

Meeting:	Licensing sub-committee
Meeting date:	Friday 10 August 2018
Title of report:	Review of a premise licence in respect of 'Taste of India, 52 West Street, Leominster, HR6 8EU– Licensing Act 2003
Report by:	Licensing technical officer

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards Affected

Leominster East

Purpose

To consider an application for a review of a premise licence in respect of Taste of India, 52 West Street, Leominster. HR6 8UE called by Police Sergeant 3456 Reynolds of West Mercia Police.

Recommendation

THAT:

The sub-committee determine the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community. They should give appropriate weight to:

- **The steps that are appropriate 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, and**
- **The Herefordshire Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2015 - 2020.**

Options

1. There are a number of option open to the committee in relation to the review:
 - The modification of the conditions of the premises licence;
 - The exclusion of any licensable activities from the scope of the licence;
 - The removal of the designated premises supervisor from the licence;
 - The suspension of the licence for a period not exceeding 3 months; and
 - The revocation of the licence
2. Where the authority takes a step mentioned in bullet point 1 and 2 above it may provide that the modification or exclusion is to have effect for only such period (not exceeding three months) as it may specify.
3. Alternatively it is open to the licensing authority to determine that no action is required to promote the licensing objectives or issue an informal warning in writing to the licence holder and/or to recommend improvement within a specified period of time.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Ensures compliance with the Licensing Act 2003.

Key Considerations

5. The licensing authority must take into account any relevant representations made. Relevant representations are those that:
 - relate to one or more of the licensing objectives;
 - have not been withdrawn; and
 - are made by the premises licence holder, a responsible authority or an interested party

The details of the application are.

6. The details of the application are:

Applicant	Police Sergeant 3456 Reynolds of West Mercia Police	
Solicitor	Not applicable	
Type of application:	Date received:	28 Days consultation ended
Review	20 June 2018	18 July 2018

7. The application for the review is attached (appendix 1).

8. Copies of the application were sent to the premise licence holder and responsible authorities.

9. In brief West Mercia Police's grounds for the review are:

The premises were subject to a visit from multiple agencies and two (2) persons were found to be working at the premises and in the UK illegally with no right to work.

Premises History

10. The premises was first licensed in November 2009 under the name Farzana's. There have been a number of changes to the licence since it was first issued.

11. In May 2010, Herefordshire Council received an application to transfer the licence to Farzanas Restaurant Ltd and to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) to Akhtar Hussain

12. In October 2012, Herefordshire Council received an application to transfer the licence to Mr Hafiz Ali and to change the name of the premises to Taste of India.

13. In November 2012, Herefordshire Council received an application to vary the DPS to Mr Hafiz Ali.

14. Since November 2012, Mr Hafiz Ali has been the licence holder and the DPS. No further applications have been received.

Current Licence

15. The current licence (appendix 2) authorises the following licensable activities during the hours shown:

A performance of live music (Indoors)
Any playing of recorded music (Indoors)
Making Music(Indoors)
Dancing (Indoors)
Other entertainment facilities (Indoors)
Late Night refreshments (Indoors)
Sale by retail of alcohol (For consumption both on and off the premises)

Monday-Sunday: 10:00 - 00:00

Non-standard timings:

An additional 30 minutes after the non – standard finish timings for the provision of licensable activities

A further additional hour into the morning following every: -

Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday for each May Bank Holiday, Spring/Whitsun Bank Holiday and every August Bank Holiday weekend.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday for the Easter Bank Holiday weekend.

Christmas Eve; Boxing Day.

To reflect existing New Year's Eve/Day hours.

16. The licence is also subject to a number of conditions.

Circumstances leading to the review

17. A pre-planned multi-agency operation took place on Thursday 14 June 2018 which involved West Mercia Police, UK Border and Immigration Office, Hereford & Worcester Fire & Rescue Service and departments from Herefordshire Council
18. At 18:00 hrs officers attended the premises known as Taste of India as a result of intelligence with regards to the employment of illegal immigrants.
19. One male was working at the premises in the kitchen, he was detained at the premises as it was established that he was in the country illegally.
20. Another male was detained in the restaurant area and dressed as a waiter with labels identifying him as working at the premises. This male was an asylum seeker but had no rights to work in the UK.
21. The employment of illegal immigrants is a serious criminal offence and undermines the licensing objective of the prevention of crime and disorder.
22. As a result, this review was launched.

Summary of Representations

23. One representation has been received from a responsible authority – trading standards (Appendix 3) which has yet to have been agreed.
24. One comment was received from the Councillor for the area that the premises is situated in (Appendix 4).
25. One comment was received from Leominster Town Council (Appendix 5)

Community Impact

26. Any decision is unlikely to have any impact on the local community.

Equality duty

27. There are no equality issues in relation to the content of this report.
28. This report has human rights implications for both the premises licence holder and the residents from the local neighbourhood. Any of the steps outlined in section 1 of this report may have financial implications for a licensee's business and livelihood and/or may have impact upon the day to day lives of residents living in close proximity to the premises.
29. Article 8(i) of the European Convention of Human Rights provides that everyone has the right to respect for his/her private and family life and his/her home (which includes business premises). This right may be interfered with by the council on a number of grounds including the protection of rights and freedoms of others. The First Protocol – Article 1 – also provides that every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions and shall not be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and conditions provided for by law. Members must accordingly make a decision which is proportionate to the hearing and endeavour to find a balance between the rights of the applicant, residents and the community as a whole.

Financial implications

30. There are unlikely to be any financial implications for the authority at this time.

Legal Implications

31. The licensing authority must have regard to the promotion of the four licensing objectives namely; the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; and the protection of children from harm in exercising its functions under the Licensing Act 2003. Further regard should be had to the statutory guidance under Section 182 of the Act and the Council's own statement of licensing policy. The options available to the licensing authority are set out in section 1 of this report.
32. The Committee should be aware of a number of stated cases which have appeared before the Administrative Court and are binding on the Licensing Authority.
33. The case of Daniel Thwaites Plc v Wirral Borough Magistrates' Court (Case No: CO/5533/2006) at the High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division Administrative Court on 6 May 2008, [2008] EWHC 838 (Admin), 2008 WL 1968943, Before the Honourable Mrs Justice Black.
34. In this case it was summed up that: -
- A licensing authority must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182. Licensing authorities may depart from it if they have reason to do so but will need to give full reasons for their actions.
35. Furthermore the Thwaites case established that only conditions should be attached to a licence with a view to promoting the Licensing objectives and that 'real evidence' must be presented to support the reason for imposing these conditions.
36. This judgement is further supported in the case of The Queen on the Application of Bristol Council v Bristol Magistrates' Court, CO/6920/2008 High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division The Administrative Court, 24 February 2009, [2009] EWHC 625 (Admin) 2009 WL 648859 in which it was said:
- 'Licensing authorities should only impose conditions which are necessary and proportionate for the promotion for licensing objectives'.
37. In addition to this it was stated that any condition attached to the licence should be an enforceable condition.

Right of Appeal

38. Schedule 5 gives a right of appeal which states:

An appeal may be made within 21 days to the Magistrates Court by the police or any person who has made a relevant representation and also by the premises licence holder once notified of the licensing authority's decision.

The decision of the licensing authority, following the review hearing, will not have effect until the end of the period allowed for appeal, or until the appeal is disposed of.

Risk Management

39. There is little risk associated with the decision at this time as the legislation allows a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court within a period of 21 days of being notified of the decision in writing.

Consultees

40. All responsible authorities and members of the public living within Herefordshire.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Review Application Form
- Appendix 2 - Current Premise Licence
- Appendix 3 - Trading Standards Representation
- Appendix 4 - Councillor Comment
- Appendix 5 - Leominster Town Council Comment

Background Papers

None.