

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

2 AUGUST 2019

Present: Councillor (Chairperson)
Councillors Ford, Goddard and Jacobsen

4 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

5 : APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE - CARDIFF CITY STADIUM

Applicants: represented by Matthew Phipps

Interested Others: Emma Douglas, local resident

The Application

An application for the variation of a Premises Licence was received from Cardiff City Stadium Limited in respect of Cardiff City Stadium, Leckwith Road, Cardiff.

The applicant has applied to vary the licence as follows:

To vary the layout and design of the premises in accordance with the submitted plan, which shows a reconfigured outside space within the car park, which incorporates a 'fanzone' catering for the sale of food/drink.

Any part of the variation application that changes the plan/layout at the premises to be of no effect until the work has been completed.

To amend condition 9 under Annex 2 - conditions consistent with the operating schedule so it now reads ' There shall be no glass bottles allowed in the main bowl/pitch area(s) or the external fanzone area at any time'.

The operating times, licensable activities and remaining conditions authorised by the existing licence Premises Licence to remain unaltered.

A site plan of the premises was included at Appendix A of the report.

Interested Other Representations

Ms Emma Douglas addressed the Sub Committee. Ms Douglas advised that she made representations on the application as she considered the general design and layout of the 'fanzone' to be inappropriate at the proposed location.

During the build up to matches at the stadium crowds are minimal. However, large numbers of fans will arrive 10 to 15 minutes before kick-off. Ms Douglas considered that the proposals will encourage fans to arrive earlier and encourage them to congregate near Sloper Road. As there was no provision for road closures, large

numbers of fans stand in or close to the road would cause a danger. Ms Douglas also considered that it was also inappropriate to locate the fanzone adjacent to a public open space, a childrens play area and 2 sports pitches.

Members were advised that the noise generated from the fan zone was likely to cause a nuisance. Although activities would be infrequent the plans for the zone include the siting of sound equipment and video screens. Sound was likely to travel and cause disturbance.

Ms Douglas was concerned that there was little provision for policing or stewarding the fanzone. The zone was not enclosed and public access would be via bollards. The capacity of the fanzone was unknown and it was not clear who would be permitted to enter the zone.

Ms Douglas stated that as a local resident she has experienced problems with football fans parking in residential bays. She has also received abuse when asking fans not to do so.

Ms Douglas stated that she was not objecting to the fanzone outright. However, the fanzone would be better located on the opposite side of the stadium and an area that was already enclosed and used as a car park for television and media vehicles.

Applicants Representations

Mr Phipps presented the application. Members were advised that the variation sought to vary the existing licence by incorporating the fanzone area. The fanzone, as proposed, would provide a bar, food and some form of entertainment for fans attending the stadium. It was not proposed that the fanzone would cause a nuisance or problems for local residents.

Members were advised that the fanzone was in keeping with developments within football over recent years. All Premier League clubs now have fanzones and Championship clubs are moving in the same direction. Mr Phipps circulated photographs of fanzones at Crystal Palace and Everton.

Mr Phipps referred to the 35 existing premises licence conditions set out in Appendix C of the report. It was proposed that the fan zone would be added to the list of areas from which glass is excluded. Mr Phipps also indicated that conversations regarding the application had taken place between the applicants and South Wales Police. As a result of those conversation an additional number of conditions were agreed with South Wales Police and offered by the applicants. The conditions were:

1. Any stage, audio speaker or DJ position in the fan zone should be sited in such a way that noise will be directed away from Sloper Road.
2. Viewing screens provided in the fan zone will not be used to screen footage of a live match or event inside the Cardiff City stadium. Viewing screens will face inward to the fan zone.
3. Individual visitors to the fan zone shall not be allowed to purchase more than four drinks at any single visit to the bar.

4. Licensable activity in the fan zone will cease 30 minutes prior to match kick off or live event, if held inside the Cardiff City stadium.
5. Stewarding staff will be on duty in the fan zone wearing high visibility jackets or tabards. There will be no less than four at any one time.
6. Each fan zone stewarding supervisor shall carry a two-way radio affording them communication with stadium management and colleagues.
7. All drinks will be served in non-glass vessels in the fan zone.
8. CCTV will cover all areas in which fan zone attendees have access including entrance and exits.

Storage facility for 31 days, to be produced in a readily playable format to the Police as soon as practicable on request, subject to GDPR legislation.

CCTV system to be operated and maintained when the fan zone is open to the public.

There shall be sufficient trained staff in the use of the CCTV system to comply with the condition.

Signs will be prominently displayed alerting fan zone attendees to the use of CCTV in the area.

Members were asked to note that there no representation have been received from the Responsible Authorities. Whilst respectful of the resident's objections, Mr Phipps stated that he did not agree with them. References to planning were not relevant to the premises licence application. Furthermore, the representation treated phrases such as 'encouraging the early arrival of fans' as a negative. Mr Phipps stated that the intention was to get people to arrive earlier and this was a good thing. The fanzone would also mitigate the possibility that fans could purchase cheap alcohol in local supermarkets and consume it in the nearby park/play area, which was also referred to in the representation.

Fans using the fanzone would be accommodated and supervised. This will reduce the potential for problems to occur. Only ticketed fans would be permitted to use the fanzone – both home fans and away fans. This would provide an opportunity for fans from opposing teams to properly mix and to challenge the cycle of poor behaviour by providing an inclusive space for all.

Mr Phipps considered the proposed location to be 'perfect'. Events at the stadium are subject to a rigorous programme of oversight from the responsible authorities in terms of crowd control and the management of these events. The fanzone would not attract additional people to the area, but it would accommodate those fans already with tickets.

Reference was made to the use of plastic in the stadium. Mr Phipps stated that whilst the football club was sensitive to the issue and was working towards being

more environmentally conscious – this would not override the necessity to avoid the use of glass.

Mr Phipps considered that application before the Sub Committee to be a good applicant and it was not fair to suggest that the fanzone would not be managed properly. Every attendee is closely managed at all times and this will continue.

Mr Phipps stated that the absence of any objections from the responsible authorities must weigh heavily and he invited the Sub Committee to grant the application.

Responding a question, Mr Phipps stated that the applicants would follow the Guide to Safety at Sports Ground, known as the 'green guide' when assessing how many security staff to deploy. Each event would be risk assessed and staffed as appropriate. It was suggested that there would be no more than 6 security staff and the Football Club has a large pool of further resources to call upon if necessary.

Officers confirmed that regulated entertainment would only be permitted between 1600 hours and 2300 hours.

Summing Up

Both parties were invited to sum up.

Ms Douglas stated that she was not calling into question the excellent management of the stadium. However, arrival and dispersal of fans has been problematic. Litter causes a problem and it is not managed and there is no sense of control in the car parks. The fanzone would more suitably located on the other side of the stadium.

Mr Phipps indicated that the club has listened to the points made and it will listen to the concerns raised. However, no points had been raised in relation to licensable activities. Members were invited to grant the application.

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 GRANTED the application.

The Sub Committee gave weight to the applicant's submissions that the premises is currently well run.

Members felt that a number of point made by objector regarding wider issues such as crowd dispersal and traffic control were not relevant. However, Members took on board the objector's comments regarding potential public nuisance from the licensable activities on the fanzone area, and considered that the conditions offered by the applicant would mitigate against those issues.

The Sub Committee considered that the application represented a small increase in the total licensable area and considered that there was no evidence to suggest that there would be a negative impact on any of the licensing objectives. Members resolved to grant the application subject to the additional conditions offered by the

applicant as set out above other than condition 8 regarding CCTV as this was already adequately covered by the existing conditions 4, 5 and 6.

6 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

The meeting terminated at 11.30 am