

LICENSING PANEL

(Licensing Act 2003 Functions)

Agenda Item 71

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Review of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003

Premises: The West Hill
67 Buckingham Place
Brighton
East Sussex
BN1 3PQ

Licence Holder: Punch Tavern Plc

Date of Meeting: 15 October 2009

Report of: Assistant Director Public Safety

Contact Officer: Name: **Becky Keely** Tel: **29-2100**
E-mail: becky.keely@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Wards Affected: St Peter's And North Laine

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

- 1.1 To review a Premises Licence for **The West Hill** under the Licensing Act 2003.

2. SUMMARY OF REVIEW PROCESS:

- 2.1 Existing licence attached at Appendix A.
- 2.2. Brighton & Hove City Council is both the relevant licensing authority and a responsible authority in respect of any premises, and may in its capacity apply under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 for a review of any premises licence in respect of the premises.
- 2.3 An application was received by the Licensing Authority from Ms P Taylor, a Local Resident to review the licence granted to the premises known as **The West Hill, 67 Buckingham Place, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 3PQ.**

2.4 The grounds for the review relates to the following Licensing objectives:

- Prevention of Public Nuisance

Full details of the grounds for the review and a copy of the supporting evidence are attached in Appendix B.

2.5 At this hearing the licensing authority must:

- Consider the application made in accordance with Section 51
- Consider any relevant representations
- Take such steps (if any) as are considered necessary for the promotion of the Licensing objectives. These steps are:
 - to modify the conditions of the licence
 - to exclude a licensable activity
 - to remove the designated premises supervisor from the licence
 - to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding 3 months, or
 - to revoke the licence.

And for this purpose the conditions of a premises licence are modified if any of them is altered or omitted or any new condition is added. It may provide that the modification or exclusion have effect for a specified period not exceeding 3 months. The determination, if not completed at the hearing, shall be within 5 working days of the hearing. Such determinations do not have effect until after the appeal period or, if an appeal is lodged, until after the appeal is disposed of.

3. REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED:

3.1 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 Four representations have been received from local residents and one from a local Ward Councillor on the grounds of the Prevention of Public Nuisance supporting the application submitted by Ms P Taylor seeking the closing times of the premises to be returned to 11 or 11.30 pm on weekdays and midnight (at the latest) at weekends.

3.3 Fifteen representations have been received from local residents on the grounds of the Prevention of Public Nuisance supporting the premises.

3.4 Full details of the representations supporting the Review application are attached at Appendix C. A map detailing the addresses of the persons who have submitted the representations supporting the

Review application and their location in relation to the premises is attached at Appendix D.

- 3.5 Full details of the supporting information and representations supporting the premises are attached at Appendix E. A map detailing the addresses of the persons who have submitted the representations supporting the premises and their location in relation to the premises is attached at Appendix F.

4. 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 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.
- 4.6 Generally permitted temporary activities in the open air including tents and marquees should have a maximum closure hour of 11.00pm. Earlier hours may be imposed in sensitive open spaces or near residential areas.
- 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.

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.

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 new regime

Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw Date: 25.09.2009

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: 25.09.2009

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 A of Premises Licence.
2. Appendix B – Review Application and Supporting Evidence.
3. Appendix C – Representations (A-E) Supporting the Review Application.
4. Appendix D – Map of area showing Representations Supporting the Review Application.
5. Appendix E - Supporting Information including Representations (A-O) which support the Premises.
6. Appendix F – Map of area showing Representations Supporting the Premises.

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.

