

**Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee 1
Thursday, 16th December 2021 at 10.30 am
In the Council Chamber, Council House, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor E Taylor (Chair)
Councillors K Razzaq and P Miller

Officers:

S Smith – Team Manager Licensing and Waste Enforcement – (Directorate of Public Realm),
R Clark – Principal Solicitor and K Buckle - Democratic Services Officer – (Directorate of
Finance and Legal).

Observer:

N Slym – Assistant Team Manager Licensing and Waste Enforcement – (Directorate of Public
Realm).

15. **Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members Code of
Conduct.

16. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meetings held on 23rd November 2021, be approved as
a correct record and signed.

17. **Notice of Temporary Event – Barbridge, Unit 11 Victoria Passage Stourbridge.**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted on a Notice received
from Mr Parkes for a Temporary Event (TEN) in respect of Barbridge, Unit 11, Victoria
Passage, Stourbridge.

The following were in attendance at the meeting in respect of the application: -

Mr M Parkes – Designated Premises Supervisor.
Mrs V Parkes – Designated Premises Supervisor’s wife
D Jenkins and J Edwards – West Midlands Police.

Following introductions, the Team Manager presented the report on behalf of the Council. It was noted that on 7th December 2021, West Midlands Police had lodged an objection to the event on the grounds that there would likely be a breach of the prevention of crime and disorder objective.

West Midlands Police presented submissions on the number of times that they had been called out to the premises between 30th August and 5th December 2021.

It was noted that K Turley, the Licensing Officer who had contact with Mr Parkes, was unable to attend the meeting, however her written submissions were circulated to all parties present.

D Jenkins provided further information in relation to the circumstances surrounding the incidents as follows: -

The incident on 30th August 2021 involved 20 members of the public who entered the licensed premises and continued to help themselves to drinks from behind bar. West Midlands Police did not pursue any action in relation to that incident.

The Allegation of sexual assault on 27th November 2021 involved an ongoing investigation, therefore no further information was available at this stage. Mr Parkes confirmed that he was satisfied with the Police’s response to the assault.

Concerns were raised in relation to the number of calls for service and the number of customers on the pavement outside the premises during opening hours, and the fact that Mr Parkes had not applied for a Pavement Licence, despite indicating that he had.

Mr Parkes disputed the account of the telephone conversation with K Turley on 7th December 2021, contained in the written evidence of K Turley, indicating that K Turley had been negative towards the premises throughout that conversation. Both Mr Parkes and West Midlands Police agreed that the conversation failed to progress into a constructive conversation regarding how the planned event could be made safe.



LSBC/13

Mr Parkes confirmed that there was closed circuit television (CCTV) inside but not outside the business premises.

In referring to the call to the Police on 5th December, Mr Parkes denied that a call had been made, asserting that the Police had attended the Licensed Premises looking for a missing person, on the following day, (6th December 2021). The person in question, a new customer, was believed to have approached and said inappropriate comments to a male customer inside the toilets at the business premises.

In relation to the call made to West Midlands Police on 24th October 2021 by Ms Collins, an employee at Barbridge, Mr Parkes stated that the threat to Ms Collins was made by the person making threats to a number of members of the public outside the Ryemarket in Stourbridge and that incident did not specifically relate to Barbridge.

In responding to questions from West Midlands Police in relation to the application for a Pavement Licence, Mr Parkes advised that the application was not cost effective and would increase the business premises insurance premium, and therefore the application had not been pursued.

Following Barbridge re-opening after the first pandemic lockdown, Mr Parkes indicated the law, at that stage, had been unclear and a table and two chairs were placed on the pavement outside the premises in May 2021, which were subsequently removed at the end of July to the beginning of August 2021.

Mr Parkes indicated that members of the public had previously congregated outside the business premises, regardless of whether they were allowed into the premises to purchase alcohol.

Mr Parkes stated that the maximum capacity for the event in question was 55 and not 80 as stated on the application, and that two Security Industry Authority (SRA) registered door staff would be employed, and West Midlands Police would be notified of their identity in advance of the event.

West Midlands Police made Mr Parkes aware that all customers in the business premises after 1.00am would be required to produce a Covid pass.

Following the submissions above, the parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Sub-Committee to determine the application.

The Sub-Committee having made their decision invited the parties to return and the Principal Solicitor outlined the decision.

Resolved



LSBC/14

That, the Temporary Event Notice received by Mr Parkes, for a temporary event in respect of Barbridge, Unit 11, Victoria Passage, Stourbridge be granted as follows for the date and times and conditions referred to below.

19th December 2021

01.01 until 02.30 Hours

Conditions

- (1) The maximum number of customers inside Barbridge. throughout the evening of Saturday 18th and the morning of Sunday 19th December 2021 be limited to 55.
- (2) That two registered SRA door staff be employed for the event. Their badge numbers shall be supplied by Mr Parkes to West Midlands Police and the Licensing Authority by 12pm on 17th December 2021.
- (3) That no new admissions to the premises be permitted after 1.00am on Sunday 19th December 2021.

The meeting ended at 11:50 am

CHAIR