

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

17 AUGUST 2018

Present: County Councillor Mackie(Chairperson)
County Councillors Goddard and Murphy

8 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

9 : APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE - KINGS
ROAD YARD COURTYARD,

This application was adjourned as the Applicant was not present at the meeting.

10 : APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE - TITAN
WAREHOUSE, TITAN ROAD

This Application was postponed until the Committee scheduled for 31 August 2018.

11 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

Applicant: Mr Grant Jones

Responsible Authorities: PC Rob Gunstone, Licensing Officer, South Wales
Police

Application

A Temporary Event Notice was received on 8th August 2018 from Mr Grant Jones

The notification was in respect of an event which is to take place between 25th and 27th August 2018 between the hours of 13:00 and 02:30 each day. The TEN is proposed to allow the sale by retail of alcohol and the provision of regulated entertainment in respect of the Hub Festival.

Responsible Authorities Representations

Sub Committee were advised that South Wales Police were objecting to the temporary event notice under the licensing objectives, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Public Safety.

Sub Committee were advised that the application was made on Tuesday 7th August 2018. The applicant, Mr Grant Jones sought to conduct licensable activity in the form of the selling of alcohol and the playing of music on Womanby Street in Cardiff as part of the proposed Hub Festival 2018. Mr Jones described this festival as an annual event which takes place over two days. The applicant stated that stages in 10 venues would host various acts throughout the period of the event. This years event differs from previous events in that there would be no private space for a stage and that there would be a stage set on the street itself where DJs would perform between

midday and 2200hrs. At 2200hrs music would stop and the event would turn into a silent disco.

The exact location of the event would be Womanby street between the premises of the Fuel Bar and Jones Court. The applicant was requesting both on and off sales of alcohol. The requested hours for the licensable activity to be conducted are between 1300hrs – 0230hrs Daily.

Pc Gunstone advised Sub Committee that he had contacted the applicant on the morning of Friday 10th August and discussed the application with him. It was difficult to establish the exact nature and layout of the event and the officer requested a site plan and an operating schedule for the event. In addition mindful of the safety implications of such a gathering, the officer requested a current Fire Risk Assessment for the event.

Mr Jones was informed that at this time, without these supporting documents an objection would be made to the application on the basis of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and that of maintaining Public Safety.

Mr Jones undertook to provide the requested documents but stated that it was unlikely that they could be provided that day as he was away from Cardiff. Pc Gunstone informed Mr Jones that he would be available to meet the following week but Mr Jones stated that he was in Edinburgh the following week but that it was possible representatives of the organisers could attend any meeting.

Subsequently, on Friday 10th August 2018, Pc Gunstone formerly advised the Council Licensing Department of the objection made by South Wales Police in respect of this application, by way of an e-mail. On Tuesday 14th August 2018, an e-mail was received from Mr Jones with Event Plan- operating procedures Street Plan and Hub Festival Risk Assessment documents attached.

On the same day, Pc Gunstone requested clarification by way of a return e-mail, of the street plan document. On Wednesday 15th August the above e-mail received from Mr Jones was forwarded to Adrian Moyse from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. He replied with an initial assessment of the information provided by Mr Jones, in which he stated that ;

“I can confirm the Fire Risk Assessment section is not suitable and sufficient.”

Later that day, Pc Gunstone telephoned Mr Jones to discuss matters with him. There was no reply and a voice message was left urging Mr Jones to contact the officer in order to progress matters. The next morning, Pc Gunstone again telephoned Mr Jones and again there was no reply. A voice mail was left requesting contact be made to discuss matters relating to the application.

On the morning of Thursday 16th August 2018 Pc Gunstone received an e-mail from Mr Jones informing the officer that he was unable to attach an updated copy of the plan as requested on the 14th August. Mr Jones suggested a meeting in Womanby Street at 08:00hrs on the morning of Friday 17th August in order to describe the site. Later that day, Pc Gunstone forwarded the information provided by Mr Jones on the 14th August to Stephen Morgan – Fire safety officer from South Wales Fire and Rescue Service. He in turn forwarded this to Matthew Bradford, again from South

Wales Fire and Rescue Service, who advised that there was no information in relation to; Number of exits available from the fenced areas, Size of area that will be fenced off, What are the occupancy numbers for these areas, How will these numbers be managed, How areas outside of the fenced areas will be managed as in an emergency situation there could be major crowd issues, Numbers of security/staff available, What control measures are in place to knock the sound off for the silent disco, Are risk assessments available for the food stalls.

Pc Gunstone contacted again Mr Jones by telephone to discuss matters. Again there was no reply and a message was left requesting contact.

In the absence of any contact with the applicant Pc Gunstone contacted Mr Steve Bines whom he was aware had previously had involvement in the event, in an attempt to progress matters. Mr Bines, though he had no involvement with the event this year, undertook to make efforts to progress matters as best he could.

Contact had also been made with the Council Highways Department, officers stated they were not aware of the event but stated that this was not something which would be seen as an issue with Highways as such. However concerns were raised in that they felt they should have been made aware in order to avoid, for example permissions being given to any utility providers to carry out works in the area of the event during the time period applied for. In addition, measures available to protect the event, the participants and its patrons such as the raising of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Bollards could have implemented.

Additional contact had been received from Mark Miller, Regional Manager of J.D Wetherspoons owners of The Gatekeeper public house. Mr Miller has expressed concerns over the event as in previous years their premises have seen considerable footfall from patrons from the festival who use their toilets without benefit to the premises themselves, requiring the deployment of additional security staff.

Sub Committee were advised that South Wales Police are not against this event going ahead but at this time are not satisfied that there are sufficient measures in place to promote the safety of the public at what would be an event of considerable size and duration on what is already a busy week end for the city centre. Sub Committee were advised that these concerns were supported by the initial observations made by representatives of South Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

Applicants Representations

The Applicant advised Sub Committee that he runs the Moon pub which runs the Hub festival, previously they had used Jones Court and Sullys Yard to house the stage but they could not get access this year so the stage was moving to the street, he clarified that the 'stage' would actually be a gazebo for the DJ's. Sub Committee were advised that as it was a TEN's application there would be no more than 499 people, and there would be barriers at each end of the street to control numbers. Sub Committee were advised that all the premises in Womanby Street were involved in the festival and work together, details of the application were outlined including the music stopping at 22.00 and a silent disco starting at 23.00.

The Applicant clarified as to whether he would need a separate TEN's for the outdoor bar and was advised that the TEN's would need to be split into 2 between the bar and the music area.

Sub Committee were advised that there would be security guards at each end of the street. The Applicant advised that he would speak to the Fire Officer as soon as possible to clarify what was required from them.

The Applicant stated that there would be no glass vessels used in the outdoor bar, there would be a few pallet seats and off sales. The 2 food stalls would be powered by a diesel generator.

Sub Committee were advised that everything on the street would be taken down and stored in Jones Court at 02.30am, overnight, and be set up again the next day.

PC Gunstone sought clarification on the numbers of security guards and checked that venue security would be relied upon. After discussion the applicant agreed to have 2 security staff on each end to enable to breaks etc. due to the long hours of the event. The Applicant also advised that there would be around 11 Steward Volunteers who would be identifiable by Hi-Vis clothing. Members considered a shift system should be put in place for the Stewards.

Sub Committee sought clarification on the 10 stages stated in the report and were advised that these would be housed inside the various venues in Womanby Street.

Members asked how the Applicant would address the representation from Weatherspoons and the Applicant considered that Weatherspoons would indeed benefit commercially from the event, they would be very busy as the drinks will be cheaper than the drinks sold at the festival. He added that they have always been very helpful during the festival in the past.

Members sought clarification on how the barriers at each end of the street would work and were advised that there would be one entrance each end with a staffed table. With regards to the silent disco there would be a £5 deposit for the headphones and a £5 entry fee, so on exit people would return the headphones to receive their deposit back, this would be done at the exit barrier table. Security on each end would keep in touch with each other and control the numbers.

Summing Up

PC Gunstone stated that this would be a large event over what was already a very busy bank holiday weekend. Preparation for the event would have benefitted from better consultation, rather than last minute planning which had put stress on the applicant and had meant that South Wales Police had to make an objection. PC Gunstone considered that if allowed to take place, more conversations still needed to be had to sort out more details. He added that lots of people in a small area needed to be managed properly. The Applicant agreed and stated that he would work with all concerned; this was the first time he had been involved in the finer details of the festival and it had been a steep learning curve.

RESOLVED: That the Sub-Committee, having considered all the information; and in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003, the Section 182 Guidance and the Licensing Authority's own Statement of Licensing Policy, the Sub Committee allowed the TEN.

The meeting terminated at 11.15 am