

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

18 SEPTEMBER 2020

Present: Councillor Mackie(Chairperson)
Councillors Derbyshire and Wood

4 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

5 : APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE - THE COAL EXCHANGE CARDIFF HOTEL

Applicants: represented by: Mr Brian Gamble – DPS
Mr Martin Jones – Hugh James Solicitors

The Application

An application for the Grant of a Premises Licence has been received from Eden Grove Properties Ltd in respect of The Coal Exchange Cardiff Hotel, Mount Stuart Square, Cardiff, CF10 5EB.

The applicant has applied for the following:

(1) In respect of the following licensable activities:

(i) The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises.

(ii) The provision of regulated entertainment in the form of plays, films, indoor sports, boxing & wrestling entertainment, live music, recorded music, performance of dance and anything of a similar description to music and dance (indoors).

(iii) The provision of late night refreshment (indoors).

(2) Description of Premises (as stated by applicant):

“A hotel with bedrooms, restaurant, bar and function areas”.

(3) Unless otherwise indicated the premises may be open to the public during the following hours and for any hours consequential to the non-standard timings:
Monday to Sunday: 08:00 to 03:00 hours; To residents of the hotel: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

(4) To provide licensable activities during the following hours:

(i) The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises:

Monday to Sunday: 08:00 to 03:00 hours

(ii) The provision of regulated entertainment in the form of plays, films, live music and performance of dance (indoors):

Monday to Sunday: 08:00 to 02:00 hours

(iii) The provision of regulated entertainment in the form of indoor sports and boxing wrestling entertainment (indoors):

Monday to Sunday: 08:00 to 00:00 hours

(iv) The provision of regulated entertainment in the form of recorded music (indoors):

24 hours a day, 7 days a week

(v) The provision of regulated entertainment in the form of anything of a similar description to music and dance (indoors):

Monday to Sunday: 08:00 to 03:00 hours

(vi) The provision of late night refreshment (indoors and outdoors):

Monday to Sunday: 23:00 to 04:00 hours

At the commencement of the hearing Members were advised that the applicant has accepted the conditions suggested in the written representations received from South Wales Police. The application would be amended accordingly.

Applicants Representations

Mr Jones addressed the sub-committee and provided a background to this application. He stated that, as was widely known, Signature Living had gone into insolvency owing significant debts to individual creditors as well as customers with bookings. An administrator had been appointed then resigned and there were around 60 employees expected to be made redundant. Some major corporate creditors had approached the administrator with proposals to keep the hotel running as a going concern, in order to keep the employees jobs and to attempt to recoup some monies as well as continuing the restoration work on the building. Eden Grove Ltd. was created a special purpose vehicle with a commitment to honour customer bookings and deposits paid.

There had been no application to transfer the licence and so it lapsed, therefore it needed to come before the sub-committee. Mr Gamble has operated at the hotel for over 3 years with no issues; he had been employed by Signature Living for over 5 years in total, has always worked in the hospitality industry and has been a person licence holder since March 2009.

It was noted that it would be important to build up customer confidence as well as confidence for local residents who had made representations to the application. These representations had not been taken lightly, although some did not fall under the remit of Licensing. The applicant sought to assure local residents and sub-

committee members that no bottle bins would be emptied after 8pm, there would be no bin collections before 9am, deliveries would be to the front of the hotel, decibel readings would be taken at any event with music and the DPS' contact details would be made available to close residents so they can contact him immediately with any concerns; all of which address local residents concerns and the 4 South Wales Police conditions as detailed in the papers.

It was the intention to fully develop the hotel, save the building, save local jobs, and provide event space. There was no intention to use the Boxing/Wrestling element of the licence.

The Chairperson invited questions from Sub-Committee Members. A Members asked about the decibel levels, asking what was acceptable and why this was not written into the conditions. Members were advised that any reading over 70 would mean the music being turned down; with regard to adding this into the conditions, it was noted that the Council would usually ask this if there was an issue but there had been objection by the responsible authority. Members asked how often reading would be taken and were advised they were taken 3 times during the evening at around 7/10/11pm; if the reading was close to the limit later in the evening the music would be turned down.

Members asked how large groups of people arriving and leaving the hotel could be managed and were advised that people would be stopped from going outside after 11pm; there would be no drinking outside after 8pm; door staff would be present to enforce this and to ask people to leave quietly, which would reinforce the signage displayed too.

In Summary Mr Jones stated that this application had been unopposed by the reasonable authorities and the applicant had tried to mitigate local residents' concerns.

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, APPROVED the application, subject to the conditions agreed with South Wales Police.

6 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

None received.

The meeting terminated at 10.50 am