
CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE, 11.03.08

Present: Councillor W.Gareth Roberts (Chairman);
Councillors E.M. Jones and W.A.Evans

Also present: Gareth W. Jones (Senior Legal and Administrative Manager), Amlyn ab Iorwerth (Licensing Manager), Heilyn Williams (Licensing Officer) and Barbara Owen (Committee Officer).

Others invited to the meeting:

Representing the Police: Mr Ian Williams (Police Licensing Co-ordinator); Sergeant Wyn Lane
Applicant: Miss Angela North (Premises Owner) Mr North (Applicant's father)
Objectors: Mr Stuart Eaves (on behalf of the Community Council); Mr and Mrs R. Ridley; Mr Mark Graham; Mrs F. James.

1. APPLICATION FOR LICENCE FOR THE POST OFFICE, FAIRBOURNE

Submitted – the report of the Licensing Manager on the application of the Post Office, Fairbourne, for a licence to sell alcohol. It was noted that the Police had concerns about the application and that a number of local residents objected to the application.

The following procedure was followed when considering the application:-

- i. members of the sub-committee were given an opportunity to ask questions of the Council's representative;
- ii. the applicant was given an opportunity to ask questions of the Council's representative;
- iii. the Police were invited to support their written observations and the applicant and members of the sub-committee were given an opportunity to ask questions;
- iv. the consultees were invited to support their observations;
- v. the applicant was given an opportunity to expand upon her application and call any witnesses;
- vi. members of the sub-committee were invited to ask questions of the applicant;
- vii. the Council representative was given an opportunity to ask questions of the applicant; and
- viii. the Council's representative and the applicant were given an opportunity to summarise the case.

Upon supporting the Police's observations, the Licensing Co-ordinator reported that the police had concerns about approving the licence on the grounds of the prevention of crime and disorder and the protection of children from harm because of the substantial number of cases of underage drinking in the area recently. He added that there was no evidence of any crime resulting from any activity in the property in question. It was noted on behalf of the Community Council, that they received a response from many local residents stating their opinion that one site that sold alcohol to be carried out of the premises was sufficient in the village. Reference was made to the problem of youths drinking underage and leaving rubbish on the beach at weekends, along with the fact that the older residents of the village were not prepared to go out at night in case of being harassed by those who had been drinking.

The observations presented in the application were supported by the applicant and her representative and the following points were confirmed:

- the application was made on the recommendation of a Council officer, as a result of an unfounded allegation according to the applicant, of selling alcohol without a licence
- there was no intention to open on Sundays, or to be open late at night, apart from Wednesday and Saturday evenings when they would be open until 19:30
- the purpose of the application was for diversification in order to keep the post office open.

The application was discussed by the Sub-committee, taking the evidence of the Police and local residents into account and in order to adhere to the following principles:

- a) Prevention of crime and disorder;
- b) Public safety;
- c) Prevention of public nuisance; and
- d) Protection of children from harm.

It was noted that it was intended to train staff on the implications of the Licensing Act and also to ask for evidence should there be any doubt that the alcohol purchasers were underage, and those intentions were welcomed.

- RESOLVED: a) to approve a licence for the supply of alcohol and that the Post Office, Fairbourne, be open during the following hours: 08.30 to 19.30 Monday to Saturday;**
- b) that all Post Office staff receive appropriate training before they are permitted to sell alcohol;**
 - c) that staff ask for proof of age from anyone who appears to be younger than 21 years of age.**

It was reported that a letter would be sent to everyone within five working days confirming the Sub-committee's decision, everyone was reminded of the right to appeal against the Sub-committee's decision and also of the procedure of requesting a review of the licence should any evidence of acting contrary to the licence arise.

The meeting commenced at 10.15am and concluded at 10.45am