

COUNCIL MEETING – 28 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

23 October 2017

Present: Councillors Simmons, (Chairman), Ekins and Scarborough.

Also present: Miss J Thomas, (Director), Mrs A Wilcox, (Principal Environmental Health Manager), Mr R Essex, (Solicitor/ DistrictLaw), Mr M O'Donnell, (Licensing Officer) and Mrs C A Mundy, (Democratic Services Officer).

Also in attendance were Mr N Moore, Director of Red Box Pub Co. Limited and Miss L Fernandez, Manager and Designated Premises Supervisor at the Cutting Room.

The meeting commenced at 10.15am.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Councillor Simmons be appointed as chairman for this sub-committee.

There were no members of the public in attendance.

2. APPLICATION FOR VARIATION TO A PREMISES LICENCE

The annexed circulated report of the director was received in relation to an application for a variation to the premises licence for the Cutting Room, 7 Park Road, Wellingborough.

Mrs Wilcox, Principal Environmental Health Manager, reported that an application for a variation to the current premises licence had been submitted to extend the hours that the licence authorises, for the carrying out of licensable activities; and to change the name of the licensed premises from the Cutting Room to The Palace.

One representation had been received from an interested party who raised concern that the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance were not likely to be met and suggested that additional conditions be added.

Northamptonshire Police had initially made a representation but had subsequently withdrawn this having held discussions with Red Box. No representations had been received from other responsible authorities.

The report detailed the relevant sections of the licensing policy to be considered when determining the application along with the licensing objectives that needed to be met. The extended licensing hours were also detailed within the report which included extending the opening hours on a Thursday to 3am and on a Friday and Saturday until 6am.

The chairman thanked Mrs Wilcox for her presentation and asked Mr Moore if he wished to say anything.

Mr Moore addressed the committee and explained that his company, Red Box, had purchased the premises in December 2014. Since then he had ensured that two new CCTV systems had been installed and Miss Fernandez had been employed as the manager and designated premises supervisor. She liaised with professional 'SIA' registered doormen each week to ensure that the sufficient number of doormen were deployed for the anticipated trade expected. He explained that on a Thursday there would normally be two doormen, on a Friday two or four and on a Saturday, which was the busiest trading day, there would be between four and eight on duty.

He found the representation from the landlord of the tenant living in a nearby shop a little perplexing as he was aware that the person living there worked in the night-time trade environment and this would not affect him. He did not find the additional conditions suggested acceptable.

Members asked questions regarding the operation of the premises, whether any licensing objectives had been breached, and whether there would be a need to employ additional doormen on a Thursday and Friday, should an extension to the licensing hours be approved.

Mr Moore clarified that there were sometimes issues with customers who caused problems but there was a 'no nonsense' approach operating and these people were removed from the premises. There had been no breaches of the licensing objectives. The CCTV systems provided good coverage for the whole of the inside of the premises and also outside, including the designated smoking area. The doormen also patrolled the inside and outside of the premises and acted as a deterrent; they helped with crowd control and stayed until everyone left at closing time. He also clarified that whilst the extension was being applied for, opening times would be driven by people, so would not be used, for example, every Saturday. The extended times would be mostly used for events, such as Halloween, Christmas and New Year celebrations. Risk assessments for such events were carried out by the manager and this ensured that the correct number of doormen would be appointed.

Members also asked how the public entered and exited the premises.

Mr Moore clarified that entry and exit was through the main doors leading into Church Street. Smokers also used this exit to go to the cordoned off area. The Park Street entrance was only used for extracting trouble makers.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 10.45am.

The meeting re-convened at 10.55am.

Decision:

RESOLVED that the variation to the licence be granted.

Reason:

The sub-committee had carefully considered the objections raised and are satisfied that the issues raised are sufficiently regulated by the terms and conditions of the licence.

The meeting concluded at 11.00am.

Chairman

