

Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 7 June 2016 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Graham Snell (Chair), Steve Liddiard and Joycelyn Redsell

In attendance: Paul Adams, Principal Licensing Officer
Elizabeth Cox, Licensing Officer
Jackie Cooper, Police Licensing Officer
Graham Hopkins, GT Licensing Consultants
Craig Cullwick, Health & Safety, Security, Crown Management
Daniel May, Event Manager Artists, Event Infrastructure
Simon Scrowther, Legal Representative
Jessica Feeney, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

1. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Determination of an application for a new premises licence

The Licensing Officer informed the committee that an application had been received for a new time limited premises licence for Sound On Music Event, Essex Sports Village, Purfleet Road, Aveley, RM15 4DT.

During the consultation period, representations were received from Essex Police and the Licensing Authority, representations were also received from other persons in form of a petition. This was signed by 33 residents of Purfleet Road and Aveley.

Members were enlightened that the Licensing Authority had insufficient time to examine the Event Management Plan which had been submitted to the Licensing Authority 7 days prior to the Sub Committee. Essex Police also felt that there was insufficient time to access the plan and requested an adjournment.

The Responsible Authorities felt that there were breaches in the Event Management Plan and had many questions which they wished to pose to the applicant. It was confirmed by the applicant that the questions would be responded to within 7 days.

The committee adjourned at 7.18 pm and reconvened at 7.26 pm.

The Chair informed the committee that the meeting would be adjourned to the 22 June 2016 at 7.00 pm.

The meeting finished at 7.27 pm

Minutes of the reconvened Meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 22 June 2016 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Graham Snell (Chair), Roy Jones and Joycelyn Redsell

In attendance: Stuart Jessop, Barrister
Matthew Woodward, Licence applicant
Daniel May, Event Manager
Lee Argent, Police Inspector
Jackie Cooper, Police Licensing Officer
Paul Adams, Principal Licensing Officer
Elizabeth Cox, Licensing Officer
Simon Scrowther, Legal Representative
Jessica Feeney, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Before the start of the Meeting, all present were advised that the meeting may be filmed and was being recorded, with the audio recording to be made available on the Council's website.

4. Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

5. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

6. Determination of an application for a new premises licence

The Licensing Officer introduced the factual report to members.

Inspector Lee Argent presented his case to the committee highlighting the following points

- The Police had some concerns around the main access route (Red Gate) into the venue and were not confident that private vehicles, production vehicles, artist vehicles, taxis, shuttle buses, and emergency service vehicles can all use the same ingress point to gain access to the site. The access point is 5.5metres in width and could

quickly become blocked / congested and could result in delays for emergency services getting into the site. It was highlighted that there was no documentation anywhere in the plan as to what would happen should the Red gate need to be solely used to service emergency services in the event of a significant event.

- Concerns over the use of an event traffic planning company called SEP Events, it was highlighted that the SIA staff were not Police officers and that this decision not to employ Specialist Policing Resources was a risk.
- The lack of attendance by the applicant and representatives at the SAG meetings held prior to the Sub Committee.
- The venue was located in very close proximity to two fast roads to the North and South of the site. To the North was the A13 trunk road and to the South was the A1306 trunk road. Both were classified as fast roads, meaning that a speed limit of 40mph or above exists on these roads.

Councillor Redsell queried why the applicant did not use police resources. The applicant's barrister highlighted that the previous event management team, Grace & Taylor, had an agreement to use police forces, although the new event management team chose to use SEP Events a company specialising in event traffic planning.

The Applicant's Barrister questioned why the request to use special police resources was after the adjournment of the Committee. The inspector explained that this was not the fundamental reason and there were many more points to his case, it was added further that at a previous Safety Advisor Group (SAG) the applicant showed reservations regarding the use of the Police resources.

The Applicant's Barrister informed the committee that the Applicant had requested to use the police resources, although they had been informed that they had missed the twelve week deadline. The applicant barrister highlighted that the Police Superintendent stated that this was not impossible when questioned if police resources would be available in time for the Sound On Music Event despite the deadline being missed.

The Police Inspector explained that between the adjournment of the committee a SAG meeting was held to review the event management plan and the additional information requested at which was submitted on Monday 13 June 2016. Members were advised that the applicant sent one representative to SAG, Officers felt that this was an issue as there were questions raised regarding the traffic management plans.

The Applicant's Barrister explained that the applicant had complied with what had been advised in previous SAG Meeting to their Event Management Plan.

The Principal Licensing Officer shared the same views as the Police Inspector, the background to the Sound On Music Event application was reiterated to the committee.

The Chair of the Committee queried when the Principal Licensing Officer raised concerns to the applicant. It was confirmed that an email was sent on the 8 June 2016 with a deadline for a response on the 13 June 2016. The Applicant explained that an email was sent to the licensing department on the 13 June 2016 with the requested additional information. The email sent requested should any issues arise that they be contacted.

The Applicants barrister stated that the reason for adjournment was adhered to, and queried if the additional information had been reviewed between the 13 and 17 June. The Principal Licensing Officer confirmed that the Additional information had been examined by Officers to their best abilities given the short timeframe.

The Applicants Barrister questioned if the Members could attach conditions to resolve the concerns raised by responsible authorities. The Principal Licensing Officer highlighted that conditions attached to the previous Sound On Festival Licence had not been met.

The Chair of the committee welcomed a resident to present his case, in doing so it was explained that residents had not been notified regarding the event or had an opportunity to view the Event Management Plan. The resident stated that Purfleet Road and surrounding areas would be grid locked, isolating his Family for the duration of the Sound On Music Event.

The Chair of the committee welcomed Councillor Tim Aker to present the case on behalf of a resident whom had made a formal objection to the Sound On Music Festival. It was explained that parking was currently an issue in Aveley, the Event Manager was questioned as to where the visitors of the Sound On Music Event would park, the applicant explained that there would be a single pick up and drop of point to the festival, Members were informed that there were no car parking spaces provided within the vicinity for visitors.

The Chair of the Committee invited the Applicants Barrister to present his case in doing so it was highlighted that the barrister felt there was no difference between the previous and current application other than the use of police resources, it was stated to the committee that the applicant was now willing to use the police resources. Members were informed that the applicant was prepared to accept any conditions that the committee requested to be added to the licence.

Councillor Redsell questioned as to why the applicants left Grace & Taylor. The Event Manager explained that he came on board to the application after Grace & Taylor, but was under the impression that the commercial arrangement broke down.

Councillor Jones questioned if there were any car parking spaces for visitors. The Event Manager explained that there was only a pick up and drop off point. It was questioned further why the applicant declined Police resources assistance. The Event Manager explained that the main road (Purfleet Road)

would be shut and that due to the reduction in capacity from the previous application it was felt that the applicant could manage the resources their self, although it was stated that they would be willing to use the Police resources if needed.

The Committee discussed the withdrawal of Ensigns contract. The Event Manager explained that Ensign had withdrawn due to services required elsewhere, it was added that Avon Coaches were now contractors for the event. Members were also informed that meetings had been held with C2C to strengthen services.

Members felt that there were many pitfalls and were concerned how soon the festival was approaching.

The Resident queried as to why he has not seen the event management plan. The Events Manager informed the resident that if the application was approved they had a community plan which they were looking to liaise with residents.

The Principal Licensing Officer queried how many tickets had been sold, it was confirmed that 1000 tickets had been sold. It was questioned further if C2C had been made aware of the new contractor 'Avon'. It was confirmed that C2C were aware of this.

The Principal Licensing Officer queried the Event Managers previous experiences when organising festivals. It was explained to the committee that the Event Manager had been a part of the organisation of many festivals. The Committee were informed that one festival in Tunbridge Wells had egress problems due to a crash in a road in the surrounding area, although the committee was informed that this was a lesson learnt.

Members questioned the size of the Avon buses and asked for information regarding the reserved buses. The Event Manager explained that the Avon coaches help up to 70 people, the committee were also informed that there were 5 reserve buses.

The Committee adjourned at 8.52pm and reconvened at 9.21pm.

The Legal Adviser informed of the Sub Committee decision for refusal.

The meeting finished at 9.22

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIR

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Services at Direct.Democracy@thurrock.gov.uk**