

To the Chair and Members
of the
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Mrs P A Brown
742224
PAB/EVB – R82/49

12 October 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

A meeting of the **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE** will be held in **COMMITTEE ROOM 2, CIVIC OFFICES, MERRIAL STREET, NEWCASTLE** on **TUESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2007** at **10.00am**.

A G E N D A

Details of the procedure to be followed by the Sub-Committee together with Guidance Notes relating to Human Rights Act 1988 are attached.

1. To consider the report of your Officers.

Yours faithfully

A CAMPBELL

Democratic Services Manager

GUIDANCE NOTES

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 1998

In considering allegations against Members you should have regard to the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 which embody the rules of natural justice.

Rights and Freedoms to be considered when determining matters

ARTICLE 6: RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgement shall be pronounced publicly, but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.
2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.
3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:
 - (a) to be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;
 - (b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence;
 - (c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means, to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;
 - (d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;
 - (e) to have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

ARTICLE 8: RIGHT TO RESPECT FOR PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

ARTICLE 10: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. These rights shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.
2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of

health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

ARTICLE 14: PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set fourth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

NB This is not a substantive right, but comes into play if other rights are likely to have been infringed. The prohibition is wide, but not exhaustive

ARTICLE 1: OF THE FIRST PROTOCOL PROTECTION OF PROPERTY

Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

NB Possessions, in this context, includes the right to apply for a licence, the right to hold and retain a licence and the goodwill of a business.

NOTE In this context it is also particularly important for members to observe the rule against bias.

**PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

NOTE:

All hearings will normally be held in public. However, the Licensing Sub-Committee may exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that the public interest in so doing outweighs the public interest in the hearing or that part of the hearing taking place in public. A party or that party's representatives may be treated as a member of the public and therefore excluded from the meeting for all or part of the hearing, and all parties have the right to be represented and to call witnesses.

The Clerk to the Committee will have the right to ask questions on behalf of the Committee of any party to the proceedings.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Chair of the Sub-Committee will open the meeting and introduce the members of the committee and call upon the parties to identify themselves and their representatives and to identify any witnesses they intend to call.
2. The Chair of the Sub-Committee will call upon the Clerk to the Committee to explain to the parties the procedures which will be followed at the hearing. Unless the Chair directs otherwise, each party will normally have a maximum period of one hour in which to give further information and call any witnesses in support of their case. In every case, all parties will have an equal maximum period.
3. The Chair of the Sub-Committee will then normally call upon the person who has made a relevant representation against the grant of an application to provide evidence in support of their representation.
4. The applicant will then have an opportunity to question that person.
5. Members of the Sub-Committee will then have the opportunity to question that person.
6. The person making the representations will then call any witness in support of their representation.
7. The applicant will then have the opportunity to question that witness.
8. Members of the Sub-Committee will have the opportunity to question that witness.
9. The applicant will then have the opportunity to give evidence in response to the application.
10. The person making the representations will have the opportunity to question the applicant.
11. Members of the Sub-Committee will have the opportunity to question the applicant.
12. The applicant will call any witness in support of their application.
13. The person making representations will have the right to question that witness.

14. Members of the Sub-Committee will have the right to question that witness.
15. The person making representations will have the right to address the Sub-Committee.
16. The applicant will have the opportunity to address the Sub-Committee.
17. All parties will then leave the room while the Sub-Committee consider their decision.
18. The Sub-Committee will normally make their determination at the conclusion of the hearing, but when this is not possible, will make its determination within the period of five working days beginning with the day on which the hearing was held.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM TO THE
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

23 October 2007

1. **APPLICATION FOR THE CONVERSION TO A PREMISES LICENCE WITH
VARIATION IN RESPECT OF THE PREMISES KNOWN AS BARGAIN BOOZE,
4 HIGH STREET, ROOKERY**

1. **Details of Application**

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| (a) <u>Applicant</u> | Staffordshire County Council Trading Standards |
| (b) <u>Premises</u> | Bargain Booze, 4 High Street, Rookery |
| (c) <u>Application for</u> | Review of a Premises Licence (copy of application form attached as Appendix 'A' – blue paper) |
| (d) <u>Grounds for review</u> | Incidents of disorder at the premises undermines the crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance objectives.

The selling of alcohol to young persons undermines the protection of children from harm licensing objective. It also undermines the crime and disorder objective because the selling of alcohol to children is a criminal offence. |
| (e) <u>Current hours of licensable activities</u>
<i>Sale of alcohol off the premises</i> | |
| Sunday | 10.00 – 22.30 hours |
| Monday to Saturday | 08.00 – 23.00 hours |
| (f) <u>Current licensable activities</u> | The supply of alcohol off the premises. |
| (g) <u>Location</u> | The premises is situated in a terraced row of properties comprising both residential and commercial. |

2. **Application**

The application is for a review of a premises licence under Section 51 Licensing Act 2003 by Staffordshire County Council Trading Standards. The applicant has

raised concerns on the grounds of the protection of children from harm objective of the Licensing Act 2003.

3. **Consultation**

The responsible authorities have been notified of the application. The applicant has advertised the application, as required, by way of poster displayed prominently at the premises. The following relevant representations have been received.

(a) **Responsible Authorities**

There has been a representation from received from Staffordshire Police. This is attached at Appendix 'B' – pink paper.

(b) **Interested parties**

None received.

5. **Policy Considerations**

(a) **Licensing Objectives**

The Licensing Act 2003 requires the Council to carry out its various licensing functions so as to promote the following four licensing objectives:-

- (i) the prevention of crime and disorder
- (ii) public safety
- (iii) the prevention of public nuisance
- (iv) the protection of children from harm

(b) **Policy Statement**

The Licensing Act 2003 required the Council to publish a "Statement of Licensing Policy" that set out the policies the Council will generally apply to promote the licensing objectives when making decisions on applications made under the Act.

The Council made a number of policy decisions in its Statement of Licensing Policy. The following policy decisions are relevant to this application:

- (i) Paragraph 2.10 and 4.3 Protection of Children from Harm
- (ii) Paragraph 2.11 illegal sales of Age Restricted Goods
- (iii) Paragraph 2.12 and 4.4 Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- (iv) Paragraph 2.15 and 4.1 Public Safety
- (vi) Paragraph 4.4 Prevention of Crime and Disorder

(c) **Statutory Guidance**

- (i) National guidance which promotes best practice ensuring consistent application of licensing powers and promotes fairness and equal treatment and proportionality came into force on 28 June 2007.

Copies of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and the Government's Statutory Guidance will be available at the Sub-Committee meeting.

6. **Comments**

In making their decision on the application, the Sub-Committee are also obliged to have regard to Statutory Guidance and the Council's own Statement of Licensing Policy. The Sub-Committee must also have regard to all the representations made and the evidence they hear. However, the Sub-Committee must disregard any objections that do not relate to the promotion of the four licensing objectives.

The Sub-Committee must take such of the following steps as they consider necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives as set out in paragraph 4(a) above.

- (a) to modify the conditions of the licence;
- (b) to remove the designated premises supervisor;
- (c) to suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months;
- (d) to revoke the licence;

And for this purpose the conditions of the licence are modified if any of them is altered or omitted or any new condition is added.

The Sub-Committee are asked to note that they may not modify the conditions or reject the whole or part of the application merely because they consider it desirable to do so. It must actually be necessary in order to promote the licensing objectives.