
**VARIATION OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES APPROVED AS A VENUE FOR
MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

ROCKLIFFE HALL HOTEL, DARLINGTON

Purpose of Report

1. To consider a request received from Rockcliffe Hall Hotel to make a variation to its licence to be approved as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships in accordance with the provisions of the Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994), the Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005 and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013.

Summary

2. Rockcliffe Hall Hotel has been an approved venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships for a number of years, being a successful wedding venue.
3. The Majority of weddings are conducted in the Orangery which is currently licensed by the Council for a maximum of 120 guests.
To meet the needs of its customers the hotel has requested that this be increased to a maximum of 150 persons.
4. The Superintendent Registrar has met with the hotel to discuss this and has no objections or concerns to the request.
5. The Hotel has also indicated that in 2017 it will be looking to build a garden structure such as a pavilion or bandstand to allow for outside weddings to take place but this is still in the planning stage.
6. The Hotel has been advised that a report to this Committee to vary its licence will be required to accommodate this additional place for weddings to take place.

Information

7. The Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994), the Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005, and the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013 permit a Local Authority to approve the use of certain premises as venues for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships. This Council is the appropriate Authority for premises within the Borough of Darlington.

Legal Implications

8. This report has been considered by the Assistant Director, Law and Governance, the Fire Service, Building Control and also the Licensing Officer for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Assistant Director, Law and Governance considers need to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

9. The contents of this report have been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Conclusion

10. The Officers are satisfied that it would be appropriate to vary the conditions of the Licence for Rockliffe Hall Hotel to allow for the maximum number of persons to attend a wedding in the Orangery to be increased from 120 to 150.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that the variation to the licence for Rockliffe Hall Hotel be granted thereby permitting the maximum number of persons allowed to attend a wedding in the Orangery be 150 persons.

Luke Swinhoe
Assistant Director of Law and Governance and
Proper Officer for the Registration Service

Background Papers

Request from Rockliffe Hall Hotel to vary licence.

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