

APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF 'THE MARCHES RESTAURANT, GROUND FLOOR AND BASEMENT, 26-29 UNION STREET, HEREFORD, HR1 2BT' - LICENSING ACT 2003

Report By: Head Of Environmental Health And Trading Standards

Wards Affected:

Hereford City

1. Purpose

To consider an application for a new premises licence in respect of The Marches Restaurant, Ground Floor and Basement, 26-29 Union Street, Hereford.

2. Background Information

Applicant	Joseph Thachettu	
Solicitor	Not represented	
Type of application: New	Date received: 15/05/08	28 Days consultation 12/06/2008

The advertisement for the premise has been seen and is accepted.

3. The Application

The application requests are as follows: -

Films	18.00 – 21.00
Live Music	18.00 – 21.00
Recorded Music	07.00 – 24.00
Provision of late night refreshment	23.00 – 02.00
Supply of alcohol	11.00 – 24.00

4. Summary of Application

The application includes an application for late night refreshment provision until 02.00am. All other late night refreshment premises have a terminal hour of 01.30am.

5. Request for Conditions to be included.

West Mercia police authority have requested the terminal hour of 0130 for late night refreshment.

Environmental Health have requested a number of conditions, which can be found in the background papers.

6. 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, but do request a condition regarding late night refreshment.

Environmental Health

The Environmental Health Officer has made representation and recommends conditions regarding the provision for late night refreshment on the grounds of prevention of public nuisance.

Highway Authority

Whilst not a responsible authority this authority has commented upon the application.

Fire Authority.

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

Interested Parties.

The Local Authority has received one letter of representation from an interested party in respect of the application.

7. Issues for Clarification

Why the applicant wouldn't wish to accept the representations made by Environmental Health and the West Mercia Police Authority?

8. 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

9. 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.

10. Background Papers

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

Background papers are available for inspection in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, 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.