

Wyre Forest District Council

Licensing and Environmental Committee

The Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Stourport-on-Severn

27th October 2008 (10:30 Am)

Present:

Councillors: J Baker (Chairman), Mrs P V Hayward (Vice-Chairman), A J Buckley, Mrs J Greener, P B Harrison, Mrs A T Hingley, M B Kelly, M Price and D R Sheppard.

Observers:

There were no members present as observers.

LIC.56 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

LIC.57 Appointment of Substitutes

No substitutes were appointed.

LIC.58 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

LIC.59 Minutes

DECISION: The minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LIC.60 Policy and Advice to Applicants on the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment seeking approval to adopt policy guidance published in a leaflet relating to the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animal(s) under the provisions of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

The Principal Licensing Officer outlined the report and made particular reference to the problems arising from the keeping of Wild Boar. The Council at present has no policy on the keeping of dangerous wild animals and this policy would fulfil the Council's obligation with regard to public safety. Approval was requested from the Committee to undertake consultation for a period of 8 – 12 weeks, and for this matter to then return to the Committee for further consideration.

DECISION:

- (a) **Officers be authorised to undertake consultation on the policy guidance for the Keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals be agreed.**
- (b) **On the completion of the consultation to report back to the Committee.**

LIC.61 Application to Renew a Sex Establishment Licence

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment in relation to an application made by Simply Pleasure Limited under the provisions of Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to renew the Sex Establishment Licence for 51/52 Blackwell Street, Kidderminster DY10 2EE.

The Principal Licensing Officer outlined the report and informed the Committee that the applicant and the two objectors were in attendance at the meeting. The Committee were told that these premises did not have a history of problems and no complaints had been received concerning the premises. Two objections had been received as a consequence of this application being advertised and both of these objectors were present at the meeting.

Mr. Luke Boxall of 34 Ray Mercer Way, Kidderminster addressed the Committee and outlined his particular concerns in relation to the inappropriate location of the premises

- New residential development in the vicinity of the premises
- Access to St Georges Park directly opposite the premises
- Places of worship and schools in the area
- Children and families walking past the premises on the way into the Town Centre
- The need to improve the gateway to the town

Mr. Colin Matthew of 37 Ray Mercer Way, Kidderminster addressed the Committee and confirmed that he agreed with Mr. Boxall's representations. He also stressed the need for regeneration of the area, to include wholesome enterprises, and to make the town an attractive place to live and visit.

Mrs. Tracey Taylor, Manager of Simply Pleasure address the Committee. She informed the Committee that Mr. Hemming owned 39 shops and was a well known proprietor and ran his shops in a very professional manner. She stressed that the shop could not be seen from the Park and that she did not allow children into the shop under any circumstances. She had received no complaints from places of worship and although she agreed that the Horsefair needed refurbishment, she was of the opinion that Simply Pleasure was one of the better premises in the area.

At this point, the applicant, objectors, and officers, except for the Solicitor and Committee Officer, left the meeting. The Committee then considered the application. The Solicitor gave legal advice, as required, and the Committee Officer took the minutes, but neither took any part in the decision-making.

After consideration by the Committee, the applicant and all those who had left

the room were invited back and the Chairman announced the decision set out below.

DECISION: The Sex Establishment Licence for Simply Pleasure Limited be renewed in accordance with the Council's Licensing Policy having heard the relevant objections and the representations of the Applicant, there being no substantiated grounds to support the objections.

LIC.62 Exclusion of the Press and Public

DECISION:

Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of "Exempt Information" as defined in paragraphs 7 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act.

LIC.63 Summary of Minutes

The following proceedings were considered after the press and public had been excluded from the meeting. A summary of the minutes relating to these items has been made as "exempt information" would be disclosed if the minutes were published in full.

LIC.64 Minutes

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

LIC.65 Review of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driving Licence

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Planning, Health and Environment and determined the review of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driving Licence.

The meeting ended at 11.20 am.

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