

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

13th May, 2009

PRESENT – Councillors Hartley, Lawton and Newall.

(3)

LS49. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR – RESOLVED – That Councillor Hartley be appointed Chair of this Sub-Committee, for this meeting only.

LS50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

LS51. APPLICATION TO REVIEW PREMISES LICENCE – The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to an application to vary a Premises Licence in respect of Skerne Park Hotel, in light of representations received from a Responsible Authority, Durham Constabulary relating to the licensing objective on the prevention of crime and disorder resulting particularly from incidents of drugs misuse on the premises..

Sgt. Tim Kelly, Licensing Unit, Durham Constabulary addressed the meeting and responded to Members' questions. Mr. Simon Jepson representing Tadcaster Pub Company Ltd also addressed the meeting and responded to Members' question and the points for clarification.

At the hearing Sgt. Kelly reported that he had recently met with Mr Jepson and that the proposed conditions offered by the Police have been supported by Mr Jepson. Mr Jepson also reported two additional conditions that Tadcaster Pub Company Ltd would like be imposed. The addition of the new Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) was an indication that the brewery was taking steps to improve the situation at Skerne Park Hotel.

Members were concerned to hear of the problems relating to the sale and use of illegal substances within the premises and considered this to be a most serious situation. Members were however pleased to hear of the mediation hearing between Tadcaster Pub Company Ltd, the Police and the Council's Licensing Section which had resulted in agreed conditions to address the concerns of the Police.

The Sub-Committee considered the views of the applicant for review in accordance with Guidance issued Under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003(Hearings) Regulations 2005 and in accordance with the "Licensing Sub-Committees – Full Hearing Procedure for Applicants for Review of Premises Licences/Club Premises Certificates Where Relevant Representations have Been Received".

IT WAS AGREED – That the following conditions offered by the Police with amendment and the additional conditions offered by Tadcaster Pub Company Ltd be placed on the licence, in addition to the mandatory conditions and to those currently placed on the licence:

1. A CCTV system that is compliant with the Durham Constabulary minimum standards document is to be installed and operational at all times when the premises are open for licensable activities.

2. The licence holder shall implement a written drugs policy. This shall detail the strategies to minimise the use and supply of illegal drugs in the premises. The drugs policy shall include a

structured training programme covering the issues relevant to the misuse of drugs in relation to Licensed Premises which will be delivered to all staff. This policy shall be agreed in writing by Durham Constabulary and the Licensing Authority. All staff members shall carry out the checks detailed within the Policy.

3. All staff shall be suitably trained for their job function for the premise. The training shall be written into a programme, which will be subject of ongoing review and must be available to a relevant Responsible Authority on request.

4. Each Designated premises Supervisor shall be trained in managing the misuse of drugs. This training shall be cascaded to other staff members who will be required to sign documentation confirming this training. Such documentation shall be produced on request of the Police or an Authorised Officer of the Council.

5. Clear and legible signage shall be prominently displayed advising patrons that the premises may be subject to random checks by the Police, using passive drugs dogs and that any patron found to be using or engaged in dealing drugs will not be permitted to remain on the premises.