

LICENSING PANEL

(Licensing Act 2003 Functions)

Agenda Item 100

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	<i>Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for The Red Rooms, 8 Queens Road, Brighton, BN1 3WA</i>		
Date of Meeting:	24 November 2009		
Applicant (s):	<i>The Sussex Pub Company Limited</i>		
Report of:	Assistant Director Public Safety		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Emma Bricknell	Tel: 29-4431
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Wards Affected:	St Peter's And North Laine		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To determine an application for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for The Red Rooms.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 To determine an application for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for The Red Rooms.

2.2.1 The application is for:

A Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for The Red Rooms.

The application proposes:

We request for variations to be made to music, door staff hours, the allowance of under 18s in the bar at certain times and also the number of staff on a Friday and Saturday nights.

2.3 Summary table of existing and proposed activities:

	<i>Existing</i>	<i>Proposed</i>
E Live music	<p>Indoors Monday to Sunday 10.00 – 23.59</p> <p>We would like to use single or multi-piece bands. All entertainment to be restricted to the basement only. The amplified sound equipment shall be governed by a sound limiting device set at a level approved by the licensing authority. All windows shall be closed from 22.00hours. All external doors shall be closed from 22.00 hours, except for access and egress. The licensee shall ensure that noise or vibration does not emanate from the premises so as to cause a nuisance to nearby residents.</p> <p>For non-standard times please see opening hours</p>	<p>None</p>
F Recorded Music	<p>Indoors Monday to Sunday 10.00 – 23.59</p> <p>For example, to allow disc-jockeys to play amplified music recordings or to simply provide amplified music from a hi-fi system.</p> <p>The amplified sound equipment shall be governed by a sound limiting device set at a level approved by the licensing authority. All windows shall be closed from 22.00hours. All external doors shall be closed from 22.00 hours, except for access and egress. The licensee shall ensure that noise or vibration does not emanate from the premises so as to cause a nuisance to nearby residents.</p> <p>For non-standard times please see opening hours</p>	<p>Indoors Monday to Sunday (excluding Friday and Saturday) 9am – 2.30am Friday & Saturday 9am – 3.30am</p> <p>Background music will be played in the upstairs part of the bar, either from a laptop or a stereo system.</p>

G Performance of Dance	Indoors Monday to Sunday 10.00 - 23.59 Dance may be undertaken by persons accompanying any live or recorded music detailed elsewhere in the application. For non-standard times please see opening hours	None
J Provision of facilities for dancing	Indoors Monday to Sunday 10.00 – 23.59 Dancing by guests to music provided by live performers and recorded music provided by disc jockeys or other means For non-standard times please see opening hours	None
M Supply of Alcohol	On and Off the Premises Sunday to Thursday 10.00 – 02.00 Friday & Saturday 10.00 – 03.00 For non-standard times please see opening hours	No Change

O Hours premises are open to public	<p>Sunday to Thursday 10.00 – 02.30 Friday and Saturday 10.00 – 3.30</p> <p>As regards to New Years Eve, to maintain the position as existing under the Licensing Act 1964 ie on New Years Eve alcohol supply may continue until the start of trading hours on News Years Day. The finish times reflect the proposed times for the supply of alcohol plus 30 minutes drinking up time.</p> <p>An SIA registered door supervisor shall be provided from 23.00 hours until closing on Sunday to Thursday, and from 20.00 hours on Friday, Saturday, Bank Holidays and on all other special occasions. The Licensee shall ensure that prominent, clear and legible notices are displayed on all exits requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents, to leave the premises and the area quietly. In addition, the notices should discourage the use of mobile phones within the vicinity of the premises.</p>	No Change
P Conditions removed as a consequence of the proposed Variation	<p>Sunday – Thursday doormen are not needed at the premises. Only Fridays and Saturdays</p> <p>We wish for the under 18's restriction to be removed. We have a lunch menu and would like families to come in. Two of the owners also have children under 18.</p> <p>We do not need four barstaff on a Friday and Saturday night, the bar is too small.</p>	

2.3 Existing licence attached at Appendix B.

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 Three representations were received. They were received from a local resident, Sussex Police and the Environmental Protection team.

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

3.2.5 Full details of the representations 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.

2.7 High volume vertical drinking establishments (HVVD's) may, where necessary and appropriate, have conditions attached relating to: a prescribed capacity, the ratio of chairs and tables to be provided for customers based on capacity and the presence of SIA registered security teams.

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 Public Safety

- 3.1 Club owners and promoters will be expected to have regard to “Safer Clubbing: guidance for licensing authorities, club managers and promoters”. The licensing authority will seek to ensure that licensed premises are designed and run in a way which maximises the safety of customers and staff. In order to minimise disputes and the necessity for hearings, it would be sensible for applicants to consult with all responsible authorities when operating schedules are being prepared.
- 3.2 Conditions will be imposed in accordance with operating schedules to protect public safety including where justified:-
 - (a) provision of close circuit television and panic buttons.
 - (b) use of shatterproof drinking vessels, bottles requiring use of toughened glass or plastic (recognised by Community Safety Strategy).
 - (c) use of security personnel, such as door supervisors, licensed by the Security Industry Authority (recognised by the Community Safety Strategy).
 - (d) requirement of a minimum of a licensed door supervisor for every 100 customers in nightclubs and large city centre pubs or as indicated by risk assessment.
 - (e) occupant capacity conditions will be applied where appropriate.
 - (f) the provision of designated and suitably trained first aiders.
- 3.3 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 as recognised by the Community Safety Strategy and Policing Strategy. Applicants may be required to consult local transport operators and are encouraged to support the use of public transport through the provision of advice, contact details etc.
- 3.4 Policy recognises that the numbers of late night revellers can lead to service delivery pinch-points, for example at city centre taxi ranks. Frustration and restlessness in queues can lead to anti-social behaviour and public disorder which can be controlled by, for example, taxi marshalling systems. Operators whose customers contribute to the night-time demand for taxis may wish to consider assisting in the provision of resources for such systems or similar schemes.
- 3.5 Control of public safety at high profile commercial or sporting events or other large scale events may be supported by police powers of closure of licensed premises

- 3.6 Where, appropriate, licence holders, or their authorised representatives will attend Safety Advisory Group and similar meetings prior to large events and shall be part of Event Liaison Teams during such events. Due regard shall be had to relevant guidance and publications including for example, HSE publications “Event Safety Guide” and “Managing Crowds Safely”; LACORS publication “Managing Large Events”.
- 3.7 Prior consent will be required for: performance of stage hypnotism, fireworks and lasers. Applications should contain details prescribed by the licensing authority. Conditions may be applied to any consent

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.

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: 04.11.2009

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: 04.11.2009

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 P of application.
2. Appendix B – Part A of Premises Licence.
3. Appendix C – Brighton & Hove City Council – Special Stress Areas.
4. Appendix D – Measures to be considered in SSAs.
5. Appendix E – Brighton & Hove City Council - Cumulative Impact Areas.
6. Appendix F – Representations.
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.