

PREMISES/PERSONAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

2 SEPTEMBER 2024

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (GOVERNANCE & LEGAL)

A. GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE

KINGS LOCAL, 65-67 KINGS AVENUE, HOLLAND ON SEA, ESSEX

REF: 24/00399/PREMGR

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform Members that an application has been received for the Grant of a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003 from Mrs Selvabhavani Sujanath to sell/supply alcohol and that an objection notice of the licence has been received from an interested party.

BACKGROUND

The application is made under the Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence to include the sale of alcohol off the premises.

The premises is described as follows *“This is formerly a licensed social club. The premises will now be a local convenience store. The store will be refitted newly to high standard. The store is surrounded by many other commercial premises, restaurants opposite, many other service businesses to households. This retail store will be great addition to support the area. The applicant is well experience in managing retail stores”*.

The proposed opening hours and the sale of alcohol sought are as follows:

- Every Day - 0600 - 0000

The applicant has stated the following steps in the application to promote the licensing objectives. These measures are reproduced as shown in the application form and are detailed below for ease of reference. These are:

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

1. A Comprehensive recordable CCTV system will be installed and maintained covering the trade areas whilst encompassing all ingress and egress to the premises. The system must continually record whilst the premises is open for licensable activities and during all times when customers remain at the premises. The system must be capable of providing pictures of evidential quality, in particular facial recognition. All recordings must be stored for a minimum period of 31 days with date and time. Recordings must be made available immediately upon the request of a Police or Authorised Officer.
2. A staff member from the premises who is conversant with the operation of the CCTV system shall be on the premises at all times when the premises is open to the public. This staff member shall be able to show Police or authorised officer recent data or footage with the absolute minimum of delay when requested.

3. A Challenge 25 proof of age scheme, shall be operated at the premises where the only acceptable forms of identification shall bear their photograph, date of birth and a holographic mark.
4. Premises to keep up to date records available for inspection of staff training in respect of age related sales.
5. A diary log shall be kept detailing all refused sales of alcohol. The log should include the date and time of the refused sale and the name of the member of staff who refused the sale. The log shall be available for inspection at the premises by the police or an authorised officer of the licensing authority at all time whilst the premises are open.
6. The premise shall ensure that reasonable and adequate staff training shall be carried out and properly documented in relation to, dealing with incidents and prevention of crime and disorder: sale of alcohol (to underage, persons over 18 purchasing for underage, drunks etc.) prior to being allowed to sell alcohol.

RELEVANT REPRESENTATIONS

Interested Parties/Other Persons

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSR Act 2011) removed from the Licensing Act 2003 the specific reference for representations to be made by 'interested parties' and also removed the requirement that representations could only be accepted from persons living in the 'vicinity' of the premises concerned, or who had for example, a business in the 'vicinity' of the premises.

There was no guidance or definition of 'vicinity' within the Licensing Act 2003 which effectively had a limiting effect on those that could make relevant representations.

The PRSR Act 2011 replaced the references to 'interested parties' and 'vicinity' and substituted that representations can be made and accepted by the Licensing Authority from 'other persons' which means that those persons do not necessarily have to live or run a business for example in the proximity of the premises to be able to submit a valid and relevant representation.

The relevant extracts from the Section 182 Guidance that accompanies the Licensing Act 2003 advises the following in relation to 'other persons'. They are shown in italics for ease of reference.

8.13 As well as responsible authorities, any other person can play a role in a number of licensing processes under the 2003 Act. This includes any individual, body or business entitled to make representations to licensing authorities in relation to applications for the grant, variation, minor variation or review of premises licences and club premises certificates, regardless of their geographic proximity to the premises. In addition, these persons may themselves seek a review of a premises licence. Any representations made by these persons must be 'relevant', in that the representation relates to one or more of the licensing objectives. It must also not be considered by the licensing authority to be frivolous or vexatious.

Representations can be made either against or in support of an application. The relevant extracts from the Section 182 Guidance that accompanies the Licensing Act 2003 advises the following in relation to this point.

9.3 Relevant representations can be made in opposition to, or in support of, an application and can be made by any individual, body or business that has grounds to do so.

One letter of representation/objection has been received from a resident in relation to this application.

The full representation can be found attached at Appendix B.

Responsible Authorities

All Responsible Authorities have been consulted with the application.

The Council's Planning Authority have submitted an objection stating that the premises does not currently have the correct planning permission for the building to be a convenience store. Without correct planning permissions in place if the licence were to be granted it would encourage the owners to open the store and result in a breach of planning under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. It is also noted that there is not enough information on the application to determine if permission would be likely to be granted and with the information available, they would not support the opening hours due to nearby residential properties. The Planning Authority would also have to consult with Essex County Council Highways in respect of customer parking, as well as means of delivering goods. There is also no information on how waste is going to be disposed and removed.

The full representation can be found attached at Appendix B

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

A decision made by the Committee is subject to appeal at the Magistrates Court by the premises user or a relevant person.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Licensing Act 2003 established a single integrated scheme for licensing premises that are used for the supply of alcohol, regulated entertainment, or provision of late-night refreshment. This system of licensing incorporates the sale of alcohol both on and off licensed premises; public entertainment such as music, dancing, indoor sporting events, boxing or wrestling, theatres, cinemas; and late-night refreshment houses and take-aways.

When determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community the Licensing Authority in the form of the Licensing Sub-Committee must have regard and give appropriate weight to the following:

- Full Hearing Procedure for Applications for Premises Licences/Club Premises Certificates where representations have been received.
- Tendring District Council's Statement of Licensing Policy - <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/licensing-act-policy>
- The Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003>

- The steps appropriate to positively promote the four 'Licensing Objectives'.
- Representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties.

Human Rights Implications

A Licence is to be regarded as the property of the applicant; however their right to the use of the property must be balanced against all other public interests or representations in this matter that the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee may wish to consider as appropriate, reasonable and proportionate in relation to the application that has been submitted and also the representation/s that has/have been received against it.

In making their decision as to whether to grant this application, Members of the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee should also take into consideration Article 1 of the First Protocol of the Human Rights Act 1998, that individuals are entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of their property, and also Article 8 that everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life and his correspondence.

Crime and Disorder Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on local authorities when exercising any of their functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it possibly can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

Members are requested to consider the information shown below where the Licensing Authority has received a representation about an application which is relevant to one or more of the four licensing objectives, and which suggests that the application may have a negative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives.

The purpose of the licensing system is to positively promote the four 'licensing objectives'.

These are:

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

The Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy expects applicants to demonstrate in their operating schedule that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained to prevent public nuisance relevant to the individual style and characteristics of their premises.

The relevant extracts from the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy in respect of Planning considerations (shown in italics) and also the 'Prevention of Public Nuisance' licensing objective are as follows:

1.24 When the Licensing Authority is considering any application, it will avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes, so far as possible, and does not intend to use the licensing regime to achieve outcomes that can be achieved by other legislation. In particular, its licensing functions will be discharged separately from the Authority's functions as the local planning authority. However, applications for premises licences for permanent commercial premises should normally be from businesses with planning consent for the property concerned. Other permissions may be applicable to licensed

premises and applicants are expected to ensure that such permissions are obtained where necessary.

Relevant Section 182 Guidance –

The following sections are taken from the Home Office Section 182 Guidance that accompanies the Licensing Act 2003 and the link is included for the assistance of the Licensing Sub Committee, the applicant, responsible authorities, residents and any other interested parties to this hearing. They do not however form the totality of the guidance in relation to this licensing objective which should also be considered in its entirety.

- Crime and Disorder Section 2.1 to 2.7
- Public Safety Section 2.8 to 2.20
- Public Nuisance Section 2.21 to 2.27
- Protection of Children from Harm Section 2.28 to 2.38

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003>

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- Each application must be considered in its own right and on its own merits only as to how it might impact on the four licensing objectives which are the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, the Prevention of Public Nuisance, Public Safety and the Protection of Children from Harm.
- The Licensing Sub Committee is therefore asked to determine this application taking into consideration the application in its own right and on its own merits and also all of the relevant information that has been submitted as part of this report and at the hearing itself.

APPENDICES

- Appendix A - Copy of Application
Appendix B - Representation/Objection Letters

REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)

Name	Michael Cook Emma King
Job Title	Licensing Manager Licensing Officer
Email/Telephone	licensingsection@tendringdc.gov.uk 01255 686565