

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

Procedure for hearings – Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee Licensing Act 2003 and Hearing Regulations 2005

The Licensing Committee officers and their roles

- The Committee Clerk (Democratic Services Officer) records the proceedings;
- The Legal Advisor provides independent advice to the Committee Members on legal matters; and
- The Licensing Officer introduces the matter, outlines the application or review as set out in the Report, and answers any questions Members may have.

Committee Members (Councillors):

Members have a responsibility to declare interests, those who declare **Discloseable Pecuniary Interest (DPI)** as defined by The Relevant Authorities (DPI) Regulations 2012 must not take part in the hearing of the application.

If a Member declares a **Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interests**, as defined by Tendring District Council's Members' Code of Conduct (paragraphs 5 and 6), they must consider the impact of that interest on participation and the public perception;

- Matters for Members to consider would cover, but not exclusively:
 - o they know the applicant or any of the objectors; or
 - o they wish either to support or oppose the granting or continuation of a licence either personally or on behalf of their constituents.
 - o whether they have expressed a view on the application site especially, if situated either in their ward or an adjacent ward;

Other Persons or Interested Parties:

This is the term given to an individual, body or business or a representative acting on their behalf-that raises an objection or make a representation to an application for a premises/personal licence. It should be noted that only the Police can make a representation against a Personal Licence application however. These other persons or interested parties are separate to Responsible Authorities, who may also be a party to the hearing.

PROCEDURE

THESE SUB-COMMITTEES MEETINGS & THE HEARING ARE HELD IN PUBLIC, UNLESS THERE IS A LEGAL REASON NOT TO DO SO, HOWEVER THESE ARE IN LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES.

Note: if the Sub-committee does not have an elected Chairman already, the election of one Member as Chairman will be the first item of business.

HEARING

Step	By whom	
1	Chairman	<p>The Chairman will welcome everyone to the meeting then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. introduce themselves and the other 2 members and explain that the 4th member (substitute) will not take any part in the hearing or decision making process unless there is a valid objection to one of the other members sitting, if any interest declared debars a member or a member falls ill; b. announce the item to be considered; c. confirm that this procedure will be followed at the hearing, including any maximum periods of time for each side to put their case or objections (*); d. ask all parties, including any "Responsible Authority", to introduce themselves indicating whether or not they are represented, if they are calling any witnesses and if so to identify the witnesses they will be calling. Where there are a number of objectors they will be asked to confirm who their spokesperson is if it is relevant or appropriate for them to do so. e. if a party or Responsible Authority who has made relevant representations is not present, the Sub-Committee will decide whether they consider it in the public interest to (a) continue with the hearing or (b) defer it to enable the party or authority to attend. In reaching a decision on this point, the Sub-Committee will consider any information received from the party either directly or via the Licensing Officer or any other interested person/party where relevant or appropriate; f. remind all present that the Sub-Committee can only make its decision based on the four licensing objectives, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) prevention of crime and disorder, (2) public safety, (3) prevention of public nuisance and (4) protection of children from harm.

2	Licensing Officer	Will introduce the application or review, highlighting areas of contention or dispute.
3	Committee members	May ask questions of the Licensing Officer.
<p>The Applicant's case</p> <p>(If a person or party requests a review of an existing licence, they would in effect be the Applicant for the review. In those circumstances they would present their case following the summary given by the Licensing Officer)</p>		
4	Applicant or their representative	Will present their case and call witnesses.
5	Responsible authorities or Interested Parties	Each, in turn, may ask questions of the Applicant by way of clarification.
6	Committee members	In turn, each may ask questions of the Applicant.
7	Applicant	May ask any further questions of any witnesses to clear up any points raised in the earlier questioning.
<p>The Responsible Authorities and/or Interested Parties</p>		
8	Responsible Authorities	Will make their representations to the Sub-Committee.
9	Applicant or their representative	May ask questions of the Responsible Authorities by way of clarification.
10	Other persons	May ask questions of the Responsible Authorities or Licensing Officer by way of clarification. Note: this is not the time for other persons to put their objections.
11	Committee Members	May ask questions of the Responsible Authorities by way of clarification. Committee can also ask questions of the objectors by way of clarification.
12	Interested Parties	At this point those who have objected to the application will be asked to present their objections and make observations on the application if appropriate.

13	Applicant or their representative	May ask questions of the Interested Parties /objectors by way of clarification.
14	Committee members	May ask questions of the Interested Parties /objectors.
Closing statements or summary		
15	Chairman	<p>Will ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. both the Responsible Authorities and Interested Parties /objectors to comment, briefly, on the application or review and summarise their position. No new issues can be raised at this point. b. the applicant or their representative to summarise the application or review and briefly comment on the representations or objections made. c. if everyone is satisfied that they have said what they wanted to say, but making clear that no new issues can be raised at this point.
DECISION MAKING		
16	Sub-Committee	Will retire to consider the application or review and may request the Legal Advisor and/or Committee Clerk to retire with them.
RESUMING THE MEETING AND CONCLUSION		
17	Legal Advisor	If legal advice has been given to the Members whilst in retirement, this advice will be summarised and repeated in the presence of all parties.
18	Chairman	<p>Will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. announce the decision made by the sub-committee and the reasons for that decision; b. advise that the decision, and reasons, will be confirmed in writing to all the parties who made representations; and c. advise all parties of their rights of appeal to the Magistrates' Court.

(*) after receiving copies of this procedure, all parties are requested to give the Council's Licensing Department an indication of the time estimated to present their case. This will be taken into consideration when deciding whether maximum periods of time will be necessary.

TENDRING DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS PROCEDURE

