

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

AGENDA



Tuesday 21st January 2025

at 10.00 am

**in Committee Room C,
Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE:

Councillors Darby, Dunbar and Jorgeson

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2024

3.2 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th October 2024

4. ITEMS FOR DECISION

No items.

5. ANY OTHER ITEMS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

6. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) (VARIATION) ORDER 2006

EXEMPT ITEMS

CIVIC CENTRE EVACUATION AND ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE

In the event of a fire alarm or a bomb alarm, please leave by the nearest emergency exit as directed by Council Officers. A Fire Alarm is a continuous ringing. A Bomb Alarm is a continuous tone.

The Assembly Point for everyone is Victory Square by the Cenotaph. If the meeting has to be evacuated, please proceed to the Assembly Point so that you can be safely accounted for.

Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs referred to below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

7. EXEMPT ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 7.1 Personal Licence application MS (para 1) – *Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)*



LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

27th September 2024

The meeting commenced at 10.00am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Martin Dunbar (In the Chair)

Also Present: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 Councillor Tom Feeney was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Michael Jorgeson and Councillor Sue Little was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Rob Darby.

Applicant: Amjad Selim (accompanied by Andrew Mason)

Objectors: Pete Bradley, Lin Gould, Marnie Ramsey and Graham Waugh.

Officers: Rachael Readman, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager
Neil Wilson, Assistant Chief Solicitor
Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

17. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillors Rob Darby and Michael Jorgeson.

18. Declarations of interest by Members

None

19. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2024

Minutes confirmed

20. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 7th August 2024

Minutes confirmed

21. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2024

Minutes confirmed

22. Application for a new premises licence – Villiers Street, Hartlepool (Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)

Members were asked to consider a new premises licence for Dart Foods (formerly Tesco) on Villiers Street. A licence was sought for the supply of alcohol off premises Monday-Sunday 8am-11pm which would be the premises opening hours. Six representations opposing to the proposal had been submitted by members of the public, 4 of whom were present at the meeting.

Following discussions between the applicant and Cleveland Police a number of conditions had been attached to the premises licence, details of which were provided as part of the papers.

The applicant Amjad Selim was present at the meeting. He was accompanied by Andrew Mason. Mr Selim advised that the opening hours had been reduced to 8am-6pm Monday to Friday (10am-5pm on Sunday) so a licence to 11pm would no longer be required. They would not be selling single cans, 4 packs, spirits, wine or anything above a certain alcoholic strength only fridge packs of beer.

Members noted that these premises were located in an area blighted by anti-social behaviour. They queried why they wished to sell alcohol from 8am in light of these problems. Mr Selim noted that this was officially classified as a supermarket and other supermarkets sell alcohol at similar times. However he would be prepared to amend the start time for the sale of alcohol to 10am if this would alleviate some of the concerns.

A number of people who had made representations against the proposal spoke at the meeting. They praised Mr Selim's efforts to bring a derelict building back into use but questioned the need to sell alcohol in an area already blighted by problems where alcohol was readily available elsewhere. Examples were given of anti-social behaviour in the vicinity and the intimidation this causes to residents and visitors to the town centre. They also referred to the impact this had on wider society in terms of increased crime and the cost to the NHS and social services.

The Head of Service for Community Hubs also spoke at the meeting, noting issues with anti-social behaviour in the immediate area which had caused safeguarding concerns around children visiting the hub.

The Trading Standards and Licensing Manager confirmed that the police were satisfied with the conditions that had been attached and had therefore not raised any objection to the proposal. She confirmed that members

could add further conditions should they so wish. Minimum pricing of alcohol is mandatory and Mr Selim confirmed they had no intention to engage in special offers on alcohol such as buy one get one free. He indicated he would be happy to work with the Council and Police should there be any issues involving his premises. Opening the shop had brought life to a derelict area and provided jobs for 14 people.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance at the hearing and their responses to Elected Members' questions. All parties left the meeting and members deliberated in closed session. They considered the application in accordance with the promotion of the licensing objectives and having regard to the Guidance and the Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy.

Members noted the issues around anti-social behaviour in the area and the actions that have and are being taken to combat this. However they were also impressed at Mr Selim's efforts to work with the local community to address this, noting that he had willingly accepted all the conditions suggested by Cleveland Police and had been happy to reduce the licensable hours from those originally requested.

All parties rejoined the meeting.

This is an application for a new premises license for a local convenience store to sell/supply alcohol between 8am and 11pm, seven days a week. The applicant has proposed (and agreed with the police) certain conditions at Appendix 10.

We have considered the application and the additional representations made today.

Those representations can be summarised as:

1. The existing anti-social behaviour in the area has been noted but this application will not exacerbate the issue
2. That this will be a great addition to the area and will bring the shop back into use
3. That they have agreed conditions with the police
4. There will be no sales of single cans, high strength cans or spirits
5. The premises will be well managed
6. They had reduced the opening hours sought to 8am-6pm and will only sell alcohol from 10am to help address the concerns of local residents

We have considered the written representations put forward by five local residents and the Head of Service for Community Hubs. Furthermore, we have today heard oral representations from local residents and the Head of Service for Community Hubs. We have had the opportunity to ask questions and explore the concerns in some detail.

The residents have a detailed experience of living in the area and the extensive anti-social behaviour that has taken place over the years. The concerns can be summarised as follows:

1. The area has historically suffered with significant anti-social behaviour
2. The further availability of alcohol cannot help these issues
3. The shop is directly opposite the Central Hub and there are safeguarding concerns for the children who attend the service. Other local businesses already attract anti-social behaviour and this will add to the problems.
4. Residents are afraid of the problems that this proposal will attract. Matters have only recently quietened down following a dispersal order

A number of conditions had been agreed with The Police and as a result there are no objections from them.

We are acutely aware of the anti-social behaviour that blights this area and the actions that have, and are being taken to combat this issue. We are however impressed by the applicant's willingness to work with the local community to address their concerns.

We are prepared to grant a premises licence for reduced hours sought by the applicant which will be from 10am until 6pm every day in accordance with the policy. We consider that this decision is appropriate and proportionate.

Decision

1. That a licence to sell alcohol be granted 10am-6pm.
2. That the conditions agreed between the applicant and Cleveland Police (appendix 10 refers) be noted
3. That the following additional conditions be added to the licence:
 - I. No sale of wine
 - II. No sale of spirits
 - III. No sale of products consisting of a pack of 4 items or below

IV. No special offers such as BOGOF on the sale of alcohol

All decisions were a majority 2-1 vote.

The meeting concluded at 11:15am

CHAIR

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES AND DECISION RECORD

8th October 2024

The meeting commenced at 10.00am in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool.

Present:

Councillor: Ben Clayton (In the Chair)

Councillor: John Nelson

Also Present: In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.2 Councillor Rob Darby was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Sue Little

Applicant representatives:

Gail Lewis and Stuart Reeves

Officers: Rachael Readman, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager

Neil Wilson, Assistant Chief Solicitor

Jo Stubbs, Democratic Services Officer

23. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Sue Little.

24. Declarations of interest by Members

None

25. Application for the variation of a gaming machine permit – Stag and Monkey, Brenda Road, Hartlepool *(Assistant Director, Regulatory Services)*

Members were asked to consider an application for the variation of a gaming machine permit in respect of the Stag and Monkey to increase the number of gaming machine from 4 to 5 (an increase by 1 in the number of category C machines). A plan of the premises showing the location of existing machines and the proposed additional machine was appended to the report with a copy of the Gaming Machine Compliance Document.

Representatives from Green King Brewing and Retail Ltd, Gail Lewis and Stuart Reeves, were present at the meeting. They did not speak in support of the application and no questions were asked of them.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance at the hearing. All parties left the meeting and members deliberated in closed session. They considered the application in accordance with the promotion of the licensing objectives and having regard to the Gambling Commission Code of Practice and the Council's Gambling Act Statement of Principles.

Members noted that there had been no contraventions of the Gambling Commission Code of Practice or the Council's Gambling Act Statement of Principles on the premises. The plan showed all gaming machines could be easily monitored.

All parties rejoined the meeting.

Decision

That the application for an additional Category C gaming machine at the Stag and Monkey be approved unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 10:15am

CHAIR