

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

LICENSING HEARING

At a meeting of the **Licensing Sub-Committee** held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF at 10:00 am on Tuesday, 21 August 2018

PRESENT

Councillor I Hutchinson
(in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

K Parry (Reserve)
W Pattison

K Stow

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

H Bowers
T Hardy
N Masson

Democratic Services Officer
Licensing Manager
Principal Solicitor, Regulation

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

S Desor
M Lamb
N Brown

Applicant's Legal Representative
Designated Premises Supervisor
Area Manager, Stonegate Pub Company

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1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Ian Hutchinson be elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF THE BLAGDON ARMS, VILLAGE SQUARE, CRAMLINGTON, NE23 1DN

The purpose of the hearing was to determine the application for the variation of a Premises Licence in respect of The Blagdon Arms, Village Square, Cramlington, NE23 1DN (the premises).

Tasmin Hardy, Licensing Manager informed the Committee that the application was before Members as representations had been received from interested parties on the grounds of Prevention of Public Nuisance and Prevention of Crime and Disorder.

Ms Hardy further informed the Committee of a request received from Councillor Swinburn, Ward Councillor to adjourn the hearing to allow for further consultation from residents as he considered the application had not been advertised in accordance with the Home Office guidance of the Licensing Act 2003.

Mr Desor, Legal Representative for the applicant refused the request for the adjournment .

Following clarification from the Chair, the Licensing Manager confirmed that the application had been advertised correctly. The Chair stated that whilst he sympathised with Councillor Swinburn's concerns, the application had been advertised correctly and there had been 20 clear days between receipt of the first representation (6 July) and the end of the consultation (26 July).

Members of the sub-committee agreed that the application had been advertised in accordance with regulations and that the matter would not therefore be deferred.

The Licensing Manager continued to introduce the report and advised that the applicant had requested a number of changes to the licence as outlined in the report.

Two representations had been received from Mr Brian Anderson and Councillor Swinburn.

Additional information received from Councillor Swinburn was circulated for Members' attention.

Mr Desor representing the applicant explained the reasons why the applicant had applied for a variation of premises licence.

Following Mr Desor's submission, questions were asked of the applicant, legal representative and manager.

The sub-committee considered the Officer's report and all representations, and verbal submissions from those persons entitled to speak at the hearing.

Members of the sub-committee and the Principal Solicitor retired in order for Members to consider the application and obtain any legal advice necessary.

RESOLVED:-

The sub-committee have considered all representations before them, both verbal and written and have given them equal weight.

The sub-committee have resolved to **GRANT** the application to vary the premises licence in full as described in the application.

Reasons:

1. There are no objections from the Police and Environmental Health and no evidence from them of potential problems with regards to crime and disorder or nuisance.
2. The sub-committee note the issues set out in the objection letters however, there is little evidence that these issues are directly attributable to the licensed premises.
3. The statutory guidance also acknowledges that beyond the immediate area surrounding the premises, these are matters for the personal responsibility of individuals under the law.
4. There is no evidence before the sub-committee which specifically states why the variation would affect the licensing objectives over and above what was already licensed.
5. The sub-committee note the manual and policies provided by the applicant and considered these sufficient to allay any concerns.

For the above reasons, the sub-committee consider that the application would promote the licensing objectives.

CHAIRMAN

DATE