

Application to Grant an Annual Premises Licence in respect of How the Light Gets In Festival (2024 - 2028) – Licensing Act 2003

Meeting: Licensing sub-committee

Meeting date: Friday 3 May, 10:00 a.m.

Report by: Senior Licensing Technical Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

Golden Valley North

Purpose

To consider an application for a grant of an occasional premises licence in respect of How the Light Gets In Festival 2024 under the Licensing Act 2003.

Recommendation(s)

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:

- a) The steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives,
- b) The representations (including supporting information) presented by all parties,
- c) The guidance issued to local authorities under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, and
- d) The Herefordshire Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2020 – 2025.

Reasons for Recommendations

Ensures compliance with the Licensing Act 2003

Alternative options

1. There are a number of options open to the sub-committee:
 - a) 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,
 - b) Grant the licence subject to modified conditions to that of the operating schedule where the sub-committee considers it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and add mandatory conditions set out in the Licensing Act 2003,
 - c) To exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities to which the application relates
 - d) To refuse to specify a person in the licence as the premise supervisor, or
 - e) To refuse the application

Key considerations

Licence Application

2. The application for the grant of an occasional premises licence has received relevant representations and is therefore brought before the sub-committee for determination.
3. Herefordshire Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2020 to 2025 states “All representation must be ‘relevant’ in that the representation relates to one or more of the licensing objectives, for example they must be about the likely effect of the grant of the application”. This followed paragraph 8.13 in the s182 Guidance which uses the same wording.
4. Paragraph 8.13 states *‘As well as responsible authorities, any other person can play a role in a number of licensing processes under the 2003 Act. This includes any individual, body or business entitled to make representations to licensing authorities in relation to applications for the grant, variation, minor variation or review of premises licences and club premises certificates, regardless of their geographic proximity to the premises. In addition, these persons may themselves seek a review of a premises licence. Any representations made by these persons must be ‘relevant’, in that the representation relates to one or more of the licensing objectives. It must also not be considered by the licensing authority to be frivolous or vexatious. In the case of applications for reviews, there is an additional requirement that the grounds for the review should not be considered by the licensing authority to be repetitious. Chapter 9 of this guidance (paragraphs 9.4 to 9.10) provides more detail on the definition of relevant, frivolous and vexatious representations.’*
5. The details of the application are:

Applicant	TVF Limited
Agent	TLT Solicitors

Type of application:	Date received:	28 Days consultation ended:
Grant	8 March 2024	4 April 2024
	28 day consultation started:	
	8 March 2024	

Summary of Application

6. The application (appendix 1) requests the grant of a premises licence to allow the following licensable activities, during the hours shown, as follows:

Time limited premises licence, for five (5) years from 2024 to 2028
(One event per year over 4 days)

Films, Live Music, Plays, Recorded Music, Performance of Dance, Anything Similar
(Indoors/Outdoors) Friday 13:00 – 01:00 Saturday & Sunday 09:00 – 01:00
Monday 09:00 – 17:00

Late Night Refreshment (Indoors/Outdoors)
Friday – Sunday 23:00 – 01:00

Sale/Supply of Alcohol (consumption on and off the premises)
Friday 13:00 – 00:45 Saturday & Sunday 11:00 – 00:45, Monday 11:00 – 16:45

Summary of Representations

7. One representation offering conditions was received from Environmental Protection who act as a responsible authority. The conditions were agreed with the applicant. (Appendix 2).
8. Nine (9) relevant representation have been received from members of the public that the licensing authority have accepted as being relevant. (Appendix 3).
9. In summary only, the relevant representations broadly relate to the following:
- a. Prevention of Public Nuisance – noise from the site, particularly amplified music
 - b. Prevention of Crime and Disorder – Disorderly Conduct
 - c. Public Safety – Management and Supervision of the camp site
10. A number of relevant public representations contained information that was not relevant eg: increased traffic, management and supervision of the campsite. These cannot be considered in determining the application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.
11. Two (2) letters of support were received from members of the public during the consultation period (appendix 4).

History

12. In 2018, the festival was run on temporary event notices. In 2019 and 2020 the festival was licenced under an occasional premises licence, although, due to the COVID pandemic, the 2020 festival was cancelled.
13. The application in 2019 received public representation and was therefore brought before the licensing sub-committee, where the decision was made to grant the licence subject to the inclusion of added conditions in relation to a Prevention of Public Nuisance and Protection of Children from Harm.
14. The application in 2020 received an objection from a responsible authority but the hearing was cancelled due to the applicant agreeing to proposed conditions under the four licensing objectives.
15. The application in 2022 received one (1) representation from a responsible authority (West Mercia Police) and the conditions have been agreed by the applicant. Five (5) relevant representations were received from members of the public in line with the licensing objective Prevention of Public Nuisance. The Sub-Committee's decision was to grant the licence as applied for.
16. The application in 2023 received no representations from any of the responsible authorities, four (4) representations from members in line with the licensing objective Prevention of Public Nuisance, seven (7) letters of support were received from members of the public during that consultation period mainly stating that they have not experienced any noise nuisance in the past. The Sub-Committee's decision was to approve the application as applied for.

Community impact

17. Any decision may have an impact on the local community.

Environmental Impact

18. This report is in relation to a premises license under the Licensing Act 2003 and as such there are minimal environmental impacts for the council.

Equality duty

19. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;

- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
20. There are no equality issues in relation to the content of this report.
21. 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.
22. 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.

Resource implications

23. This report is in relation to a premises license under the Licensing Act 2003 and as such there are minimal resource implications for the council.

Financial implications

24. There are unlikely to be any financial implications for the council as licensing authority at this time.

Legal implications

25. As relevant representations have been received, the sub committee must determine the application under Section 3.5.7 (c) of the Herefordshire Council constitution. The representations must relate to the licensing objectives and the sub committee must determine the likely effect of the grant of the premises licences on the promotion of the licensing objectives.
26. 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.
27. The sub committee should be aware of a number of stated cases which have appeared before the Administrative Court and are binding on the Licensing Authority.

28. 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. In this case it was summed up that: -
29. 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.
30. 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.
31. 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'.
32. In addition to this it was stated that any condition attached to the licence should be an enforceable condition.

Right of Appeal

33. Schedule 5 of the Licensing Act 2003 gives a right of appeal which states:

Schedule 5 Part 1

Rejection of applications relating to premises licences

1 Where a licensing authority—

- (a) rejects an application for a premises licence under section 18,
- (b) rejects (in whole or in part) an application to vary a premises licence under section 35,
- (c) rejects an application to vary a premises licence to specify an individual as the premises supervisor under section 39, or
- (d) rejects an application to transfer a premises licence under section 44,

the applicant may appeal against the decision.

Decision to grant premises licence or impose conditions etc.

2(1) This paragraph applies where a licensing authority grants a premises licence under section 18.

(2) The holder of the licence may appeal against any decision—

- (a) to impose conditions on the licence under subsection (2)(a) or (3)(b) of that section, or

(b) to take any step mentioned in subsection (4)(b) or (c) of that section (exclusion of licensable activity or refusal to specify person as premises supervisor).

(3) Where a person who made relevant representations in relation to the application desires to contend—

(a) that the licence ought not to have been granted, or

(b) that, on granting the licence, the licensing authority ought to have imposed different or additional conditions, or to have taken a step mentioned in subsection (4)(b) or (c) of that section,

he may appeal against the decision.

34. Appeals should be made to the Magistrates Court and must be made within 21 days beginning with the day on which the appellant was notified by the licensing authority of the decision appealed against

Risk management

35. 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

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

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Application Form
Appendix 2 – Environmental Protection Representation
Appendix 3 – Public Representations
Appendix 4 – Letters of Support

Background papers

None Identified