

Licensing Sub-Committee 2 – 22nd September 2015

Report of the Strategic Director Resources and Transformation

Application for a Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the application for the grant of a Licensed Premise Gaming Machine Permit for 3, Category C machines, in respect of the premises known as The Top Bell, Belmont Road, Stourbridge, DY9 8AS.

Background

2. The Top Bell holds a current premises licence for the following:-

Performance of Live Music	Monday to Saturday	11:00	23:00
Performance of Live Music	Sundays	12:00	22:30
Playing of Recorded Music	Monday to Saturday	11:00	23:00
Playing of Recorded Music	Sunday	12:00	22:30
Supply of Alcohol	Mondays to Wednesdays	10:00	23:00
Supply of Alcohol	Thursdays to Saturdays	10:00	00:30
Supply of Alcohol	Sundays	12:00	23:00
Supply of Alcohol	Non-standard timings - A further additional hour into the morning following every Sunday and Monday for each May Bank Holiday, Spring/Whitsun Bank Holiday and every August Bank Holiday weekend. A further additional hour into the morning following every Sunday and Monday for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend. A further additional hour		

	<p>every Christmas Eve and Boxing Day. From the start of permitted hours New Years Eve to the close of permitted hours New Years Day</p>		
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3. The Local Authority licensing policy states as follows:-

- If authorisation is sought for more than two category C or D machines the applicant will be required to attend a hearing to support the application. All plans submitted with applications for premises licences must set out the siting of each Category C or D machine.
- Parliament has placed no restrictions on the age at which such machines may be played (other than those in amusements arcades). It is, therefore, a matter for the discretion of the premises licence holder and any adults accompanying the children concerned whether they are entitled to play such machines. In the case of premises used exclusively or primarily for the consumption of alcohol, all children under the age of 16 will only be permitted entry to the premises if accompanied by adults. All such machines must be sited in accordance with the Gaming Act, further advice will be given on receipt of application.
- There is unlikely to be the need for a hearing where the application is for renewal of the existing permit for more than two machines or where the application is for the grant of a Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit at premises which already have an existing permit for more than two machines, and where that number is not increased.

4. On 18th August 2015, Town & County Leisure Ltd, made application on behalf of Punch Taverns for the grant of a licensed premises Gaming Machine Permit for 3, Category C machines. A site plan was also received highlighting the proposed position of all 3 machines. The application together with the site plan has been circulated to Committee members and interested parties.

5. The current licence holder of the premises licence is Punch Taverns, the premises currently holds a notification for up to 2 machines.

6. This application falls within the Council's recent responsibility for liquor licensing which has a direct link to the Council's key corporate priority that safety matters.

Finance

7. There are no financial implications.

Law

8. Pursuant to schedule 13, section 283 of the Gaming Act 2005 the Council can grant a licensed premises gaming machine permits.
9. Pursuant to schedule 13, section 283 4(2) on considering an application for a permit the Licensing Authority shall:-
 - (a) grant an application
 - (b) refuse the application, or
 - (c) grant it in respect of:-
 - (i) a smaller number of machines than that specified in the application
 - (ii) a different category of machines from that specified in the application, or
 - (iii) both
10. Pursuant to schedule 13, section 283 5
 - (1) A Licensing Authority may not attach conditions to a permit
 - (2) As soon as is reasonably practicable after granting an application a Licensing Authority shall issue a permit to the applicant.
11. Pursuant to schedule 13, section 283 5(3) as soon as it reasonably practicable after refusing an application a Licensing Authority shall notify the applicant of:-
 - (a) the refusal, and
 - (b) the reasons for it
12. In pursuance of schedule 13, section 283 6 (2) a Licensing Authority may not refuse an application, or grant an application in respect of a different category or smaller number of gaming than that specified in the application, unless they have
 - (a) notified the applicant of their intention to refuse or grant the application in respect of
 - (i) a smaller number of machines than that specified in the application
 - (ii) a different category of machines than that specified in the application or
 - (iii) both, and
 - (b) given the applicant an opportunity to make representations

13. In pursuance of schedule 13 section 283 6 (3) a Licensing Authority can satisfy the opportunity to make representations by giving the applicant an opportunity to make:-
 - (a) oral representations
 - (b) written representations, or
 - (c) both
14. In pursuance of schedule 13 section 283 21 (1) the applicant for a holder of a permit may appeal to the Magistrates Court if the Licensing Authority:-
 - (a) reject an application for a permit
 - (b) grant an application for a permit in respect of a smaller number of machines than that specified in the application or a different category of machines from that specified in the application.

Equality Impact

15. This report complies with the Council's policy on equal opportunities.
16. The licensing of premises and individuals will impact on children and young people through their attendance at licensed premises.
17. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals.

Recommendation

18. That the Sub-Committee give consideration to this application.



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Strategic Director Resources and Transformation

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List of Background Papers

None