

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE - PREMISES AND GAMBLING

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee - Premises and Gambling held on Wednesday, 19 October 2022 at the Council Chamber - Council Offices at 10.00 am

Committee Cllr J Rest (Chairman)
Members Present: Cllr T Adams
Cllr E Spagnola

Officers in Attendance: Legal Advisor (LA)
Licensing Enforcement Officer (LEO)
Environmental Protection Officer (EPO)
Democratic Services Officer - Regulatory

1 CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and affirmed the procedure as set out on the Agenda.

2 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

3 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

5 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not applicable.

6 APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION TO PREMISES LICENCE - VOEWOOD, CROMER ROAD, HIGH KELLING, NORFOLK, NR25 6QS

Present: Applicant & Site Manager

The Chairman, Members of the Panel and Officers introduced themselves.

The LA outlined the purpose of the hearing and explained the procedure for the meeting.

The LEO introduced the Officers report, outlining that the Applicant sought to vary their existing premises licence to permit the following licensable activity to extend to the cellar bar area only at the premises.

The LEO confirmed that during the 28 day representation period, the council had received representations from responsible authorities including the Environmental

Protection team, Licensing Team, Norfolk Constabulary- Licensing and High Kelling Parish Council in addition to twenty representations made by other persons, attached to the report before the licensing Sub-Committee at appendix D, including eighteen objections, one supporting representation and one representation withdrawn.

Further the LEO stressed that any variation would be subject to mandatory conditions, and would need to accord with the promotion of the four licensing objectives.

The Venue Manager, speaking on behalf of the Applicant stated that Voewood management decided to make partial use of the cellar area to increase the offering on the site. Works to the cellar had been completed in October 2021, with the bar being able to accommodate up to 60 persons.

In respect of sound nuisance, the Venue Manger outlined they make use of an individual who actively monitors the sound levels in and around the Voewood site from 08:00 to 02:00 during any wedding events being held on site. She stressed that the individual is there to report any excessive sound and has the power to reduce audio systems to an acceptable level if required.

The Venue Manager continued stating the Applicant had obtained a fire risk assessment in respect of the cellar area usage where the recommendations were put in in place by the Applicant.

The Applicant presented his case and informing the Sub-Committee that the cellar area is subterrain which should serve benefit sound management and limit the overall impact on any nuisance to surrounding areas.

The LEO asked the Applicant and Venue Manager if the contact information for the person attending the site to monitor sound was readily accessible, and if those complainants had been supplied with this information. The Venue Manger advised that the staff on site was often on walk around and was not always in the Office to answer calls during their shift, but advised that a works mobile phone could be provided to address concerns.

The Chairman asked if the Cellar bar could be booked separately to the venue. The Venue Manager advised that the Cellar Bar would be used exclusively by wedding guests, as the couple would book the entire site for the relevant dates. The Applicant confirmed the house and grounds were booked as a package, and that there was no intention to change this.

The Chairman reflected on the volume of objectors, and expressed the need for the venue to work with its neighbours. The Applicant stated that that Voewood seeks to be a good neighbour to surrounding properties and residents. He stressed he wished to foster good relations with neighbouring residents through availability and positive dialog. The Applicant considered that there had been a campaign against the business and an attempt by a couple of individuals to whip up support. He reiterated that the proposal would seek to reduce the purported noise complaints.

The Chairman commented it would be a great initiative, and would help to reduce complaints, if the Venue could be contacted at all hours, whether this be by way of mobile phone or other.

The Venue Manager advised that Voewood has been in operation for a period of 15

years and receives very few complaints for the number of events that are held at the site. Further, there were already conditions contained within the existing licence limiting the overall level of sound with decibel checkers actively monitoring sound levels to ensure compliance during events.

The EPO reviewed the history of the site and stated that the Applicant was last subject to one unconfirmed nuisance complaint in 2018, previously to that in 2017 there were five unconfirmed nuisance complaints, in 2014 there was one unconfirmed complaint and finally in 2012 there were five unconfirmed complaints.

The LEO added that the objections received in the representations were based on the premises as a whole, rather than objecting to the Cellar Bar. The hearing was not an opportunity to reconsider the Applicant's licence in respect of the entirety of its premises.

The EPO noted Members discussion that the provision of a work mobile phone be made available, and perhaps be added as a condition. She commented that there was merit in the public being provided with this contact number, so that issues could be resolved in a swift manner.

The Chairman asked if the site had suitable mobile phone coverage. The Venue Manager advised the coverage had been improved. She suggested that the Office Telephone number could be provided to local residents, with the option to leave a voicemail. These would be picked up by the relevant staff member after their rounds.

The LA confirmed that the decision notice would be provided to the Applicant within 5 working days.

RESOLVED

That the license be granted subject to condition's

- 1. The mandatory conditions applicable under the Licensing Act 2003**
- 2. The conditions consistent with the operating schedule as detailed at Paragraph 3.1 on page 15 of the Licensing Officer's report.**
- 3. The additional conditions which are consistent with the operating schedule as detailed at Paragraph 3.3 on page 16 of the Licensing Officer's report.**
- 4. The following additional condition is imposed by the Sub-Committee, it is considered to be necessary and proportionate:**

Condition 1

All windows and access doors to the ground floor within the cellar area are to remain closed, other than for access or egress, when events involving amplified music of any kind or speech are taking place.

The meeting ended at 10.35 am.

Chairman