

LICENSING PANEL

Tuesday, 26 March 2013 (1:40 pm – 4:05 pm)

PRESENT:

Councillor M Hughes (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Broadhurst and Mrs Welsh

1. THE APPLICATION

The Clerk outlined the application for a premises licence.

Frank Fender of FJF Licensing Solutions, Mr Barry Thompson the proposed DPS, Mr John Gordon the Secretary for the premises and Clive Lewis Company Secretary attended on behalf of the Kings Court Masonic Centre. Mr Fender outlined that the premises licence would be for the ground floor of the premises only. There was capacity for up to 120 persons to attend an event in the function room, meeting room and bar. They were intending to hold functions such as weddings, business conferences etc but had no intention to open to the public other than for prearranged events. Events could only be agreed once an application for a specific event had been agreed, and terms and conditions had to be agreed and signed for and would be rigorously imposed. It was confirmed that all conditions requested by the Police had been agreed.

It was also confirmed that there were 50 parking spaces to the front of the premises with a further 50 spaces in other parts of the grounds. Mr Fender advised the Panel that should the Premises Licence be agreed the current Club Licence Certificate would be surrendered. Also there is air conditioning within the function room making closed windows and doors in the Summer season quite possible without adverse affects on the patrons.

2. REPRESENTATIONS FROM RESIDENTS

Residents attending were: Mr and Mrs Taylor, Mr Steve Day, Mrs Ann Day, Jerry and Carol Tack, Mr and Mrs Cordell, Darren Rayner, Gilliam Qualch, David Rumney, Mr and Mrs Wasenczuk, Mrs Hutchinson and Mr and Mrs Smith. Their objections included:

- Their doubts that attendees would be monitored;
- Their view that residents of Hillside did not know about the proposed changes
- The disturbance caused by cars leaving late at night
- Noise disturbance especially when live bands were playing

- Their opinion that the public were more likely to over indulge in alcohol with the resultant anti social behaviour and noise disturbance
- Disturbance from BBQs in the Summer months
- Their suspicions that this was an attempt to convert the premises to commercial licensed premises and their fears that the hours of opening might be increased.
- Floodlights that shine into neighbouring houses

3. THE DECISION

The Panel withdrew from the meeting to make their decision and invited the Clerk and Legal Adviser to join them.

The following decision was read out to the hearing when the Panel reconvened:

The panel has considered very carefully all the evidence submitted both in the formal representations made and given orally today.

The Panel has considered the operating schedule submitted by the applicant, the Council's Licensing Policy, all other statutory guidance and the additional conditions (as well as mandatory conditions) and consequently in the circumstances believes that the application should be granted subject to:

Hours:

Sale of alcohol and regulated entertainment;

Sunday to Thursday 1000 to 2230 premises to close at 2300
Friday and Saturday 1000 to 2300 premises to close at 2330

No drink or refreshments to be taken outside the premises after 2100.

All windows and doors shall be closed at all times during regulated entertainment.

A noise limiter shall be installed at the premises and be used whenever live or recorded music is being provided by way of regulated entertainment.

A steward will patrol the outside area to monitor noise from regulated entertainment in addition to noise from patrons using the premises when regulated entertainment is being provided.

As well as conditions agreed with the Police and highlighted in the application.

The applicant is requested to adjust the external lighting to prevent light nuisance to neighbouring residential properties.

The full details of the decision together with reasons for granting and all the conditions imposed will be forwarded to all the parties and posted on the Council's website as soon as possible.

In reaching its decision the Panel is mindful that the provisions for review of licenses under the Licensing Act 2003 will allow the Authority to consider any further complaints in relation to this premises should the application result in increased disturbance to the amenity of residents

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