charity and that it had lost a lot of money from the loss of grants etc. he believed that they were trying to re-band themselves and attract new business. They seem to be advertising themselves as a venue and hotel with 25 bedrooms. This would lead to increased noise and light pollution and had the potential to generate anti-social behaviour in the local youths. The complex housed handicapped people and under age residents and the supply of alcohol had with it the possibility of corrupting them. Some of them had severe mental illnesses that could be exacerbated by the use of alcohol.

This was a small country town and did not need this extension to this venue.

(f) Questions to the Objector from the Sub-Committee

The Sub-committee had no questions.

(g) Questions for the Objector from the Applicant

The applicant had no questions for the objector.

(h) Consideration of the Application by the Sub-Committee

The Sub-committee retired to consider the application in private session. They received no advice from officers.

RESOLVED:

That the application for Theatre Resources, Great Stony, High Street, Ongar be granted for:

- The removal of the current condition of non-sale of alcohol;
- To include the sale of alcohol Monday to Sunday 12.00 to 23.00;
- To include recorded music Monday to Saturday 10.00 to 24.00 and Sunday 18.00 to 24.00;
- To amend the times of other licensable activities as follows:
 - plays Monday to Friday 17.00 to 24.00, Saturday 14.00 to 24.00 and Sunday 18.00 to 24.00;
 - Films Monday to Sunday 13.00 to 24.00;
 - Live music Monday to Friday 17.00 to 24.00, Saturday 14.00 to 24.00 and Sunday 18.00 to 24.00;
 - Facilities for dancing Monday to Sunday 10.00 to 23.00.

The above to be granted with the inclusion of the Council's standard conditions plus an extra condition stipulating that no Birthday or Wedding Parties are to be held.

CHAIRMAN