

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Committee: Licensing Sub-Committee **Date:** 10 October 2013

Place: Council Chamber, Civic Offices, **Time:** 6.30 - 7.20 pm
High Street, Epping

Members Present: A Boyce (Chairman), Mrs R Gadsby, Mrs M Sartin and P Spencer

Other Councillors:

Apologies:

Officers Present: R Perrin (Democratic Services Assistant), R Ferriera (Assistant Solicitor) and S Kitts (Licensing Officer)

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

86. PROCEDURE FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

The Sub-Committee noted the agreed procedure for the conduct of business, and the terms of reference.

87. THE WHITE HOUSE, MARKET PLACE, ABRIDGE, ROMFORD, ESSEX RM4 1UA

The three Councillors that presided over this item were Councillors T Boyce, M Sartin and P Spencer. The Chairman welcomed the participants and requested that they introduce themselves to the Sub-Committee. In attendance on behalf of the application were Mr Robert Jordan, the applicant's solicitor and Mr & Mrs Mathialagan, the owners. In attendance objecting to the application was Mr David Bermange. The Chairman then introduced the Members and Officers present, and outlined the procedure that would be followed for the determination of the application.

The Application before the Sub-Committee

The Legal Officer informed the Sub-Committee that a new premises licence for The White House, Market Place, Abridge, Romford had been received along with representations from interested parties. The application applied for the following:

- To supply alcohol from 06:00 to 23:00 Monday to Sunday, and
- To open to the public from 06:00 to 23:00.

Following receipt of the application, the Council had received representations from:

- Essex Police;
- Five representations from local residents;
- Lambourne Parish Council;
- Essex County Fire & Rescue Service;
- Children's Safeguarding Service; and

- Essex County Council Trading Standards.

Presentation of the Applicant's Case

Mr Jordan, the applicants' agent advised the Sub-Committee that the applicant wished to amend the opening hours and the sale of alcohol to 08:00 to 21:00, Monday to Sunday, Christmas Day and Bank Holidays. Mr Jordan advised that the applicant was willing to comply with the conditions that Essex Police's had requested regarding CCTV being installed, maintained and stored for 21 days.

Mr Jordan advised the Sub-Committee that staff were trained in relation to the sale of alcohol and the 'Challenge 25' policy would be implemented within the premises. All employees were aware of the consequences of selling alcohol to under age customers and the prevention of anti sociable behaviour that could be created from under age drinkers. Staff would also be trained in the importance of proxy sales of alcohol and all groups of young people purchasing alcohol would be ID to prevent proxy sales. The applicant would also display signage for the 'Challenge 25' policy, CCTV, Proxy Sales and a leave quietly notice. Regarding the refusal and incident log, they would be checked every four months by the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS).

Mr Jordan advised that the application should be granted as the objections were in relation to other premises around the vicinity and should not be attributed to this application.

Questions for the Applicant from the Sub-Committee

Councillor Boyce asked whether the applicant would be willing to change the storage of CCTV recordings for 31 days rather than the requested 21 days. Mr Jordan advised that the applicant would be happy to amend the application.

Councillor Sartin enquired how many members of staff were employed and what training was involved. Mr Jordan advised that there were two part time members of staff and Mr & Mrs Mathialagan, who would provide the training.

Councillor Sartin enquired about the entrances to the shop as it appeared there were two entrances. Mr Mathialagan advised that the smaller door on the shop floor plan was actually a store room door and not an entrance.

Councillor Spencer enquired how many times the 'Challenge 25' policy had been used. Mr Mathialagan advised that in his other premises he had only had cause to use it a few times.

Councillor Sartin asked how the applicants would discourage anti sociable behaviour. Mr Mathialagan explained that he knew most of his customers and he had sixteen years of experience from his other business. His wife would be training as the DPS and he had applied for his personal license and held a certificate of training from 1993.

Questions from Objectors to the Applicant

Mr Bermange had no questions for the applicant.

Presentation of the Objector's Case

Mr Bermange advised that as a local resident he had no objection to the store itself, but he saw no advantage to another premises selling alcohol till 9pm. The premise was also in an unsuitable place for traffic and vehicles stopping. In Theydon Bois they had a no street light policy to prevent the anti sociable behaviour and loitering. He advised that local residents would prefer the sale of fresh breads and cheeses rather than alcohol.

The legal officer pointed out that Abridge did not have a Cumulative Impact Policy which restricted the number of licensed premises within an area and the parking issues would be a Highways Authority issue.

Questions for the Objector from the Sub-Committee

The sub-Committee had no further questions.

Questions from the Applicant to the Objector

The applicant had no further questions.

Closing Statement from the Objector

Mr Bermange stated that he was happy that the opening hours and sales of alcohol had been reduced to 21:00 Monday to Sunday but he was still concerned about the effects of anti sociable behaviour and the potential loitering around the area.

Closing Statement from the Applicant

Mr Jordan advised the Sub-Committee that no objections had been received from relevant authorities and no issues had been raised regarding the store. The applicants had reduced the opening hours and sale of alcohol and felt that the application was reasonable.

Consideration of the Application by the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee retired to consider the application. They received no advice from officers.

RESOLVED:

That the application for the White House, Market Place, Abridge for a premises license be granted according to the operating schedule submitted with the modified hours and additional condition as follows;

- Opening hours -Monday – Sunday 08:00 – 21:00 including Christmas Day and Bank Holidays;
- Sale of alcohol - Monday – Sunday 08:00 – 21:00 including Christmas Day and Bank Holidays; and
- That CCTV covering the premises would be installed and maintained. It would be recording at all times the premises were open to the public and would be kept in an unedited format for a period not less than 31 days. The images were to be made available to Police, Local Authority or Trading Standards for inspection upon lawful request.

88. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Sub-committee noted that there were no items of business on the agenda that necessitated the exclusion of the public and press from the meeting.

CHAIRMAN