

# Licensing Committee 18 December 2013

Time10.00amPublic meeting? YESType of meetingRegulatory

Venue Civic Centre, St Peter's Square, Wolverhampton WV1 1SH

**Room** Committee Room 1 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

### Membership

Chair	Cllr Bishan Dass (Lab)
Vice-chair	Cllr Alan Bolshaw (Lab)
Shadow-Chair	Cllr Mark Evans (Con)

#### Labour

Cllr Harman Banger Cllr Ian Claymore Cllr Craig Collingswood Cllr Susan Constable Cllr Keith Inston Cllr Rita Potter Cllr John Rowley **Conservative** Cllr Neville Patten Cllr Patricia Patten Liberal Democrat

Quorum for this meeting is 3 Councillors.

### Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

Contact	Linda Banbury
Tel	01902 555040
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Copies of other agendas and reports are available from:

Website	http://wolverhampton.cmis.uk.com/decisionmaking
Email	democratic.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Tel	01902 555043

Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

# Agenda

# Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. Title

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- 1. **Apologies for absence**
- 2. **Declarations of interest**

# 3. Minutes (a) Meeting, 20 November 2013 [for approval] (b) Sub-Committee – meetings, 2, 7, 21 and 27(x2) November 2013 [for approval and adoption]

#### 4. **Matters arising** [To consider any matters arising from the minutes]

#### **DECISION ITEMS**

- 5. Schedule of Outstanding Minutes
   [To receive a schedule indicating when reports on individual items will be submitted for consideration]
- Update on Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011-2015
   [To receive an update on the implementation of the Strategy, with a particular focus on goal 3]
- 7. Feedback from Night-time Economy Visit [verbal update]

# Part 2 – exempt items, closed to the press and public Nil



# **Licensing Committee**

Minutes - 20 November 2013

### Attendance

#### **Members of the Committee**

Cllr Bishan Dass (chair) Cllr Ian Claymore Cllr Susan Constable Cllr Mark Evans Cllr Neville Patten Cllr John Rowley Cllr Alan Bolshaw Cllr Craig Collingswood Cllr Keith Inston Cllr Rita Potter

#### Employees

Sarah Hardwick Andy Jervis Colin Parr Martin Fox Senior Solicitor (Delivery) Head of Regulatory Services (Education and Enterprise) Licensing Manager (Education and Enterprise) Democratic Support Officer (Delivery)

# Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item Title No.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- 1. **Apologies for absence** An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Patricia Patten.
- 2. **Declarations of interest** No interests were declared.

#### 3. Minutes

Resolved:

(a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2013 be - approved as a correct record.

Action

(b) That the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 1 November 2013 be approved as a correct record and adopted.

#### 4. Matters arising

Festival of Light - The Chair referred to the successful event held on 26/27 October. He paid tribute to the event organisers and expressed the hope that the event will be repeated in the future.

#### 5. Schedule of outstanding minutes

A report was presented, which set out a schedule of outstanding minutes, together with an indication of when individual reports would be submitted for consideration.

Linda Banbury

#### Resolved:

That the report be received.

#### **DECISION ITEMS**

Colin Parr/ 6. Changes to the disclosure and barring service enhanced criminal records disclosure process Elaine The Licensing Manager presented a report, which detailed revisions to the process for obtaining an enhanced criminal records disclosure from the disclosure and barring services for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle drivers. It also asked the Committee to approve the revised fee structure for enhanced criminal records disclosures.

#### Resolved:

That the proposed fee structure for enhanced criminal records disclosures as detailed in paragraph 2.11 of the report be approved.

#### 7. Proposed revisions to hackney carriage and private hire criteria

The Licensing Manager submitted a report which detailed a proposal to revise the existing hackney carriage and private hire vehicle criteria. It asked the Committee to consider responses received following consultations relating to vehicle criteria and the drug policy for drivers and to endorse the implementation of a drug policy for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle drivers.

Moreton

Colin Parr/ Flaine Moreton

#### Resolved:

- (a) That the responses to the consultation as detailed in appendix A and B of the report be noted.
- (b) That the revised hackney carriage criteria as detailed in paragraph 5.2/5.3 of the report be approved and endorsed.
- (c) That the revised private hire criteria as detailed in paragraph 5.4-5.6 of the report be approved and endorsed.
- (d) That the implementation of a drug policy for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle drivers as detailed in paragraph 5.7 of the report be approved and endorsed.

#### 8. Democratic support officer

Cllr John Rowley referred to the fact that Martin Fox would shortly be leaving the Council after a period of 39 years' service. Committee Members joined in thanking Martin for his long service and wishing him well for the future

# Part 2 – exempt items Nil



# Licensing Sub-Committee

Minutes – 2 November 2013

### Attendance

#### Members of the Sub-Committee Cllr Alan Bolshaw (chair)

Cllr Keith Inston Cllr Neville Patten

#### Employees

Wendy Trainor Colin Parr Rob Edge Linda Banbury Interim Chief Legal Officer Licensing Manager Section Leader (Licensing) Democratic Support Officer

# Part 1 – items open to the press and public

ltem No.	Title	Action
BUSI	NESS ITEMS	
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> There were no apologies for absence.	-
2.	- Councillor Inston advised that he did know one of the residents present, but that it would not prejudice his decision making.	
DECI	SION ITEMS	
3.	Licensing Act 2003 – Expedited Review of a premises licencein respect of Edda Lounge, Ward Street, WolverhamptonIn attendanceFor the premisesDuncan CraigJennifer HayeOvey PhillipPremises Licence HolderLuke Mesquitta andMohammed Sunney-Door Staff (Time Security Group)	e M

John and Donna Harper - Local Residents

<u>Applicant for the Review</u> Inspector Sarah Thomas West and WPC Lisa Davies - West Midlands Police

The chair introduced the parties and outlined the procedure to be followed at the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.

The Licensing Manager outlined the report circulated to all parties in advance of the meeting. It was noted that the Police would be requesting that part of the meeting be held in closed session, during which information in relation to current criminal proceedings would be disclosed.

WPC Davies outlined the application for expedited review of the premises licence and, in so doing, advised that if steps were not taken there was a danger of further crime and disorder occurring and the measures already taken by the premises would not suffice.

At this juncture the press and public were excluded from the meeting in order for the Police to continue their application for expedited review. WPC Davies provided information on the incident in the early hours of 28 October 2013 and an edited version of CCTV footage from the premises was shown to those present. The Police were requesting an immediate suspension of the premises licence, pending a full review hearing. Responding to questions, she advised that a police patrol happened to be in the area of the premises due to a completely unrelated incident and they had heard gun shots. It was acknowledged that the premises was conditioned to be closed at 0230 hours and that the CID would be able to verify the timing of CCTV footage, bearing in mind that the incident took place during the weekend that the clocks were adjusted.

A ten minute adjournment took place at this point to enable Mr Craig to clarify some matters with his client prior to his submission.

The meeting re-convened and Mr Craig advised that matters had been raised at this hearing would require further investigation, that his client was of the view that the Police had been in the area throughout the evening of 27 October 2013, that the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and Premises Licence Holder (PLH) were having an animated conversation on the CCTV footage and not an argument. He added neither the PLH nor DPS were aware that there was a person on the premises with a firearm. Mr Craig read from incident log for that night and the DPS advised that a page had been ripped out for the purpose of writing down a telephone number. The DPS and PLH were unaware of the

shooting until advised by the Police. The DPS indicated that requests had been made for the Police to attend the venue at a 'decent' time as a deterrent, but this had not happened and she was not privy to information in regard to the identity of street gang members. It was acknowledged that the door staff had proven to be not up to standard, they had been dismissed and a new company employed in their place. The Premises Licence Holder had been outside the premises as it was necessary to carry out a noise check.

Responding to questions, the DPS and barrister advised that the security arch did have an audible beep as well as flashing light, but that it was possible to activate it if you had a mobile phone on you. The DPS indicated that Police presence was not requested because they were unable to run the venue, but it was necessary to demonstrate that the police and the premises were working together. The DPS confirmed that she was aware of the last entry time condition on the premises licence and that on Sunday the last entry time was midnight and this was clear on posters for the event.

At this juncture the Police and premises were afforded the opportunity to make closing statements.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

#### 4. Exclusion of press and public

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act. All parties, with the exception of the Council's Solicitor and Democratic Support Officer, withdrew from the meeting at this point.

## Part 2 – exempt items, closed to the press and public

#### 5. **Deliberations and decisions**

The solicitor advised them of the options open to them on the decision to be made in regard to the review application.

#### 6. **Re-Admission of Press and Public**

Resolved:

That the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

# Part 1 – items open to the press and public

7. The parties returned to the meeting and the Chief Legal Officer advised that the Sub-Committee had listened carefully to both the applicant for the review and respondent. The review application had related serious crime or serious disorders or both associated with the premises and the Police had also served a certificate under section 53A(1)(B) of the Licensing Act 2003 and requested interim steps be applied to the premises licence, pending a full review hearing. In accordance with Section 53 of the Act, the Sub-Committee had decided to take the interim step of suspending the premises licence pending the full review hearing.

Wendy Trainor Rob Edge Linda Banbury

The legal representative for the premises advised that representations would be made against this decision.



# Licensing Sub-Committee

Minutes – 7 November 2013

### Attendance

#### Members of the Sub-Committee Cllr Alan Bolshaw (chair) Cllr Keith Inston

Cllr Neville Patten

#### Employees

Colin Parr Rob Edge Sarah Hardwick Linda Banbury Licensing Manager Section Leader (Licensing) Senior Solicitor Democratic Support Officer

# Part 1 – items open to the press and public

ltem No.	Title	Action
BUSIN	NESS ITEMS	
1.	Apologies for Absence-There were no apologies for absence	
2.	Declarations of interest-There were no declarations of interest.	
DECIS	SION ITEMS	
3.	Licensing Act 2003 – Expedited Review of a premises licencein respect of Edda Lounge, Ward Street, WolverhamptonIn attendanceFor the premisesDuncan Craig- BarristerJennifer Haye- Designated Premises SupervisorDovey Phillip- Premises Licence HolderVanessa Brown- Door Staff (Time Security Group)	

#### Applicant for the Review

Inspector Sarah Thomas West and WPC Lisa Davies - West Midlands Police Tim Woodward - Legal Adviser

The chair introduced the parties and outlined the procedure to be followed at the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.

The Section Leader (Licensing) outlined the report circulated to all parties in advance of the meeting. Detailed at Appendix 4 of the report, was the notice of the intention of the premises to make representations against the current suspension of the premises licence.

At his juncture, Mr Craig indicated that he would be calling upon the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS), Jennifer Haye to provide information with a view to a decision being made to lift the suspension of the premises licence. Ms Have indicated that she had taken on the position of DPS the previous November and that the premises offered a wide range of services for the local community including church functions and birthday parties. They had plans to provide support for young people from the ethnic minority community, including assistance with CVs and training in bar and restaurant work. A large amount of money had been spent on the premises, employing people from the local community. The DPS attended weekly meetings with the Police. Plastic glassware was used where the licence conditions required them to do so and there were 16 CCTV cameras at the premises. 'Challenge 21' and a no drugs policy was operated at the premises. Every Sunday they had an event called 'Rare Groove', which had been relaunched as 'All Stars Sunday'

The DPS acknowledged that there was a failure of the door staff on 27/28 October 2013 in regard to the 'knife arch' and the security staff had been immediately replaced. She indicated that she would not put herself or anyone else knowingly in danger, that she was a very verbal person and the CCTV footage was misleading as she and the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) had not been arguing. The DPS stressed that, other than the father of her grandchildren, she did not know any of the patrons on the CCTV footage. She was not aware of the identity of any street gang members.

The DPS indicated that premises were prepared to offer an interim condition to close the premises at 0200 hours with a last entry time of 0100 hours and would ensure that at least two security staff, including a female, would be on duty. They wished the venue to cater for the community, including those with special needs and the elderly population. The new security staff had agreed to accompany her to the weekly meetings with the Police. She believed that the suspension of the premises licence should be lifted.

Responding to questions, it was pointed out that the DPS and PLH had not stated that there was no argument going on outside the premises, only that they were not personally arguing and that they were outside because of the need to carry out a noise check and they were keeping an eye on things because of an argument the previous week when the Police had requested CCTV footage.

At this juncture the hearing was adjourned for a thirty minute lunch break.

The meeting resumed and Mr Woodward outlined the case for the West Midlands Police.

Mr Woodward advised that the Police had no objection to the premises continuing to operate during the daytime, but wished to restrict the risk element of the business. He added that the Police had yet to receive the CCTV footage for the whole of the night of the incident and the previous 31 days and could not therefore confirm that the premises had done everything they could to promote the licensing objectives. The Police believed that the day time economy ceased at between 1800 and 1900 hours. Prior to today the Police were unaware that the premises operated during the daytime.

Responding to questions, Inspector Thomas-West advised that the Police patrols were incident led and that there had been nothing to suggest the need for intervention in the daytime. The Police had no written records to suggest the venue opened in the daytime. She had been advised that a copy of the incident book had been handed in the previous day, but it had not made its way to the Licensing Unit. Police intelligence and evidence showed a risk problem at the premises at 0200 hours and the offered condition was not, therefore, acceptable to the Police. The Police were surprised that the daytime activities had not been mentioned at the 2 November meeting, adding that their system judged 2000 hours to be the start of the night-time economy. However, they believed 1800 hours would be an appropriate time for the venue to close.

Inspector Thomas-West indicated that CCTV footage had been made available to the CID as part of their investigations, but was not available for their Licensing Unit and had therefore been requested separately via email. She acknowledged that a memory stick was usually supplied to enable the premises to provide a copy, but had not been on this occasion.

Both parties were afforded the opportunity to make closing statements.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

#### 4. Exclusion of press and public

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act. All parties, with the exception of the Council's Solicitor and Democratic Support Officer, withdrew from the meeting at this point.

# Part 2 – exempt items, closed to the press and public

#### 5. **Deliberations and decisions**

The solicitor advised them of the options open to them on the decision to be made in regard to the review application.

6. **Re-Admission of Press and Public** 

Resolved:

That the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

## Part 1 – items open to the press and public

- 7. The parties returned to the meeting and the Solicitor advised that, having considered all the written and oral evidence presented, the Sub-Committee have determined not to modify or withdraw the interim steps taken and are therefore satisfied that it is appropriate for the interim suspension to remain, pending determination of the full review of the premises licence. It was agreed that the full hearing would take place at 1000 hours on 27 November 2013.
- Sarah Hardwick Colin Parr Linda Banbury



# Licensing Sub-Committee

Minutes – 21 November 2013

### Attendance

#### Members of the Sub-Committee

Cllr Bishan Dass (chair) Cllr Alan Bolshaw Cllr Mark Evans

# Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item Title No.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Declarations of interest** 

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **DECISION ITEMS**

 Licensing Act 2003 – Application for a variation to a premises licence in respect of the Prince Albert, Railway Street, Wolverhampton In attendance For the premises Ryan McGillicuddy - Richard Ryan Limited Action

#### **Objectors**

WPC Natalie Holt - West Midlands Police Jayne Freeman-Evans and Marise Astley - Environmental Health (Commercial) Elaine Moreton - Licensing Authority

The chair introduced the parties and outlined the procedure to be followed at the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.

The Section Leader (Licensing) outlined the report circulated to all parties in advance of the meeting and, in so doing, advised that late night refreshment was only applicable from 2300 to 0500 hours and that the application should be amended accordingly.

On a point of clarification, the Solicitor advised that the Cumulative Impact Policy only applied to the sale of alcohol and late night refreshment. The onus was on the responsible authorities to demonstrate that the regulated entertainment would have an adverse effect on the promotion of the licensing objectives.

At this juncture, Mr McGillycuddy outlined the application for a variation to the premises licence. He outlined the measures being undertaken to mitigate any potential problems and advised that he had been working closely with the relevant responsible authorities and had spoken with local residents and businesses.

Responding to questions, Mr McGillycuddy advised that:

- the premises intended to install an ID scanning machine which was being promoted via the Pubwatch scheme;
- A CIZ Strategy Plan had been established by the premises and shared with all staff;
- the premises used a digital sound system which prevented entertainers from altering the sound levels;
- the recent Temporary events mirrored the variation application;
- previous issues had arisen mainly in respect of the Britannia Hotel and it had been agreed that prior notice would be given to them of any events, together with telephone numbers of staff on duty;
- CCTV would cover the outside areas;
- it was not anticipated that the premises would hold many private events, but the same conditions would apply as for any other event at the premises;

- a risk assessment would be carried out in respect of the outside areas;
- there were patio heaters both within the marquee and on the patio areas;
- an additional bar was being installed adjacent to the marquee;
- the premises are happy to provide 28 days notice in respect of any events;
- the premises does not currently open on a Monday and was anticipated that the outside events would only take place on Fridays and Saturdays, and
- door supervisors were linked via radio and the floor workers acted as extra pairs of eyes and regularly reported information to the security staff.

At this juncture, WPC Holt outlined the objections on behalf of the West Midlands Police. She indicated that the premises had worked closely with the Police and, other than initial teething problems, there had been no major issues. The premises provided regular weekly updates to the Police and attended the Pubwatch meetings. The Police were content for the variation to be approved, subject to inclusion of the proposed conditions as amended in regard to the condition number 9 on the current licence.

The Environmental Health Officer indicated that her concerns mirrored those of the Police and that the disturbances had occurred during the Summer of 2012. Since then the premises had worked closely with Environmental Health to put in measures to mitigate the noise issues. Environmental were content for the variation to be approved, subject to inclusion of the proposed conditions.

The Licensing Authority echoed the views of the other responsible authorities.

All parties were afforded the opportunity to make a final statement.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

#### 4. Exclusion of press and public

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded

from the meeting for the following item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act. All parties, with the exception of the Council's Solicitor and Democratic Support Officer, withdrew from the meeting at this point.

## Part 2 – exempt items, closed to the press and public

#### 5. **Deliberations and decisions**

The solicitor advised them of the options open to them on the decision to be made in regard to the variation application.

#### 6. **Re-Admission of Press and Public**

Resolved:

That the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

# Part 1 – items open to the press and public

7. The parties returned to the meeting and the Solicitor outlined the decision as follows:

The Sub-Committee have taken note of all the written concerns raised in respect of The Prince Albert, Railway Street, Wolverhampton. They have listened to the arguments of those who have spoken at the hearing, both for and against the application.

The Sub-Committee are satisfied that the Cumulative Impact Policy applies to the sale of alcohol and late night refreshment. They are further satisfied that sufficient evidence has been provided by the applicant to illustrate that the premises will not add to the cumulative impact already experienced and that the presumption of non-grant has been rebutted.

The Sub-Committee also considered the views of all concerned in relation to regulated entertainment and have noted that there is evidence of noise issues which have been experienced by the Britannia Hotel and that proposed conditions would assist with this.

Based upon the above, the Sub-Committee have decided that the variation should be granted, as applied for, subject to the following modified conditions:

# Modified conditions attached after Licensing Hearing on 5 January 2012

Condition 9 will apply to the whole of the premises and is amended to read:

All events are to be held at the discretion of the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) and/or Premises Licence Holder (PLH) and at least 28 days written notification, consisting of a risk assessment incorporating details of door supervisors DJs/performers and capacity levels, to be given to the licensing department at Wolverhampton Central Police Station. Police advice received upon the outcome of this risk assessment should always be taken into consideration.

Conditions agreed between the West Midlands Police and the Premises Licence Holder

The following conditions will only apply to the outside part of the venue, to be called 'The Arena':

- All events in the Arena are to be held at the discretion of the DPS and/or PLH and at least 28 days written notification, consisting of a risk assessment incorporating details of door supervisors, DJs/performers and capacity levels, to be given to the licensing department at Wolverhampton Central Police Station. Police advice received upon the outcome of this risk assessment should always be taken into consideration.
- Plastic or polycarbonate glasses only to be used for the consumption of beverages whilst in any of the outside areas. No glasses or glass bottles/containers to be permitted under any circumstances in this area, either by staff or customers.
- 3) The premises will be equipped with an ID Scanner which will be utilised as part of the entry requirements for patrons. All patrons to be scanned on first visit. Any patrons refusing to have ID scanned will not be permitted into the venue. Any information stored within the ID Scanner must be made available to any member of a Responsible Authority upon request, or least within 12 hours of request.
- 4) Door supervisors deployed in the Arena area must wear high visibility attire consisting of at least a fluorescent tabard/jacket so that they are easily identified as security staff. Overt wearing of SIA certificates only is not sufficient.
- 5) The capacity level of the Arena area must not exceed the number detailed within the risk assessment for each specific event. Door supervisors deployed in this section

must operate clickers to ensure that this level is not exceeded.

- 6) All patrons entering the Arena area will be subject of a search by door supervisors. Any person refusing to be searched will not be permitted in the Arena area.
- 7) The outside area must be covered by CCTV with the following stipulation:
- CCTV should cover entry and exit points of the Arena area and all areas where alcohol/money is served/taken and all areas to where public have access and the immediate vicinity outside the premise.
- Images / recordings to be downloaded in a suitable format and provided to any member of a Responsible Authority upon request and without any undue delay.
- Images and recordings must be of evidential quality, must indicate the correct time and date and be kept for at least 31 days.
- All staff to be trained to use the CCTV system and at least one member of staff to be on duty who is trained to download the systems images should any member of a Responsible Authority make a request.

#### <u>Conditions agreed between Environmental Health (Commercial)</u> and the Premises Licence Holder

The following conditions will only apply to the outside part of the venue, to be called 'The Arena':

- 1) Noise/vibration will not emanate from the premises to cause at nuisance at the closest sensitive property.
- 2) Compliance with the noise plan submitted on 21 November 2013 will be set as conditions of your operating schedule.
- 3) All doors and windows in the Prince Albert building must remain closed when regulated entertainment takes place, except to allow for access and egress.
- 4) No licensable activity will take place outdoors on a Monday to Thursday except on all Bank Holidays (including bank Holiday Mondays), Valentine's Day, Easter Monday, Halloween, Bonfire night, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day.
- 5) All recorded and Live music will be reduced after 0100 hours. Sound limiter equipment must be used on **all** sound producing equipment used at all events to ensure noise

- 6) and vibration from the licensable activities does not cause a nuisance at the closest sensitivity properties.
- 7) All recorded and live music in the outside area will terminate at 0200 hours with the exception of any background entertainment and a maximum of two outdoor events in the arena area per calendar month.
- 8) Regular patrols, by a responsible person, will be undertaken of the surrounding area of the external area of the premises to ensure that the entertainment at the premises or noise from patrons outside the premises is at a level not to cause a nuisance to residents living in the vicinity of the premises. Patrols will be undertaken at least twice each day/night regulated entertainment takes place.
- 9) Should the DPS or Premises licence holder be notified of any justified noise complaints action must be taken immediately to reduce the level of music and or vibration to the satisfaction of the investigating Officer.
- 10)The surface of the lower arena area will be resurfaced prior to are being used, so as to provide a sound, safe, even surface for patrons

Further to the above specific conditions the following recommendations are made:

The same sound producing system is used to provide all regulated entertainment.

Speakers in the arena area are directed towards the Prince Albert building to reduce noise and vibration levels emanating from events.

It is considered by the Sub-Committee that the above conditions should be attached in support of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Prevention of Public Nuisance licensing objectives.

Finally, such conditions as are specified on or are consistent with the operating schedule will be attached to the Licence, together with any mandatory conditions required by the Act.

All parties have a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court within twenty one days of receipt of the decision.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

#### 8. Exclusion of press and public

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

All parties, with the exception of the Council's Solicitor and Democratic Support Officer, withdrew from the meeting at this point.

# Part 2 – exempt items, closed to the press and public

#### 9. **Application for a Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence**

The Chair introduced the Sub-Committee and Officers. The Section Leader (Licensing) then briefly outlined the report.

Mr Khan was in attendance at the meeting, accompanied by Mr Caley of ABC Countdown Cars, and they answered questions raised by employees and Councillors as appropriate. Mr Caley advised that he was happy to re-employ Mr Khan.

Resolved:

That a private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence be granted to Mr S Khan for a period of twelve months, subject to a satisfactory medical report and his passing the driving ability and knowledge tests.

10. **Application for a Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence** The Chair introduced the Sub-Committee and Officers. The Section Leader (Licensing) then briefly outlined the report.

> Mr Ameeni was in attendance at the meeting and answered questions raised by employees and Councillors as appropriate. The Licensing Officer advised that City Cars had stamped his application, confirming that they would employ him should has application be successful.

Resolved:

That a private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence be granted to

Mr N Ameeni for a period of twelve months, subject to a satisfactory medical report and his passing the driving ability and knowledge tests.

#### 11. Review of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence

The Chair introduced the Sub-Committee and Officers. The Section Leader (Licensing) then briefly outlined the report.

Mr Jakhu was in attendance at the meeting and answered questions raised by employees and Councillors as appropriate. The Sub-Committee listened carefully to the representations made by Mr Jakhu at the meeting, together with the report of the Licensing Officer and it was

Resolved:

That, on this occasion, no further action be taken.



# Licensing Sub-Committee

Minutes – 27 November 2013

### Attendance

Members of the Sub-Committee Cllr Alan Bolshaw (chair) Cllr Keith Inston Cllr Neville Patten

#### **Employees**

Rob Edge Sarah Hardwick Linda Banbury Section Leader (Licensing) Senior Solicitor Democratic Support Officer

# Part 1 – items open to the press and public

ltem Title No.

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

- 1. **Apologies for Absence** There were no apologies for absence.
- 2. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **DECISION ITEMS**

3. Licensing Act 2003 – Review of a Premises Licence in respect of Empire Banqueting Suite/Edda Lounge, Ward Street Wolverhampton In attendance For the premises

<u>Applicant for review</u> Inspector Sarah Thomas-West, WPC Lisa Davies and WPC Natalie Holt – West Midlands Police Tim Woodward – Police legal representative Action

The chair introduced the parties and outlined the procedure to be followed at the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.

The Section Leader (Licensing) outlined the report circulated to all parties in advance of the meeting. A Licensing Sub-Committee hearing was held on 2 November 2013 to determine interim steps to be applied to the premises licence pending a full review hearing, their decision being to suspend the licence. An interim steps hearing was held on 7 November 2013, when the Sub-Committee determined not to modify or withdraw the interim steps taken and were therefore satisfied that it was appropriate for the interim suspension to remain pending determination of the full review of the premises licence.

The Sub-Committee were advised that the premises Licence Holder had surrendered the premises licence on 25 November 2013 and that the licence would only therefore exist if a transfer application was made. If an application for transfer was received, this and the review would need to be considered by the Sub-Committee. The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 allowed the authority to adjourn the hearing to a specified date where it considered this action necessary in the interests of the public.

Resolved:

- (a) That in accordance with Section 53C(2)(C) of the regulations, the interim steps put in place following the expedited review will continue to have effect until determination at the full review hearing.
- (b) That, bearing in mind, that the suspension of the licence is limited to three months, it is suggested that the Sub-Committee be adjourned to 15 January 2014 at 10am.



# Licensing Sub-Committee

Minutes – 27 November 2013

### Attendance

#### Members of the Sub-Committee Cllr Alan Bolshaw (chair) Cllr Mark Evans Cllr Neville Patten

#### Employees

Rob Edge Sarah Hardwick Linda Banbury Section Leader (Licensing) Senior Solicitor Democratic Support Officer

# Part 1 – items open to the press and public

ltem	Title
No.	

#### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. **Apologies for Absence** There were no apologies for absence.

#### 2. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **DECISION ITEMS**

 Licensing Act 2003 – Temporary Event Notice in respect of Gorgeous, 32-36 School Street, Wolverhampton
 In attendance
 For the premises
 David Campbell

 legal representative
 Shaun Keasey
 JJCA Limited
 Dale Murphy
 Designated Premises Supervisor

 Action

ObjectorsDuncan Craig (barrister)WPC Natalie HoltInspector Sarah Thomas-West )

The chair introduced the parties and outlined the procedure to be followed at the meeting. No declarations of interest were made.

The Section Leader (Licensing) outlined the report circulated to all parties in advance of the meeting. He advised that two previous Temporary Event Notices had been submitted, to which the Police had objected, but the hearing s had not proceeded due to an error in the administration of the notices. Mr Campbell had submitted the following additional information following circulation of the report:

- Temporary Event Notices given in April and June 2013 and the weekend on 16/17 November 2013.
- Email from Shaun Keasey to David Campbell in regard to drugs swabs

The following had also been supplied by the West Midlands Police:

- Email from Police to Dale Murphy in regard to two incidents at the premises.
- Witness statement on behalf of WPC Emily Parker.

At this juncture. David Campbell outlined the case for the premises and, in so doing, advised that the hearing would allow the premises to demonstrate that allowing patrons to enter after 0200 hours would have not have an adverse effect on the prevention of crime and disorder licensing objective. This had been illustrated by the Temporary Events which had taken place earlier in November. He drew attention to the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 and Regulation 18 of the Hearings Regulations. He also referred to the fact that the Police had not objected to the Temporary Events which took place in April and June 2013. No patrons were allowed entry after 0200 hours on 17 November as the premises had been advised by the Police that this would be in breach of the licence conditions; however David Campbell stated that it would not have been a breach. The Sub-Committee were advised that this resulted in a loss of takings amounting to approximately £1,500. David Campbell believed that the Police objections related to mere speculation and were not evidence based.

Dale Murphy outlined his role at the premises and confirmed that, to his knowledge, there had been no problems due to the removal of the late entry time for the Temporary Events. With regard to the statement of WPC Emily Parker, Mr Murphy advised that it had not been necessary to contact the Police as they had been at the door to the premises at the time of the incident. The Sub-Committee were advised that the premises had a zero tolerance policy in regard to drugs. Searches, within limits, were carried out on the door and staff patrolled the premises and acted upon any irregularities immediately.

Responding to questions, Shaun Keasey advised that the capacity for the premises was 225 and attendance figures could double when the last entry time was removed. He indicated that a further Temporary Event Notice had been submitted in regard to the following weekend. Dale Murphy could not recall the event in April when the Police had been called to the premises following refusal of entry to some customers as he only had the incident logs for October and November to hand. Mr Keasey advised that he had not been requested by the Police to supply details of the artists in regard to the recent Temporary Events. Whilst he acknowledged that these requests were discussed at Pubwatch meetings, the acts were not new or unfamiliar to the venue but he undertook to provide the details for the Police. Dale Murphy responded to a further question, confirming that he would expect Gorgeous to require more stringent conditions than a restaurant of public house in terms of drugs issues.

At this juncture Duncan Craig outlined the objection on behalf of the West Midlands Police, indicating that he believed it was appropriate for the Police to refer to previous events and to the variation application. WPC Natalie Holt advised that their drug testing machine had been out of order since June/July and would be used at venues such as Gorgeous, although she was not involved in this area of work. She was concerned that the removal of the late entry time would lead to a lack of control of the premises. Duncan Craig suggested that the removal would provide a potential for increased crime and disorder. He believed that the spirit of Temporary Events was to enable one off special events and not to circumvent licence conditions for regular events.

Responding to questions WPC Natalie Holt indicated that she was not present at the time when a group were refused entry an hour after last entry time, she was concerned however that people

would attend other premises then try their look when they closed at other late night venues. She confirmed that the Police had not objected to the Temporary Event in June 2013 and that she was not at work when the last Temporary Event Notice had been submitted. She acknowledged that the incident in the statement of WPC Parker occurred before 0200 hours but she believed it was still relevant for this hearing. She accepted that there was no evidence to suggest that problems had occurred at the premises during the previous three Temporary Events.

Both parties were afforded the opportunity to make a closing statement.

#### **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

## 4. Exclusion of press and public

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business as it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act. All parties, with the exception of the Council's Solicitor and Democratic Support Officer, withdrew from the meeting at this point.

## Part 2 – exempt items, closed to the press and public

#### 5. Deliberations and decisions

The solicitor advised them of the options open to them on the decision to be made in regard to the Temporary Event Notice.

#### 6. **Re-Admission of Press and Public**

Resolved:

That the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

# Part 1 – items open to the press and public

7. The parties returned to the meeting and the Solicitor advised the parties of the Sub-Committee's decision, as follows, which would be confirmed in writing the following day; Having had regard to the Objection Notice of the Chief Officer of West Midlands Police, being a letter sent to Wolverhampton City Council on 19 November 2013, the Licensing Sub-Committee are

satisfied that a counter-notice should not be issued to you in accordance with Section 105(3) of the Licensing Act 2003 as it is not considered appropriate. However for the promotion of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder licensing objective and in accordance with section 106A of the Act, it is considered appropriate to attach the conditions on the premises licence to this Temporary Event Notice, with the exception of the last entry restriction (see attached).

When not issuing a Counter Notice The Sub-Committee are not required to give reasons for the decision, but wished to outline the following:

- 1. The Sub-Committee are required to consider this application on its merits and base any decision on evidence produced at the hearing on 27 November 2013. They are also concerned with last entry up to 0330 hours.
- 2. No objection notices were served in response to Temporary Event Notices in April and June 2013.
- 3. There have been three temporary events, covered by two Temporary Event Notices in November 2013, at which there were no significant problems. On 17 November 2013 there was an incident at the premises which occurred before 0200 hours. The person detained by the West Midlands Police was ejected by the premises as is expected.
- 4. There does not appear to be a drug problem at the premises. The substance seized on 17 November 2013 was found not to be a drug of any kind.
- 5. The Sub-Committee have heard what the Police said about the 'spirit' of the Act. However, the Thwaites case demonstrates that a decision should be made on evidence rather than speculation. The Police have said – 'There is a capacity for these premises to descend into a state of disorder should the current position not continue.' However, there is no clear evidence that this would happen.

Agenda Item No: 5



# Licensing Committee

**Report Title** 

Schedule of Outstanding Minutes

Originating service

Accountable employee

Linda Banbury Tel Email

**Delivery/Democratic Support** 

Democratic Support Officer 01902 55(5040) linda.banbury@wolverhampton.gov.uk

#### **Recommendation for noting:**

The Committee is asked to note the report

	Subject	Date of Meeting and Minute No.	Decision	Comments
1.	Future of Hackney Carriage Services	13.02.13 38(c)	Further review of Hackney Carriage provision to take place in 2016	Report to July 2016 meeting
2.	Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Testing at VOSA Registered Garages	17.04.13 61(f)	Report to be presented in twelve months on impact of proposals in regard to vehicle testing	Report to April 2014 meeting
3.	City Centre Pubwatch Scheme	22.05.13 2	Update to be presented on outcome of customer research	Report to future meeting
4.	Review of Decision Making	22.05.13 6(d)	Annual delegation report to be presented	Report to May 2014 meeting
5.	Alcohol Strategy: Progress Update	22.05.13 8(b)	Further update to be presented in six months (individual goal leads to attend the meeting)	Report to this meeting
6.	Scrap Metal Dealers Act	25.09.13 8	Progress report to be presented in six months	Report to March 2014 meeting



# Licensing Committee 18 December 2013

**Report title** 

Update on Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011-2015

Wards affected	1
Accountable director	
Originating service	l
Accountable employee(s)	

All	
Sarah Norman, Co	mmunity
Public Health	
Ros Jervis Tel Email	Director of Public Health 01902 55(1372) ros.jervis@wolverhampton.gov.uk

#### Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

#### **Recommendations for noting:**

The Committee is asked to note:

- 1. The update in relation to the implementation of the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011-2015, with a particular focus on Goal 3
- 2. The new reporting systems agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board
- 3. That the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy is now the key implementation plan for the alcohol strand of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priority for drugs and alcohol.

#### 1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide members of the Licencing Committee with an update in relation to the implementation of the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011-2015, with a special emphasis on Goal 3 – Combating alcohol related crime, disorder and increasing community safety due to alcohol abuse.

#### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The Licensing Committee endorsed the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011 2015 on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and agreed to receive periodic reports. At the meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013, the Committee received a review of performance against the 2012/13 action plan and summary reviews of Goals 1, 3 and 4 together with a more detailed review of Goal 2. The committee also received a revised Action Plan for 2013/14.
- 2.2 This report, deferred from the November meeting, is the next update for the Committee on progress and has a particular focus on Goal 3.
- 2.3 The Committee is also updated on agreements made at the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board on new reporting arrangements and the links between the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Board priority on alcohol and drugs.

#### 3.0 **Progress Update**

Brief updates on progress against Goals 1, 2 and 4 are given below, with a greater emphasis on Goal 3.

# 3.1 Goal 1 - A whole community approach to changing alcohol habits in Wolverhampton

Some progress has been made with supporting schools to deliver drug and alcohol education programmes with exceeded targets for secondary schools. However the future of the Healthy Schools programme remains unclear which has implications for future delivery of this part of the strategy.

Significant data collection issues remain with monitoring the other strategic objectives in this goal of the strategy; this is referred to further in section 3.5.

#### 3.2 **Goal 2 - Developing a well managed night time economy**

Progress has continued to be made in respect to the majority of programmed activities within Goal 2. The following points summarise the key achievements over the first 6 months:-

- The number of 4 and 5 star food premises in the city centre has increased to 170 (target was 70).
- The number of unsatisfactory food premises in city centre has reduced to zero (target was 10).
- Targeted action continued in respect to underage sales. (18 complaints received regarding 13 off -licences. All sent advice letters. Test purchases were undertaken at 8 premises. 2 under age sales witnessed investigations on-going).
- The Responsible Authority Forum is functioning well. It's key aim is to maintain a consistent and proportionate approach to licensing enforcement. The multi-agency

task force has conducted joint visits to six premises with three more visits planned for later this year.

- Funds of £3,100 have been carried forward for the Keeping it Safe campaign which will be co-ordinated through the Responsible Authorities Forum.
- Work has commenced to undertake a full review of the Licensing Policy Statement to be delivered in 2014.
- WCC premises now adopt best practice in relation to the sales and promotion of alcoholic drinks to meet to aims of promotion a well-managed responsible business.

#### 3.3 **Goal 4 – Improving health and alcohol treatment services in Wolverhampton**

The health check programme (which includes targeted alcohol brief intervention to 16 – 74/75 year olds) has now been implemented but there are problems with data systems and reporting. A campaign for Wolverhampton City Council staff was undertaken to coincide with Alcohol Awareness week in November 2013. Alcohol related mortality shows a steady decline as latest annual reporting for 2010-2012 shows a 3 year average mortality rate of 15.9 per 100,000 all ages population, reduced from 19.6 in 2008 – 2010. This reduction is to be cautiously welcomed, and continued monitoring will establish if this downward trend is sustained. However there are problems with more detailed interrogation of the data on treatments in acute and community settings.

# 3.4 Focus on Goal 3 – Combating alcohol related crime and disorder and increase community safety due to alcohol misuse

Strategic Objective	Progress
Strategic Objective i) Improve perception of crime and community safety	<ul> <li>Targeted work was undertaken for the National Alcohol Awareness Week which ran from 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013. A multi- agency campaign calendar is being compiled and Christmas campaigns have been planned in the run up to the festive season.</li> <li>Operation staysafe has been reviewed and updated to meet the needs of the night time economy.</li> </ul>
Strategic Objective ii) Improve early intervention methods	<ul> <li>23 Section 27 Dispersal Notices have been issued since April 2013 and several pub licences have been revoked. Interventions are taking place with other premises.</li> <li>9 ASBOs have been granted in June 2013.</li> <li>Further work is needed to routinely capture the police's use of Designated Public Place Orders (DPPO)s; it is therefore not currently possible to quantify the amount of DPPO activity with any level of certainty.</li> <li>A tactic of using NACRO staff during the night time economy to provide 'alcohol awareness' is being considered.</li> </ul>

	<ul> <li>Response Officers are now using 'Lapel Cams' and are encouraged to record incidents where alcohol is a factor.</li> </ul>
Strategic Objective iii) Reduce cycle of re-offending	<ul> <li>This strategic objective relates to managing convicted offenders to tackle their alcohol needs. Data on completed Alcohol Treatment Requirements and Drug Rehabilitation requirements show a steady increase in completions (11 and 19 completions respectively, for first half of 2013/14); we are on track to achieve the target completions for the year.</li> <li>Operation Sentinel is a WMP approach to highlight vulnerability, alcohol is a factor in domestic violence incidents, medium and high risk victims/offenders are referred to Wolverhampton substance misuse service, this will now include standard risk subjects.</li> </ul>
Strategic Objective iv) Improve systems for collection, collation and use of alcohol crime related data	<ul> <li>There is evidence of an increase in the use of 'Alcohol involved' (Al) markers when crimes are recorded – a 28% increase between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31st August.</li> <li>There has been a 137% increase in alcohol related anti-social behaviour, however data collection systems have been changed which may account for some of the increase.</li> <li>There has been a 5% decrease in violence with injury in the city centre.</li> <li>Of the total number of domestic violence related crimes over a three month period from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> September, 150 out of 389 involved alcohol and in 140 the offender was intoxicated. This data is not easily extracted.</li> <li>A&amp;E incident locations in past years for October to December show hotspots in the city centre and the majority of these incidents occurred in the evening/early hours of the morning.</li> </ul>

#### 3.5 New reporting arrangements

The above progress report highlights significant problems with data collection. The Alcohol Strategy Strategic Leads group is reviewing the whole of the strategy and goal indicators and is developing a highlight reporting system via a dashboard to streamline the reporting of indicators to monitor progress with the Alcohol Strategy. This will consist of fewer, but more meaningful indicators which will highlight those areas that are off

track, those areas that are on track and those areas doing very well. The Licencing Committee will receive a copy of the dashboard at the next scheduled update on the Alcohol Strategy.

#### 3.6 Relationship with the alcohol priority of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

At the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> November, in order to clarify the relationship between Wolverhampton's Alcohol Strategy and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy alcohol priority, it was agreed that the Alcohol Strategy provides the key implementation plan for the alcohol element of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy alcohol and drugs priority. This provides clarity and joins up the elements of the various strategies and avoids duplication.

#### 4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 Any actions arising from the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy will be delivered within the existing approved budgets held under Public Health, and other mainstream budgets held by services and external agencies that are responsible for delivery of specific actions.

[AS/06122013/C]

#### 5.0 Legal implications

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, a number of the actions contained within the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy Action Plan will require legal input which will be sought, when appropriate.

SH/05122013/Q

#### 6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 The broad aims and objectives of the Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy are intended to reduce the harmful impact of alcohol on health & wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

#### 7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are direct environmental implications arising from this report as several actions contained within the Alcohol Strategy and action plan seek to improve environmental conditions, particularly within the City Centre.

#### 8.0 Schedule of Background Papers

Papers to Health and Wellbeing Board REPORT TO THE SHADOW HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011 – 2015. 5<sup>TH</sup> September 2012 REPORT TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Update. 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013

REPORT TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – Alcohol Strategy – Progress Update. 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2013

REPORT TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - Wolverhampton Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 – 2018 and JSNA. 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013

REPORT TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - Progress Update on Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority: Alcohol and Drugs . 6<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Papers to Licensing Committee REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE – Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011 – 2015. 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012

REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE - Wolverhampton Alcohol Strategy 2011 – 2015. 27<sup>th</sup> June 2012- Update Report. 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013

REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE – Alcohol Strategy: Progress Update. 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013

Papers to Cabinet

REPORT TO THE CABINET (RESOURCES) PANEL – Substance Misuse Procurement Programme. Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2012

REPORT TO CABINET – Section 75 Agreements With Wolverhampton City PCT. Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2012

REPORT TO THE CABINET (RESOURCES) PANEL – Substance Misuse Procurement Programme. Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Papers to Health Scrutiny Panel REPORT TO HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL – Wolverhampton Substance Misuse Services Consultation Findings. Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2012

REPORT TO HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL – Wolverhampton Substance Misuse Service Contract Award and Mobilisation. Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013

REPORT TO HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL – Substance Misuse Service Contract Award – Six Month Review Update. 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013