

# APPLICATION FOR NEW PREMISES LICENCE 'THE DUKE'S HEAD INN, CORN SQUARE, LEOMINSTER, HR6 8LR.' - LICENSING ACT 2003

Report By: Head Of Environmental Health And Trading Standards

## Wards Affected:

Leominster

### 1. Purpose

To consider an application for a new premises licence in respect of The Duke's Head Inn, Corn Square, Leominster, HR6 8LR.

### 2. Background Information

Applicant	<b>J D Wetherspoon PLC</b>	
Solicitor	<b>McLellans</b>	
Type of application: <b>New</b>	Date received: <b>15/01/08</b>	28 Days consultation <b>11/02/2008</b>

The advertisement for the premise has been seen and accepted.

### 3. New Licence Application

The application for a new licence has received representations from responsible authorities and interested parties. It is therefore now brought before committee to determine the application.

### 4. Summary of Application

The licensable activities applied for are: -  
Films  
Provision of late night refreshment  
Sale by Retail of Alcohol

### 5. The following hours have been applied for Films (*Indoors*): -

Sunday – Thursday 07:00 – 00:30  
Friday – Saturday 07:00 – 01:30

### 6. The following hours have been applied for in respect of late night refreshment (*Indoors & Outdoors*): -

Sunday – Thursday 23:00 – 00:30  
Friday – Saturday 23:00 – 01:30

### 7. The following hours have been applied for in respect supply of alcohol: (*both on & off premises*)

Sunday – Thursday 09:00 – 00:00  
Friday – Saturday 09:00 – 01:00

8. The premises to be open to the public: -  
Sunday – Thursday 07:00 – 00:30  
Friday – Saturday 07:00 – 01:30

9. **Non Standard hours**

There is an application for 'non-standard' hours in respect of all the licensable activities: -

Christmas Eve/Boxing Day/ Maundy Thursday/ 07:00 – 02:30

Sundays before Bank Holiday & Morning BST

commences to allow clocks to go forward

New Years Eve

07:00 – 07:00 New Years Day

10. **Summary of Representations**

Copies of the representations and suggested conditions can be found within the background papers.

**West Mercia Police**

Have no representation to make in relation to the application.

**Environmental Health**

The Environmental Health Officer has requested two (2) points of clarification in respect of any external area and recorded music.

She has requested one (1) general condition, one (1) condition to address public safety and three (3) in respect of the prevention of public nuisance.

**Fire Authority.**

The fire authority has no comment to make in relation to the application.

**Interested Parties.**

The Local Authority has received one (1) letter of representation from a local resident in respect of the application, and one (1) from Leominster Civic Society.

The concerns relate mainly to:

- Prevention of Crime & Disorder
- Public Nuisance

11. **Issues for Clarification**

This Authority has requested clarification on the following points: -.

*The plan for the premise does not make it clear whether there is an external area included for the consumption of alcohol or for smoking and whilst these are not licensable activities they often impact upon the licensing objectives. The applicant has been asked to provide a plan of any area to be used for this purpose.*

*The Licensing Act 2003 makes the enforcing authority the Licensing Authority and not the police. The applicant has been asked to explain why condition 4 under 'The prevention of crime & disorder' only covers the police and note the Licensing Authority.*

## 12. Committees Responsibility

The committee is responsible for promoting the four licensing objectives.

In determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community, the licensing authority must give appropriate weight to:

- The steps that are necessary to promote the licensing objectives;
- The representations (including supporting information) presented by all parties;
- The Guidance issued to local authorities under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003
- The Herefordshire Council Licensing Policy

## 13 Options: -

It is for the committee to take such steps below as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives:

- Grant the licence subject to conditions that are consistent with the operating schedule accompanying the application and the mandatory conditions set out in the Licensing Act 2003.
- Grant the licence subject to modified conditions to that of the operating schedule where the committee considers it necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives and add mandatory condition set out in the Licensing Act 2003.
- To exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities to which the application relates.
- To refuse to specify a person in the licence as the premise supervisor
- To reject the application.

## 14. Background Papers

- a. Public Representation
- b. Environmental Health & Trading Standards Comments
- c. Application Form
- d. Location plan

**Background papers are available for inspection in the Council Chamber, Brockington, 35 Hafod Road, Hereford, 30 minutes before the start of the hearing.**

**NOTES****RELEVANT, VEXATIOUS AND FRIVOLOUS REPRESENTATIONS**

9.8. A representation would only be “relevant” if it relates to the likely effect of the grant of the licence on the promotion of at least one of the licensing objectives. For example, a representation from a local businessman which argued that his business would be commercially damaged by a new licensed premises would not be relevant. On the other hand, a representation that nuisance caused by the new premises would deter customers from entering the local area and the steps proposed by the applicant to control that nuisance were inadequate would be relevant. There is no requirement for an interested party or responsible authority to produce a recorded history of problems at a premises to support their representations, and in fact this would not be possible for new premises. Further information for interested parties about the process for making representations is available in “Guidance for interested parties: Making representations” which can be found on the DCMS website.

9.9 The “cumulative impact” on the licensing objectives of a concentration of multiple licensed premises may also give rise to a relevant representation when an application for the grant or variation of a premises licence is being considered, but not in relation to an application for review which must relate to an individual premises.

9.10 It is for the licensing authority to determine whether any representation by an interested party is frivolous or vexatious on the basis of what might ordinarily be considered to be vexatious or frivolous. Vexation may arise because of disputes between rival businesses and local knowledge will therefore be invaluable in considering such matters. Frivolous representations would be essentially categorised by a lack of seriousness. An interested party who is aggrieved by a rejection of their representations on these grounds may challenge the authority’s decision by way of judicial review.

9.11. Licensing authorities should not take decisions on whether representations are relevant on the basis of any political judgment. This may be difficult for ward councilors receiving complaints from residents within their own wards. If consideration is not to be delegated, contrary to the recommendation in this Guidance, an assessment should be prepared by officials for consideration by the subcommittee before any decision is taken that necessitates a hearing. Any ward councilor who considers that their own interests are such that they are unable to consider the matter independently should disqualify themselves.

9.12 The Secretary of State recommends that in borderline cases, the benefit of the doubt should be given to the interested party making the representation. The subsequent hearing would then provide an opportunity for the person or body making the representation to amplify and clarify it. If it then emerged, for example, that the representation should not be supported, the licensing authority could decide not to take any action in respect of the application.

**Licensing Authorities power to exercise substantive discretionary powers.****The British Beer and Pub Association (2) The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers (3) The British Institute of Inn keeping V Canterbury City Council.**

Contesting the validity of the Licensing policy that asks for certain requirements before the application has been submitted. In the summing up the Judge states; The scheme of the legislation is to leave it to applicants to determine what to include in their applications, subject to the requirements of Section 17 and the Regulations as to the prescribed form and the inclusion of a statement of specified matters in the operating schedule. An applicant who makes the right judgement, so that the application gives rise to no relevant representations, is entitled to the grant of a licence without the imposition of conditions. The licensing authority has no power at all to lay down the contents of an application and has no power to assess an application, or exercise substantive discretionary powers in relation to it, unless there are relevant representations and the decision – making function under section 18 (3) is engaged.