

**Minutes of Licensing Sub-Committee 1  
Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 at 10.00 am  
On Microsoft Teams**

**Present:**

Councillor S Keasey (Chair)  
Councillors C Elcock and C Perks

**Officers:-**

L Rouse – Senior Licensing Clerk (Directorate of Public Realm), R Clark – Principal Solicitor,  
H Shepherd – Democratic Services Officer and K Buckle - Democratic Services Officer  
(Directorate of Finance and Legal Services).

And one Member of the public.

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10 **Declarations of Interest**

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

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11 **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2020, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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12 **Application for Grant of a New Premises Licence – Skinny Tiger Beer Ltd**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted on an application for the grant of a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as Skinny Tiger Beer Ltd, St Giles House, 15-16 Lower High Street, Stourbridge.

The following were in attendance at the meeting:-

Mr P Tunnicliffe – Applicant  
Mr R Hopkins – Objector

The Chair welcomed everyone present to the meeting and outlined the procedure that would be followed.

The Senior Licensing Clerk presented the report on behalf of the Council.

Mr Hopkins then presented his case and outlined the reasons for his objection to the application and in doing so referred to the cumulative impact zone (CIZ) in which the premises in question was located and which had been operational since 2006. Mr Hopkins referred to the increasing criminal statistics that had arisen during the period 2015 and 2017, referring to two serious incidents that had occurred in licenced premises in Stourbridge High Street.

The basis of the objections related to the location of the proposed establishment which was in a predominately residential area and would be directly adjacent to the Job Centre and a children's day nursery, which may potentially attract inappropriate clientele and would be against the licensing objective to protect children from harm and the potential to encourage and exacerbate anti-social behaviour that was already experienced in St Giles Hill from the congregation of street drinkers. The proposal to serve craft beers on draft from the premises, with tables and chairs available for customers to sit on could promote a "bar like" environment, with the possibility of the applicant wishing to increase operational times in the future, which would be of further detriment to the residents of Lower High Street.

Mr Hopkins responded to all questions asked by the Sub-Committee.

Mr Tunnicliffe, the applicant, then presented his case and in doing so confirmed that he had no intention or desire for the venue to become a bar and the premises would only supply high end independent craft beers, the price of which would reflect and emphasise that it would not be a place to purchase cheap alcohol.

The proposed business case was outlined and it was predicted that 75% of the business would be from online purchases, with the remainder from shop purchases. The purpose of having the shop would be to allow customers to sample the produce prior to purchase and was not to attract patrons off the street for social drinking. Samples would be served in half pints or a third of a pint, depending on the strength of the beer, all of which would be provided at a charge.

Mr Tunnicliffe outlined the proposed operational arrangements and the security and noise reduction improvement measures that were to be made to the premises and confirmed that the premises would adopt the Challenge 25 policy. Appropriate signage would be displayed within the premises, together with external signage to deter smoking and gathering outside of the premises or within St Giles Hill.

Mr Tunnicliffe responded to questions raised by all parties and in doing so clarified that the measurement of a beer sample would depend on the Alcohol by Volume (ABV) strength of the produce and a cost ranging between £3 to £6 would be charged. Should a crowd of people enter the premises with the intention to sit drinking and socialising, this would immediately be discouraged.

Both parties were given the opportunity to sum up their cases and the legal advisor to the Sub-Committee outlined the law relating to the determination of applications for the grant of a premises licence.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to enable the Sub-Committee to determine the application, the decision of which would be conveyed to both parties after the meeting had concluded.

### **Resolved**

That the application for a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as Skinny Tiger Beer Ltd, St Giles House, 15-16 Lower High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1TA, be granted.

The meeting ended at 11.20 am

CHAIR