



9th March 2023

Licensing Authority
Thurrock Borough Council
Civic Offices
New Road
Grays RM17 6SL

Review – Eagle News, Corringham – Police Representation

I write in relation to an application made by Thurrock Council's Trading Standards for a Standard Review of a premises known as Eagle News located at number 6 Grover Walk in Corringham.

I take note of the information provided by Trading Standard in support of its application, particularly in relation to an underage sale completed on 19th October 2022. On 17th February Essex Police Licensing Officer Simon Barnes undertook a site visit on the premises to ascertain the layout of the premises and the level of cooperation from staff or management on site.

During this visit Mr Barnes has spoken to the Licence Holder, Mr Hirenbhai PATEL, and discussed the recent application for review and my purposes for attending that day. Mr Patel appeared distracted and non-committal throughout my interaction with him, when asked about the CCTV system at the premises Mr Patel has indicated that, while they had CCTV on the premises, he could not access any recordings and could only access what was happening at the time. On asking to have sight of the refusals book Mr Patel has shown me an empty book which appeared to be brand new from the Council suggesting that this condition has not previously complied with.

In considering this review Essex Police have had sight of the current licence which has minimal conditions. Particular of note is Annex 2 Condition 3, which we have reason to believe has not been complied with prior to Trading Standards attendance, and condition 2 which reads "*Installation of CCTV with a recording facility.*" For which there is an argument that, whilst the word of the condition has been complied with, the spirit of the condition, to have accessible recorded CCTV has not been.

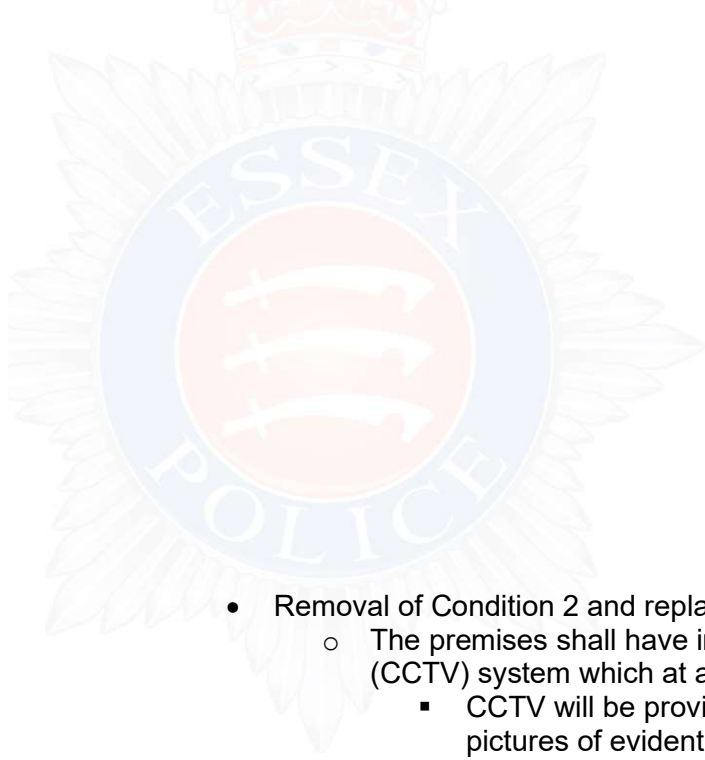
As such it is Essex Police's position that the current operation of the business has led to an undermining of the licensing objectives of Prevention of Crime and Disorder and the Protection of Children. Essex Police has considered the conditions being put forward by Trading Standards in their application for review and are content that these will somewhat allay police concerns regarding the Protection of Children. In regard to the Crime and Disorder objective it is our position that we would request that the Licensing Sub-Committee agree to the following further amendments to the licence:

Essex Police Licensing Unit, Blyths Meadow Braintree, Essex CM7 3DJ

Email: licensing.applications@essex.police.uk Tel: 01245 452035

In an emergency always dial **999**. For non emergencies dial **101**

www.essex.police.uk



- Removal of Condition 2 and replace with:
 - The premises shall have installed and maintain a closed circuit television surveillance (CCTV) system which at all times complies with the below requirements:
 - CCTV will be provided in the form of a recordable system, capable of providing pictures of evidential quality particularly facial recognition;
 - CCTV cameras shall cover all entrances and the areas where alcohol sales take place;
 - Equipment must be maintained in good working order, be correctly time and date stamped, recordings must be kept in good working order and kept for a minimum period of 31 days;
 - Upon the reasonable request of the police or licensing authority staff, within 48 hours viewable copies of recordings will be provided.
 - Addition of the following condition
 - Signs must be displayed at all entrances advising customers that CCTV is operating at the premises and shall be a minimum size of 200 x 148 mm and clearly legible at all times when the premises conducts licensable activities.

These conditions will provide clarity on the CCTV requirement and support the objective as well as providing assurance regarding the Protection of Children objective as any further instances of underage sales will be captured and retained on CCTV which will act as a deterrent.

In accordance with paragraph 9.37 of the Statutory Guidance, Essex Police may amplify its representation at the subsequent hearing. Essex Police may also produce further documentary or other information in support of this representation ahead of the hearing and would ask the authority to take this into account as it may do under Regulation 18 of the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005.

Yours faithfully,

Simon Barnes 82011
Licensing Officer – Brentwood & Thurrock
Essex Police