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LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

11 December 2008

Present: - Councillor Mrs Heames in the Chair

Councillors Mrs Bowyer and Mrs Lewis

625. * **LACE GENTLEMEN'S CLUB, NELSON PLACE, NEWCASTLE, STAFFS**

Application for a Variation to a premises licence.

626. * **APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE**

Issues

Representations had been received from 'Churches Together in Newcastle Town' on the basis that to grant the application would undermine the prevention of crime and disorder, public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm Licensing Objectives.

Resolved

Having taken into account the Licensing Act 2003 and the guidance issued under Section 182 of the Act, the Council's statement of Licensing Policy and also the fact that the Church has objected to the application.

The sub-committee considered the licensing objectives in the light of what was said and having listened to the arguments were disposed to grant the variation for the following reasons:-

The case presented on behalf of the objectors was based on anecdotal evidence and the presumption that the increase in hours would lead to an increase in crime. The sub-committee could only take into account real evidence and the likelihood of the effect of the increase of hours. Following the recent High Court decision in the Thwaites case the sub-committee had to measure their views against the evidence and not depart into the realms of impermissible speculation.

The sub-committee based its decision on the 4 licensing objectives and could not take into account concerns about morality. No specific incidents had been produced in evidence and the sub-committee noted that no objection had been received from the police.

Finally the sub-committee considers that a number of the churches who had objected were not in the vicinity of the premises and had they objected individually would have been rejected under the terms of the Licensing Act.

Accordingly the sub-committee granted the application as requested.

MRS A HEAMES
Chair