

**LICENSING ACT 2003 NEW PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION : The Bridges,  
Horton Road, South Darenth DA4 9AX**

**Licensing Sub Committee – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 10.30am**

**Report of:** Chief Officer Planning & Regulatory Services

**Status:** For Decision

**Key Decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Margot McArthur

**Contact Officer:** Susan Lindsey, Ext. 7491

**Recommendation to Licensing Sub-Committee:**

The Sub Committee is asked to determine the application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended), Sevenoaks District Council Statement of Licensing Policy, and the Home Office Guidance issued per Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, whilst having due regard to the applicant's submissions and relevant representations.

**Reason for recommendation:**

A new application has been received for a new Premises Licence pursuant to Section 17 Licensing Act 2003. Two (2) representations have been made.

**Introduction**

1. An application has been made to Sevenoaks District Council for a new Premises Licence at The Bridges, Horton Road, South Darenth DA4 9AX (**Appendix A**)
2. Plans submitted with the application are attached to this report at **Appendix B**
3. During the consultation period a total of six (6) representations were received which resulted in the applicant agreeing to remove certain 'non standard timings' from the scope of the application. This resulted in four of the six representations being withdrawn.
4. The amended licensable activities which now form part of the application are as follows:

Allow the sale of alcohol for consumption both on and off the premises Monday to Sunday from 12 noon to 11pm with non standard timings on New Years Eve until 1am the following day.

Hours the premises are open to the public Monday to Sunday from 12 noon to 11.30pm with non standard timings on New Years Eve until 1.30am the following day.

5. For the attention of Members, a site plan showing the area surrounding the licensed premises is at **Appendix C**.
6. The applicant was required to advertise the application by placing an A4 pale blue sign at the premises, and also to advertise in a local newspaper to inform the public of the application.
7. A consultation period took place between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Responsible Authorities were consulted as part of the process. The applicant conformed to all requirements in accordance with The Licensing Act 2003 (Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates) Regulations 2005.

## **Background**

8. Looking at the online history of this premises, the earliest information dates back to the 1970's when it was called The Sun pub. This premises has continued to be a licensed venue, although struggled through the 'pandemic' years. The most recent premises licence was surrendered in January 2023.

## **Representation received from Responsible Authorities:**

9. The following Statutory Bodies (described as Responsible Authorities by the Licensing Act 2003) were consulted about this application

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Kent Police             | No comment made |
| Environmental Health    | No objection    |
| Kent Fire               | No comment made |
| Child Protection        | No comment made |
| Trading Standards       | No comment made |
| Health & Safety         | No objection    |
| Planning                | No objection    |
| Public Health           | No comment made |
| Home Office Immigration | No comment made |

## **Representations received from others**

10. Six representations were initially made against this application. After consultation with the applicant, it was proposed that all non standard timings (apart from New Years Eve) would be withdrawn from the scope of the application. On the basis of this, four of the representations were withdrawn, leaving 2 representations which are attached to this report at **Appendix D**.

11. At the time of writing this report, Licensing Officers have received no responses to communication with the two representations (shown in Appendix D) in relation to the amended activities shown at (4) above.

### Licensing Sub Committee Considerations

12. In determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives, the Sub Committee must give appropriate weight to:
13. The steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives  
The representations presented by all parties  
The Home Office Guidance issued under section 182 Licensing Act 2003  
The Sevenoaks District Council Statement of Licensing Policy  
Any other relevant legislation

The Licensing Act 2003 requires representations to address the four Licensing Objectives:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm

A representation is a 'relevant representation' if it is about the likely effect of the grant of the licence on the promotion of the licensing objectives. The objector must establish that such a consequence is a *likely* effect of the grant (i.e. more probable than not).

14. Sevenoaks District Council has produced a Statement of Licensing Policy in order to comply with its duties and powers under the Licensing Act 2003. A link to this Policy is in the Background Papers section at the end of this report.

The aims of the Policy are:

- To minimise nuisance and disturbance to the public through the licensing process
- To help build a fair and prosperous society that properly balances the rights of people and their communities
- To integrate its aims and objectives with other initiatives, policies plus strategies that will reduce crime and disorder, encourage tourism, encourage an early evening and night time economy which is viable, sustainable and socially responsible, reduce alcohol misuse, encourage employment, encourage the self-sufficiency of local communities, reduce the burden of unnecessary regulation on business, and encourage and promote, live music, dancing and theatre for the wider cultural benefit of communities generally.

15. The Licensing Sub Committee should be mindful of requirements and responsibilities placed on them by other legislation, in addition to those contained within the Licensing Act 2003. These include, but are not limited

to, having due regard to the Equality Act 2010 and the Human rights Act 1998.

16. The Licensing Sub Committee is asked to note the procedures relating to this hearing which are contained within The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearing Regulations) 2005 (as amended). A link to these Regulations are in the Background Papers section at the end of this report.

### **Options**

- 15 When considering this application for a new premises licence, the following options are available to the Sub Committee:
  - Grant a licence in the same terms as it was applied for
  - Grant a licence, but modify or add conditions as appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
  - Grant a licence, but modify the hours of licensable activity as appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
  - Reject the application.

### **Right of Appeal**

- 16 Under Section 181 and Schedule 5 of the Licensing Act 2003, there is a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court in respect of premises licence applications. This right of appeal is open to both the applicant and to any person who has made relevant representation. The appeal application must be made within 21 days of the written notification of the Sub Committee's decision.

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

A decision made by the Sub Committee may be appealed by any party to the proceedings of a Magistrates Court. Costs associated with this matter and incurred by any party, may in certain circumstances be awarded against the Council.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

This Hearing is regulated by the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005.

The decision is to be made with regard to the Licensing Act 2003, Secretary of State's Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy. Where decision departs from the Policy or Guidance, the departure must be directed solely at the attainment of the licensing objectives, and such departure must be supported by clear and cogent reasons.

#### Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

## Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A – Premises Licence Application

Appendix B – Plans associated with premises licence application

Appendix C – Site plan showing surrounding area

Appendix D – 2 x representations

### **Background Papers**

[Licensing Act 2003](#)

[Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 Licensing Act 2003](#)

[Sevenoaks District Council Statement of Licensing Policy](#)

[The Licensing Act 2003 \(Hearings\) Regulation 2005](#)

**Richard Morris**  
**Chief Officer Planning & Regulatory Services**