

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

# Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee

Minutes - 2 April 2024

## Attendance

### Members of the Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee

Cllr Zee Russell (Chair)

Cllr Rashpal Kaur

Cllr Gillian Wildman

### Applicant / Premises Licence Holder

Mr Chris Weatherstone

Aberrant Group Ltd.

### Employees

Debra Craner

Ronald Sempebwa

Jacob Stokes

Fabrica Hastings

Section Leader – Licensing and Compliance

Solicitor

Democratic Services Officer

Democratic Services Officer

*Item No.*     *Title*

**1        Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Steve Evans.

**2        Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3        Licensing Act 2003 - Application for a Premises Licence in respect of  
McDonalds Restaurant, 725 Cannock Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton,  
West Midlands, WV10 8PN**

An application for a Premises Licence in respect of McDonalds Restaurant, 725 Cannock Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV10 8PN was considered following representations received from Other Persons.

The Chair welcomed all parties to the hearing and invited all those present to introduce themselves. All parties did so.

The Chair outlined the procedure to be followed and all parties confirmed that they understood the procedure.

The Sub-Committee's statutory duty was to consider the application and representations, and to take such steps as contained in the Licensing Act 2003, as it considered appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives.

Debra Craner, Section Leader – Licensing and Compliance, provided an outline of the application. She stated that Councillor Steve Evans had submitted a written statement that would be read out on his behalf. Mr Chris Weatherstone, Applicant, confirmed that the summary was accurate.

The Chair invited the Applicant to present the application. Mr Weatherstone did so, as per Appendix 1 of the report. He stated the following:

1.        The Application was to extend the premises licence between the hours of 23:00 and midnight, in order to provide services to customers who had been asking for this for some time.
2.        The Applicant served a number of different customers at this time, including shift workers, emergency service workers and those supporting the night-time economy.
3.        An extension would create further sales, generating more working hours and job opportunities in the process. In particular, it would create job opportunities for 18 – 23-year-olds; a group where unemployment was high in the local area.
4.        McDonalds had deep roots in the community, was a community-based restaurant, and strived to be good neighbours.
5.        The Applicant had commissioned an independent company to complete a detailed noise impact report. This concluded that an extension to the hours of operation would not create any additional noise impact for residents.

6. The Applicant was confident that car park capacity was sufficient and that an extension to the hours of operation would not impact neighbours or congestion on the road or in the car park itself.
7. The car park was generally quiet from 21:00 onwards, even on peak days on Friday and Saturday. There was also very little footfall into the restaurant after 21:00.
8. The large petrol station next door operated until midnight, seven days a week.
9. The Applicant had personally supervised the restaurant for over ten years and there were no major incidents in the evening during that time.
10. The Applicant had significant experience with operating restaurants with extended hours; there were nine restaurants under his supervision, with most operating on a 24-hour basis and all past 21:00.
11. Extensive employee training, on call security and CCTV were in place at the restaurant.
12. There had been no objections from residents or Responsible Authorities.

The Chair afforded all parties present the opportunity to question the Applicant in relation to his submission. Mr Weatherstone responded to questions asked.

The Chair invited Other Persons to make representations. The Section Leader – Licensing and Compliance read out Councillor Evans' written statement. The following points were outlined in the statement:

1. Noise Impact.
2. Other Objections.
3. Car Park Capacity and Road Congestion.
4. Local Environment.
5. Extended Hours.

Responding to a question, Mr Weatherstone confirmed that he would be willing to consider an extension to the drive-thru hours of operation only.

The Chair invited all parties present to make their final address.

There were no final statements made.

All parties, with the exception of Ronald Sempebwa, Solicitor, and the Democratic Services Officer, withdrew from the meeting to enable the Sub-Committee to determine the matter.

The Sub-Committee adjourned at 10.48 hours.

The Sub-Committee reconvened at 11.53 hours.

All parties re-joined the meeting.

The Chair advised all parties of the decision of the Sub-Committee, a summary of which was read out by the Solicitor. The decision notice would be sent to all parties within five working days.

Resolved:

The Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee considered the evidence presented and had regard to the Application, representations made, guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

On all the evidence in writing and at the hearing, the Statutory Licensing Sub-Committee resolved to grant the application in accordance with Section 18 of the Licensing Act 2003.

An appeal may be made to the Black Country Magistrates' Court against this decision by the Applicant, the holder of the premises licence, or any other person who made a relevant representation, within 21 days from the date of receipt of the written notice of decision.