

MINUTES OF LICENSING PANEL MEETING - MONDAY, 18 MARCH 2024

Present:

Councillors

Bamborough Farrell Jones

In Attendance:

Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager

Sharon Davies, Senior Licensing Solicitor

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

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

Resolved:

That Councillor Bamborough 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 set for all parties.

4 APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE - MR CHEF, 96-98 TALBOT ROAD

The Licensing Panel considered an application for a New Premises Licence in respect of Mr Chef, 96-98 Talbot Road. The application had requested Late Night Refreshment Monday to Sunday 23:00 – 05:00 with opening hours from 12.00 - 05.00 Monday to Sunday. The applicant had volunteered a number of conditions on the application form which would be attached to the Premises Licence if granted.

The applicant Mr Solima Fathy Salama accompanied by a friend was in attendance and made representations to the Licensing Panel in support of the application. Mr Salama highlighted that the application was in his view in line with other applications recently granted in the same area and that he was an experienced operator of late night take aways. Mr Salama also outlined that he would have CCTV and when necessary door supervisors to minimise crime and disorder.

Mr Lee Petrak, Licensing Authority, presented an objection to the application. Mr Petrak highlighted that although the previous Cumulative Impact Policy had expired, the area remained one with significant challenges in terms of crime and disorder. Mr Petrak highlighted the evidence in his written representation as to the high levels of crime and disorder particularly after 1am in the immediate vicinity of the proposed premises. Mr

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Petrak explained that this meant that the premises required an operator with a strong track record and contrasted this situation with the operation of Mr Salama's previous premises Hot Stuff, Queen Street, where he had received a warning letter for failure to comply with the conditions on his licence namely the provision of door staff. Mr Petrak invited the Panel to consider carefully whether it could have faith that Mr Salama would operate his new premises in accordance with the conditions he had offered in the operating schedule and without undermining the Licensing Objectives.

Pc Emma Pritchard, Lancashire Constabulary, also spoke in objection to the application. PC Pritchard highlighted the Police's support for the stance taken by the Licensing Authority. PC Pritchard explained that the Police had significant concerns about the high levels of crime and disorder within the Talbot Road area combined with the applicant's poor track record in promoting the Licensing Objectives and adhering to agreed conditions. PC Pritchard highlighted that the failure to comply with door staff conditions had taken place on the Friday before Christmas one of the busiest days of the year.

Licensing Panel considered carefully the evidence submitted by all parties. It noted the significant issues experienced in the area in regards crime and disorder. It expressed concern with Mr Salama's previous failure to comply with agreed conditions. It considered that to grant the application would not promote the Licensing Objectives particularly that of Prevention of Crime and Disorder and that there were not conditions or amendments that would ameliorate this particularly having regards to the applicant's poor track record.

Resolved:

That the application for a Premises Licence in respect of Mr Chef, 96-98 Talbot Road be refused.

Chairman

(The meeting ended 3.20 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
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