

LICENSING PANEL
(Licensing Act 2003 Functions)

Agenda Item 120
Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Application for a New Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for Nine Rooms Karaoke, 9-12 Middle Street, Brighton, BN1 1AL

Date of Meeting: 2 February 2010

Report of: Assistant Director Public Safety

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Wards Affected: Regency

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To determine an application for a New Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for Nine Rooms Karaoke.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To determine an application for a New Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for Nine Rooms Karaoke.

2.2.1 The application is for:

A New Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003.

The application proposes:

This premise is being converted on the ground floor only to specifically operate as a Karaoke Entertainment venue with several individual rooms for small groups of customers to enter and perform and a general reception area with the whole premise area being approved for the sale of alcohol, situated in Middle Street near and adjacent to other licensed premises.

- 2.2.2 Part P of the application is detailed at Appendix A and the new plan of the premises is attached at Appendix B.

2.3 Summary table of proposed activities.

	Proposed
B Films	Indoors Monday – Friday 17:00 – 03:30 Saturday 14:00 – 04:00 Sunday 14:00 – 24:00 Films of musical acts will be shown on screens both to the public and in individual rooms with words on screen for the karaoke participants to sing along to.
E Live music	Indoors Monday – Friday 17:00 – 03:30 Saturday 14:00 – 04:00 Sunday 14:00 – 24:00 Live Music will consist of singing by the participants to the recorded music played.
F Recorded Music	Indoors Monday – Friday 17:00 – 03:30 Saturday 14:00 – 04:00 Sunday 14:00 – 03:30 There will be a general system of amplified music playing in the public are and additionally each of the 6 Karaoke rooms will have its own individual system playing music for participants to sing along to through a microphone.
H Anything of a similar description within e, f ,or g	Indoors Monday – Friday 17:00 – 03:30 Saturday 14:00 – 04:00 Sunday 14:00 – 24:00 There will be 6 individual rooms where participants will be able to sing along to screened musical acts with recorded music through the microphones plugged into the amplified sound systems.
I Provision of facilities for making music	Indoors Monday – Friday 17:00 – 03:30 Saturday 14:00 – 04:00 Sunday 14:00 – 24:00 As well as a general sound system playing background and recorded music, there will be 6 separate supplied amplified systems one in each room with the ability to play recorded music to which participants can sing along to with microphone inputs. Each sound system will be fitted with its own noise limitation to ensure there is no interference with neighbours the nearest of which will be in the neighbouring rooms.
L Late Night Refreshment	Indoors Monday – Friday 23:00 – 03:30 Saturday 23:00 – 04:00 Sunday 23:00 – 24:00 The only late night refreshments intended are hot drinks.

M Supply of Alcohol	On the Premises Monday – Friday 17:00 – 03:00 Saturday 14:00 – 03:30 Sunday 14:00 – 23:30
O Hours premises are open to public	Monday – Friday 17:00 – 03:30 Saturday 14:00 – 04:00 Sunday 14:00 – 24:00

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 Cumulative Impact: The premises falls within the Cumulative Impact Area (“The Area”) in the Brighton city centre (see paragraphs Prevention of Crime and Disorder 2.4.10 – 2.4.14 and Appendices C - E).

3.2.1 Representations received

Details of the representations made are notified to applicants on receipt by the Licensing Authority using a pro-forma. A summary appears below:

3.2.2 Eight representations were received. They were received from local residents, a resident association, Sussex Police and The Environmental Protection Team.

3.2.3 Representations received had concerns relating to Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Cumulative Impact, Prevention of Public Nuisance, and Protection of Children from Harm.

3.2.4 A representation was received from the Environmental Protection team which included conditions relating to prevention of Public Nuisance. Their representation was withdrawn as the applicant agreed to the conditions and amended the operating schedule accordingly.

3.2.5 Full details of the representations and agreement are attached at Appendix F. A map detailing the addresses of the persons who have submitted the representations and their location in relation to the premises is attached at Appendix G. Please note Relevant authorities are not included.

4. CONSULTATION:

Commentary on licensing policy

4.1 The following extracts from Brighton & Hove Licensing Policy are considered relevant to this application and numbered as they appear in the policy:

General

- 1.2 The licensing objectives are:-
- (a) Prevention of crime and disorder;
 - (b) Public safety;
 - (c) Prevention of public nuisance;
 - (d) Protection of children from harm.
- 1.3 Licensing is about regulating licensable activities on licensed premises, by qualifying clubs and at temporary events. Any conditions attached to various authorisations will be focussed on matters which are in the control of individual licensees and others with relevant authorisations, i.e. the premises and its vicinity.
- 1.5 Each application will be given individual consideration on its merit. Nothing in this policy shall undermine the right of any individual to apply under the terms of the Act for a variety of permissions and to have any such application considered on its individual merits. Similarly, nothing in this policy shall override the right of any person to make representations on an application or seek a review of a licence or certificate where provision has been made for them to do so in the Act.
- 1.15 Licensing law is not the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from the licensed premises and, therefore, beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or authorisation concerned. Licensing is about the control of licensed premises, qualifying clubs and temporary events within the terms of the Act, and the conditions attached to licences, certificates and permissions will be focused on matters which are within the control of the licensee and will centre on the premises themselves and their immediate vicinity. When considering these terms and conditions the licensing authority will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned.
- In respect of the prevention of crime and disorder**
- 2.2 The licensing authority acknowledges that training and good management play a key part in preventing alcohol and drug related crime. The authority recommends that all licensees of on-licensed premises attend training programmes which will raise their awareness of the issues relating to drugs and violence in licensed premises, and that suitable training be extended to all bar staff and door staff so that drug dealers and users will be deterred from using licensed premises for illegal

purposes and that incidents of violence in licensed premises will be reduced. Licensees are also encouraged to attend training programmes to help identify children at risk and issues of basic child protection.

- 2.3 It is expected that the designated premises supervisor (DPS) will spend a significant amount of time on the premises. When not on the premises it will be essential that the DPS is contactable, particularly should problems arise with the premises.
- 2.4 Cumulative impact – the licensing authority may receive representations from either a responsible authority or an interested party that the premises will give rise to a negative cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives. This should not, however, be confused with ‘need’ which relates more to the commercial demand for a particular type of premises. The issue of ‘need’ is therefore a matter for the market to decide and can, in some circumstances, be a matter for planning consideration; need therefore does not form part of this licensing policy statement.
 - 2.4.1 Special Policy - Cumulative Impact is defined as the potential impact upon the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area.
 - 2.4.2 The licensing authority after careful consideration has determined that the concentration of licensed premises in a small area of the city centre is causing problems of crime and disorder and public nuisance, and that therefore an approach to Cumulative Impact is necessary as part of its statement of licensing policy. This special policy was adopted for inclusion within the statement of licensing policy by Council on 13 March 2008.
 - 2.4.3 This special policy will refer to a Cumulative Impact area (“the Area”) in the Brighton city centre, a detailed plan of which is attached at **Appendix C** of the Statement of Licensing Policy (SoLP).
 - 2.4.4 The effect of this special policy is that applications for new premises licences or club premises certificates within the Area, or variations which are likely to add to the existing Cumulative Impact, will normally be refused following relevant representations. This presumption can be rebutted by the applicant if they can show that their application will have no negative Cumulative Impact.
 - 2.4.5 Any variation application will potentially come within this special policy, including those for extensions of hours, subject always to

an applicant satisfying the authority that there will be no adverse effect on Cumulative Impact.

- 2.4.6 This special policy also applies to all new premises licences and club premises certificates, for example pubs, off-licences, restaurants and take-away establishments.
- 2.4.7 The presumption of refusal does not relieve responsible authorities or interested parties of the need to make a relevant representation. If there are no representations the licensing authority must grant the application in terms consistent with the operating schedule submitted.
- 2.4.8 Furthermore, this special policy is not absolute. Upon receipt of a relevant representation, the licensing authority will always consider the circumstances of each case and whether it is justified in departing from its special policy in the light of the individual circumstances of the case. If an application is unlikely to add to the Cumulative Impact of the Area, it may be granted. The Impact can be expected to be different for premises with different styles and characteristics. For example, while a large nightclub or high capacity public house might add to problems of Cumulative Impact, a small restaurant or theatre may not.
- 2.4.9 If the licensing authority decides that an application should be refused, it will still need to show that the grant of the application would undermine the promotion of one of the licensing objectives and that conditions would be ineffective in preventing the problems involved.
- 2.4.10 Special Stress Areas – **Appendix D** of the SoLP details two areas of the Brighton city centre which border the Cumulative Impact area at **Appendix C** and which are deemed areas of special concern in terms of the levels of crime and disorder and public nuisance experienced within them.
- 2.4.11 While it is not considered appropriate at this stage to include these areas within the main impact area as such, these Special Stress Areas (SSAs) are of concern to the licensing authority because of the relatively high levels of crime and disorder and nuisance experienced.
- 2.4.12 New and varied applications for premises and club premises certificates within SSAs will not be subject to the presumption of refusal, but operators will be expected to pay special attention when drawing up their operating schedules and to make positive proposals to ensure that their operation will not add to the problems faced in these areas. **Appendix E** of the SoLP sets out a list of potential measures the licensing authority considers

may be appropriate. These may be more or less appropriate depending upon the style of operation applied for.

2.4.13 On receipt of any application in SSAs, where a relevant representation has been made, the licensing authority will scrutinise the application carefully and will look at the measures proposed in the operating schedules and compare them to the measures set out in **Appendix E**. Where discretion has been engaged, those applications which fall short may be refused or conditions applied to comply with policy measures.

2.4.14 The Licensing Authority will keep the Cumulative Impact Area and Special Stress Areas under review. Should the authority find that problems of crime and disorder or nuisance are not improving, or are worsening; the Special Policy will be reviewed with a view to bringing the SSAs into the Cumulative Impact Area. If it is found that the above problems are receding the Special Policy may be reviewed with a view to revising the areas' boundaries.

2.5.1 Diversity of premises

This attempts to ensure that there is a mix of the different types of licensed premises, particularly in areas where there is a high density of such premises. It will provide resilience against changing trends and attract a more diverse range of customers from different age groups, different communities of interest and with different attitudes to alcohol consumption. It gives potential for positively changing the ambience of the city or an area of it. This in turn may have a positive effect in reducing people's fear of crime and in increasing the number of evening visitors to the city centre. The Community Safety Strategy recognises that too many single uses in a confined area and patrons turning out onto the streets at the same time, may create opportunities for violent crime and public disorder and therefore encourages mixed use venues, varying hours of business and a wider age balance.

2.5.4 Geographical spread

Spreading the siting of large venues (those with a capacity in excess of 250 people) across the city reduces the problems of dispersing large numbers of people leaving premises in close proximity at the same time. Taxi and bus queues can be flash points for public disorder and violence. A good geographical spread coupled with increased taxi ranks and bus stops near venues reduces waiting time and the potential for crime and disorder.

2.5.5 Care, control and supervision of premises

The effective management and supervision of a venue is a key factor in reducing crime and disorder, both within it and outside.

The Police will consider the applicants, objecting to the application where appropriate. The Police will suggest crime prevention measures in relation to, for example, the internal layout of the premises, close circuit television, help points, lighting and security staff. The Police may ask for conditions which support such measures to be imposed when planning or licensing applications are granted, e.g. type of licence, capacity, opening time restrictions.

- 2.8 Enforcement issues will be considered in the light of any relevant enforcement policies and close links will be sought between all enforcing authorities, e.g. through the use of intelligence sharing and strategy groups. Such protocols may lead to the targeting of agreed high risk and problem premises whilst permitting a lighter touch approach in respect of well run premises.

In respect of the prevention of public nuisance

- 4.1 In determining applications for new and varied licences, regard will be had to the location of premises, the type and construction of the building and the likelihood of nuisance and disturbance to the amenity of nearby residents by reason of noise from within the premises, or as a result of people entering or leaving the premises or from individuals or groups of customers gathered outside (e.g. in order to smoke).
- 4.3 Applications for new licences or for the extension in size of licensed premises should not normally be granted if the premises will use amplified or live music and operate within or abutting premises containing residential accommodation except that occupied by staff of the licensed premises. A condition may be imposed on new licences that entertainment noise shall be inaudible in any residence.
- 4.4 Installation of sound limiting equipment and sound insulation may be required to minimise disturbance to the amenity of nearby residents by reason of noise from the licensed premises.
- 4.5 Staggered closing times will not be used to combat binge drinking disorder and antisocial behaviour. Zoning will be avoided. A general principle of later opening so that customers can leave for natural reasons, slowly over longer periods will be promoted, to prevent unnatural concentrations of people. The location of violent attacks, anti-social behaviour and hate crime or related incidents may be used to justify closing times.
- 4.7 In determining applications for new licences or extensions in hours or terminal hours of licensed premises, regard will be had to late night public transport availability and location of taxi ranks to aid dispersal of customers.

- 4.8 Regard will be had to any history or likelihood of nuisance. Generally, favourable consideration will be given to applications for later hours in the city centre and on busy main roads. Powers may be exercised to impose conditions as to hours of opening in order to avoid unreasonable disturbance to residents of the neighbourhood.

In respect of the protection of children from harm

- 5.1 Licensees should note the concern of the authority that drink related disorder frequently involves under 18's. To prevent illegal purchases of alcohol by such persons, the committee recommend that all licensees should work with a suitable 'proof of age' scheme and ensure that appropriate identification is requested prior to entry and when requesting alcohol, where appropriate. Appropriate forms of identification are currently considered to be those recommended by police, trading standards officers and their partners in the licensing strategy group.
- 5.2 It is the committee's expectation that all staff responsible for the sale of intoxicating liquor receive information and advice on the licensing laws relating to children and young persons in licensed premises. Licensed premises staff are required to take reasonable steps to prevent under age sales. The licensing authority will not seek to limit the access of children to any premises unless it is necessary for the prevention of physical, moral or psychological harm to them.
- 5.4 The licensing authority will not seek to require that access to any premises is given to children at all times – under normal circumstances this will be left to the discretion of the licensee. The following areas give rise to concern in respect of children, who will normally be excluded from premises:-
- where there have been convictions for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for underage drinking;
 - with a known association with drug taking or dealing;
 - where there is a strong element of gambling on the premises;
 - where entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is commonly provided;
 - where premises are used primarily or exclusively for the sale and consumption of alcohol and there is little or no seating for patrons.

Options may include:-

- limitations on the hours when children may be present;
- age limitations (below 18);

- limitations or exclusions when certain activities are taking place;
- requirements for an accompanying adult;
- full exclusion of people under 18.

5.5 Licensees of premises giving film exhibitions will be expected to include in their operating schedules arrangements for restricting children from viewing age restricted films. Such premises will be subject to a mandatory condition requiring that access will be restricted to only those who meet the required age limit in accordance with any certificate granted by the British Board of Film Classification, or in specific cases where such certificates have not been granted, the licensing authority. The licensing authority does not intend to adopt its own system of film classification.

5.6 Where children are expected to attend a public entertainment, appropriate adult supervision will be required to control the access and egress of children and to protect them from harm. This will normally be an adult member of staff for every 100 children. Where the entertainment is music and dancing, 2 persons, licensed by the Security Industry Authority (door supervisors) should be employed for every 100 children. Nothing in this policy shall seek to override child supervision requirements contained in other legislation or regulations. The licensing authority recognises the Children, Families and Schools section as being competent to advise on matters relating to the protection of children from harm.

Strategic Integration

6.5 Specific conditions may be attached to premises licences to reflect local crime prevention strategies. Such conditions may include the use of closed circuit television cameras, the provision and use of shatterproof drinking receptacles, drugs and weapons search policy, the use of registered door supervisors, specialised lighting requirements, hours of opening.

6.7 This policy avoids duplication with other regulatory regimes wherever possible.

In respect of Live music, Dancing and Theatre

7.1 This policy recognises the need to encourage live music, dancing and theatre for the wider cultural benefits of the community generally. In addressing such issues the potential for limited disturbance in neighbourhoods will always be carefully balanced with these wider benefits, particularly for children. The impact of licensing on regulated entertainment, particularly live music and dancing, will be monitored. Where indications are that such events are being deterred by licensing

requirements, the policy will be revisited with a view to investigating how such situations might be reversed.

7.2 The Licensing Committee represents the general interests of a community. In determining what conditions should be attached to licences and certificates as a matter of necessity for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The Licensing authority is aware of the need to avoid measures which deter live music, dancing and theatre - such as imposing indirect costs out of proportion to the income of the licence holder and to the risks presented. Only necessary, proportionate and reasonable licensing conditions should impose any restrictions on such events.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

5.1 Financial Implications:

The licensing Act 2003 provides for fees to be payable to the licensing authority in respect of the discharge of their functions. The fee levels are set centrally at a level to allow licensing authorities to fully recover the costs of administration, inspection and enforcement of the regime.

Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw Date: 15.01.2010

5.2 Legal Implications:

The licensing authority must act to promote the four licensing objectives which are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of public nuisance;
- The protection of children from harm.

The licensing authority must have regard to its statement of licensing policy and the guidance issued by the Secretary of State in carrying out its functions.

Lawyer Consulted: Rebecca Sidell

Date: 15.01.2010

5.3 Equalities Implications:

Diversity is valued and strong, safe communities are vital to future prosperity. Licensing policy aims to protect children from harm including sale and supply of alcohol to children.

5.4 Sustainability Implications:

Licensing policy aims to prevent public nuisance and develop culture of live music, dancing and theatre.

5.5 Crime & Disorder Implications:

Licensing policy aims to prevent crime and disorder and protect public safety.

5.6 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

Licensing is a crucial business and employment opportunity and unnecessary regulation might lead to legal challenge.

5.7 Corporate / Citywide Implications:

The success of the city's tourism strategy requires a safe, attractive city centre to improve competitiveness. The Act may significantly change night time economy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix A – Part P of the Application.
2. Appendix B – New Plan of Premises.
3. Appendix C – Brighton & Hove City Council – Cumulative Impact Area.
4. Appendix D – Brighton & Hove City Council – Special Stress Area.
5. Appendix E – Measures to be considered in SSAs.
6. Appendix F – Representations and Agreement.
7. Appendix G – Map of area.

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Environmental Health & Licensing Service, Brighton & Hove City Council (2008): The Licensing Act 2003 – Brighton & Hove City Council: Statement of Licensing Policy.

Background Documents

1. Environmental Health & Licensing Service, Brighton & Hove City Council (2008): The Licensing Act 2003 – Brighton & Hove City Council Statement on Licensing Policy.

