

MINUTES OF LICENSING PANEL MEETING - THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2022

Present:

Councillors

Baker

Cross

O'Hara

In Attendance:

Sarah Chadwick, Democratic Governance Senior Advisor

Sharon Davies, Senior Licensing Solicitor

Tyrone Wassell, Democratic Governance Advisor

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Licensing Panel considered the appointment of Chairman for the meeting.

Resolved:

That Councillor Baker be appointed Chairman for the meeting.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST - LICENSING

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

3 PROCEDURE FOR THE MEETING

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

4 APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION TO A PREMISES LICENCE - KANEE CONVENIENCE STORE, 58 DICKSON ROAD, BLACKPOOL, FY1 2AJ

The Licensing Panel considered an application to vary the Premises Licence for Kanee Convenience Store, 58 Dickson Road, PL0072, to extend the terminal hour for off sales of alcohol by one hour from 23.00 to 00:00 Monday to Saturday and to adjust the trading times on Sunday from 10:00 to 22:30 to match the trading hours in the rest of the week which would change from 10:00 to 22:30 to 08:00 to 00:00.

Mr Mark Marshall was in attendance representing the case on behalf of Mr. Perashath Selveraja, The Director of Kanee Convenience Store, who was also present.

The applicant Mr. Perashath Selveraja was described as an experienced operator who had directed the business for 6 years with having not drawn the attention of the licensing authority or brought the reputation of his business into disrepute. Mr. Perashath Selveraja had worked on improving the existing knowledge and training of his staff prior to submitting the application and that he and his staff actively refuse sales of alcohol to persons they feel would be problematic. Mr Marshall explained that extending the premises terminal hour alongside these extra steps proposed would be a reasonable request for the panel to consider. Furthermore a personal licence holder would be on the premises at all times which Mr Mark Marshall felt would further reduce the possible

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effect that late night sales of alcohol from Kanee Convenience Store would have on the crime and incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area. Mr Marshall felt that instances of crime and anti-social behaviour were the result of other, wider issues that exist in the area and that it was not necessarily fair to view these alcohol related issues in relation to a Kanee Convenience Store extending its terminal hour to match the hours of other premises nearby or that late night sales of alcohol sold from such off-licences were to blame for these crime and anti-social behaviour statistics.

Mr Marshall concluded by advising the Panel that Temporary Event Notices (TEN) had recently been applied for in June 2022 running for a total twenty one days to test the proposed later opening hours which had passed without incident. He therefore considered that there would be no adverse impact on the Licensing Objectives if the extended hours were approved and so invited the Panel to grant the application.

Sergeant Nat Cox presented the objection on behalf of Lancashire Constabulary, Sergeant Cox drew attention to recent police statistics that indicated Blackpool had high levels of alcohol related harm for the size of the population and that in particular there exists widespread deprivation within the Central Wards of the town, Claremont and Talbot. There are already approximately 179 licensed premises in Blackpool, half of which are located in the most deprived wards in the town.

In the last year, Lancashire Police recorded 3,573 alcohol related crimes in Blackpool further to this total figure 852 (25%) of this total were alcohol related crimes committed in the Claremont Ward in which the Kanee Convenience store is situated. Sergeant Cox added to this stating that roughly 100 of these incidents will occur between the hours of 00:00 and 01:00 Sergeant Cox outlined Lancashire Constabulary are of the opinion that this premises would add to the cumulative impact already being experienced in the area as Claremont and Talbot are also the highest wards for alcohol related anti-social behaviour and hospital admissions.

The panel considered the representations made by both Mr Marshall and Lancashire Constabulary. They acknowledged that the applicant was a responsible operator but also had regard to the location of the premises being in one of the most deprived area of the town with high levels of alcohol related crime. The panel noted that the additional hour requested, 23.00 – 00.00 was the time when alcohol related crime and disorder started to increase. The panel felt that given the location of the premises and the times involved, granting this application would undermine the licensing objectives. The applicant had not persuaded the panel to depart from their policy.

Resolved:

That the application for the variation of the Premises Licence in respect of Kanee Convenience Store be refused.

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Chairman

(The meeting ended 10.50 am)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Sarah Chadwick Democratic Governance Senior Advisor
Tel: 01253 477153
E-mail: sarah.chadwick@blackpool.gov.uk