
CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 17.12.14

Present: Councillor W. Tudor Owen (Chairman)
Councillors Angela Russell and Ann Williams

Also in attendance: Sion Huws (Senior Solicitor), Gwenan M Williams (Public Protection Manager - Health and Safety and Licensing) and Bethan Adams (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

Apologies: Councillor Llywarch Bowen Jones

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The panel and the officers were introduced to everyone present.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

3. APPLICATION FOR PREMISES LICENCE – BETHEL COMMUNITY HALL, BETHEL, CAERNARFON, LL55 1YE

On behalf of the premises: Mr Cledwyn Pierce Jones and Mr Sion Jones

Others in attendance: Councillor Geraint Elis (Llanddeiniolen Community Council)

Submitted - the Licensing Manager's report with the details of the application for a premises licence. The application related to the licensable activities of showing films, live music, dance performances and the supply of alcohol 7 days a week.

Following a suitable consultation period, observations on the application had been received from Llanddeiniolen Community Council stating that due to lack of evidence, the Community Council had been unable to reach a decision and that it was a matter for the village of Bethel whether or not to approve the licence. Two letters were received objecting to the application on grounds of the licensing objectives of preventing public nuisance and crime and disorder.

It was reported that one of the letters had been submitted anonymously. The letter had been written as a representation of the people of the village and referred to the fact that it was not appropriate to use a Community Hall as a licensed premises. It was explained that there was no reference in the Licensing Act 2003 or in the guidelines of Section 182 of the Act on how to deal with observations received from anonymous commentators. It was noted that in accordance with the Act, the licensing authority was permitted to consider representations relevant to the four licensing objectives, provided they were not frivolous or vexatious.

Neither North Wales Police nor the Fire and Rescue Service had any objections to the application.

When considering the application, the following procedure was followed:-

- Members of the Sub-committee and the applicant were given an opportunity to ask questions of the Licensing Manager.
- The applicant was invited to expand on the application.
- Consultees were given an opportunity to support their observations.

- The licensee, or his representative, was invited to respond to the observations.
- Members of the Sub-committee were given an opportunity to ask questions of the licensee.
- Members of the Sub-committee were given an opportunity to ask questions of the consultees.

In elaborating on the application, the applicant noted that submitting applications for temporary event licences was costly and that a permanent licence would be advantageous owing to the building's high running costs.

In response to a question, he noted that there would be a door supervisor present for large events in order to ensure the protection of children from harm. It was noted that they worked with the Police on large events, and that this would continue.

In response to the application, the Llandeiniolen Community Councillor noted that having received additional information on the application, the Community Council was satisfied with the proposal but it was felt that changing the location of the bar should be considered. He added that consultation with the community prior to submitting the application would have been an advantage.

In response to the observation, the Senior Solicitor noted that he accepted the point in terms of consultation prior to submitting the application, however the applicant had complied with the statutory procedure and any further consultation would take place outside of statutory procedure.

The applicant noted that it would not be possible to move the location of the bar as there was no other suitable location for it to be moved.

Referring to the letters of objection, the applicant noted that the individuals had misunderstood the proposal.

A member expressed disappointment that one of the letters of objection was anonymous. In response, the Public Protection Manager – Health and Safety and Licensing noted that the matter for the members was to consider whether or not the observations were valid and whether or not they were in line with the Licensing Act objectives.

The relevant parties left the meeting.

The members of the Sub-committee discussed the application, considered all the evidence submitted, and gave particular attention to the principles of the Licensing Act 2003, namely -

- Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- Preventing Public Nuisance
- Protection of Children from Harm

The Sub-committee was of the opinion that the licence should be approved in accordance with the application as the application was consistent with the four licensing objectives.

RESOLVED to approve the application on the basis of the written and verbal representations received subject to the following conditions (as volunteered by the applicant) being incorporated into the licence:

- 1. Door supervisors for large events;**
- 2. The community hall complying with the statutory requirements following substantial renovation work;**
- 3. No licensable outdoor activities;**
- 4. Compliance with hours of licensed activities;**
- 5. Ask those attending to leave the premises quietly;**

- 6. Children to be under the supervision of parents / guardians and will not be allowed access to the bar area;**
- 7. Implement the challenge 21 policy.**

Everyone was thanked for their contribution.

The Senior Solicitor reported that he would send a formal letter within five working days, confirming the Sub-committee's decision to all those in attendance, and informing them of their right to appeal against the decision within 21 days of receiving that letter.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 11.05am.