

LICENSING HEARING

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Hearing held on 26 June 2012 commencing at 10.37 am

Present: Cllrs. Orridge and Raikes.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Walshe.

Also Present:	Mr. F. Thangarajah	-	Applicant's Representative
	Mr. J. F. Dillon	-	Objector's Representative
	Mrs. L. Leeds	-	Licensing Officer
	Mrs. H. Langford	-	Legal Adviser
	Ms V. Etheridge	-	Democratic Services Officer

1. Appointment Of Chairman

Resolved: That Cllr. Orridge be appointed Chairman of the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. Quantum House, High Street, Farningham, Kent

The Hearing gave consideration to a report by the Community and Planning Services Director giving details of an application under the Licensing Act 2003 for a premises licence at Quantum House, High Street, Farningham, Kent DA4 0DT. It was noted that objections had been received and that accordingly the application had been referred to the Sub-Committee for determination.

The Hearing heard from the applicant who gave a brief introduction to his background explaining that he currently owned another shop in Wilmington. He intended the shop to be a village convenience store. He had visited the village around thirty eight times at different times of the day and had not seen any of the concerns raised by the objectors, and queried why their concerns had not been raised with the relevant authorities.

In response to questions from the Sub committee and an objector's representative, he advised that he intended to close the shop at 20:00 hours, Mondays to Saturdays and therefore not sell alcohol after that time. He also advised that there would be one member of staff in the mornings and two members of staff from 15:00 hours to closing. The CCTV that would be used would consist of about eight cameras in total and the footage would be kept for 31 days. It could also be viewed remotely. He further advised that he operated the Challenge 25 policy and that more expensive/high volume alcohols were kept behind the counter. He did not promote bulk sales of alcohol and would speak and if necessary refuse to serve any customer he thought might be buying alcohol by proxy, or who appeared intoxicated.

The Hearing heard from a representative of one of the objectors, the owners and licence holders of a local public house. The Manager had hoped to attend but had sent his apologies. He outlined his clients' main concerns which included under age drinking and disruptive behaviour and the potential detrimental affect on village life. However these

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concerns had been made when the application appeared to be for sales until 22:00 hours, but the applicant was now saying that the shop would close at 20:00 hours. However, he suggested that licence hours should be further reduced to 18:00 hours.

In response the applicant stated that in his experience far more problems were caused by a shop being open longer than it's licensed hours, which could lead to having to close earlier which in turn defeated the objective of being a local convenience store.

At 11.15 a.m. the Hearing Members and the Council's Legal Advisor withdrew to consider the issues raised.

At 11.48 a.m. the Hearing Members and the Council's Legal Advisor returned to the Council Chamber.

The Chairman informed the Hearing that the Sub-Committee had had regard to the representations made by the Applicant and interested parties particularly in relation to proxy sales, persons who had been refused alcohol in local public houses and the suggestion of further reduced hours, as well as the guidance issued under s 183 of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Council's Statement of Licensing policy. The Sub Committee noted that the Police had made no objection to the application and that the Applicant would implement an age verification scheme.

It was therefore unanimously,

Resolved: That a Premises Licence in respect of Quantum House, High Street, Farningham, Kent, subject to the conditions contained in the licence attached as an appendix to these minutes, be granted.

THE MEETING WAS CONCLUDED AT 11.50 am

Chairman

Notice of determination for application premises licence

To: Mr. Francis Thangarajah

Of: Quantum House, High Street, Farningham, Kent. DA4 0DT

Ref: 12/01249/LAPRE

Sevenoaks District Council being the licensing authority, on the 18 April 2012 received an application for a premises licence in respect of premises known as Quantum House, High Street, Farningham, Kent DA4 0DT.

On Tuesday 26 June 2012 there being valid representations which were received and had not been withdrawn, a hearing was held to consider these representations, and having considered them the Licensing Sub-Committee determined as follows:

To grant the Premises Licence:

Section M: To allow sale of alcohol on Monday to Saturday from 09:00 until 20:00 hours and Sunday from 09:00 until 18:00 hours for consumption off the premises.

To add the conditions on the Licence as follows:

1. That CCTV covers the area where alcohol is displayed for sale to the side of the sales counter, to ensure that all areas where alcohol is displayed for sale are monitored at all times, and that recordings are kept for a minimum of 30 days.

This licence granted at the Hearing is effective from 26 June 2012.

Dated: 26 June 2012.

Signed

Chair – Licensing Hearing

Signed

Designation –Licensing Officer

Please address any communications to:

Licensing Regime
Community and Planning Services
Council Offices
PO Box 182
Argyle Road
Sevenoaks
Kent TN13 1GP

Note: Pursuant to Part 1 of Schedule 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 as amended, any party eligible to appeal must appeal to a magistrates' court within 21 days beginning with the day on which the appellant was notified by the licensing authority of the decision appealed against.

