

MINUTES OF LICENSING PANEL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2015

Present:

Councillor (in the Chair)

Councillors

Hunter Ryan L Taylor

In Attendance:

Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Support Manager
Sharon Davies, Head of Licensing Service

Apologies:

Councillors

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Panel considered the appointment of a C hairman for the meeting.

Resolved:

That Councillor L Taylor be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST - LICENSING

There were no declarations of interest

3 PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETING

The Chairman explained the procedure for the meeting and that an equal time limit of twenty minutes had been allocated for all parties.

4 APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE- BOLTON NEWS

The Licensing Panel considered an application for a new Premises Licence in respect of Bolton News, 90-92 Bolton Street. The application sought to provide sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises between 8am and 11pm daily.

The Panel noted that the representations on behalf of Weights and Measures had now been withdrawn following mediation the addition of conditions as outlined in the representation.

The applicant, Mr Puventhirarajan Nadarajah, was in attendance accompanied by his solicitor, Ms Andrea Forrest. Ms Forrest outlined the application on behalf of Mr Nadarajah and highlighted a number of key issues: the relatively small nature of the proposed sales of alcohol as a proportion of the business, that Mr Nadarajah operated two similar premises one in St Helens and one in Wigan and was an experienced operator, that the proposed Designated Premises Supervisor had a good level of experience, that

MINUTES OF LICENSING PANEL MEETING - WEDNESDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER 2015

there was no connection between Mr Nadarajah and the previous problematic operator of the premises and a proposed range of conditions that the applicant was prepared to have imposed on the licence if granted.

PC Lisa Evans, Lancashire Constabulary Licensing Section assisted by PC Natali Harper, Community Beat Manager for Bloomfield outlined the objection by the Police to this application. They highlighted the high levels of crime and disorder within Bloomfield ward. They also outlined the problems that had existed when the premises were previously licensed before that licence was revoked, the Police acknowledged that this was a different operator with a high level of experience but outlined their view that the challenges that the area suffered from remained.

Mr Mark Marshall, Licensing and Health and Safety Manager- Blackpool Council outlined representations on behalf of the Licensing Authority, Health and Safety and Public Health. He outlined that the premises were now generally compliant with the issues identified by Health and Safety. He emphasised on behalf of the Licensing Authority and Public Health that the application was within the Off-Licence Saturation Policy zone and not withstanding the experience of the operator there were already significant challenges in the area.

The Panel considered carefully the evidence submitted by all parties and noted that the application was within the Off-Licence Saturation Policy zone. The Panel noted that this policy created a rebuttable presumption against the granting of further licences within this area due to the high levels of crime and disorder already being experienced in this area.

The Panel considered that in this case while the applicant represented an improvement on the previous operator of the premises, he had not satisfied the Panel that the granting of the application would not add to the levels of crime and disorder.

Resolved:

That the application for a Premises Licence for Bolton News be refused.

Chairman

(The meeting endedTime Not Specified)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Lennox Beattie Executive and Regulatory Manager
Tel: 01253 477157
E-mail: lennox.beattie@blackpool.gov.uk