

**LICENSING COMMITTEE
6 APRIL 2021**

**APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF LICENCE FOR PREMISES TO BE
APPROVED AS A VENUE FOR MARRIAGES AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS**

Bannatyne Hotel, Southend Avenue, Darlington

Purpose of Report

1. To consider an application received from Bannatyne Hotel for the renewal of a licence to be approved as a venue for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships in accordance with the provisions of:
 - The Marriage Act 1949 (as amended by the Marriage Act 1994),
 - The Civil Partnership Act (2004)
 - The Marriage and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) Regulations 2005, and
 - The Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act (2013)

Summary

Since 1994 local authorities have been able to approve venues where civil marriage and civil partnerships can take place as an alternative venue to a Register Office most of which are hotels.

Bannatyne Hotel has been a licensed venue for Civil Ceremonies since 1994 when it was formerly the New Grange Hotel and has continued to be a popular wedding venue generating business for the register office and for local business, attracting couples who are marrying both local and from further afield.

Its current licence expires on 6th April, 2021.

There have been no issues with the venue which would adversely affect its application to renew its licence. The three year licence as an approved venue is now due for renewal and the committee are asked to consider the application.

Information

2. The building has the required fire risk assessments and there are no access or DDA issues which would adversely affect the application.

The premises are considered to be suitable for approval as a venue for Marriages and Civil Partnerships, subject to the standard conditions and a limit on the number of people permitted to be present in the nominated rooms.

The applicant is not seeking to alter or change any of the areas or capacities of persons who can be present when ceremonies take place. These are currently:

Room	Maximum Capacity (where no government restrictions apply)
Maxine's Restaurant/Study Room	80
Wilbur Suite	150
The Library	20
The Gazebo	6*

**ie. two registrars, the couple and two witnesses inside the gazebo. Guests Outside on the garden is unlimited.*

3. A copy of the application submitted is attached and the renewal fee of £1700.00 has been invoiced.
4. Following receipt of the application, an advert inviting public responses has appeared on the council website and no responses have been received. The application has also been considered by the planning, environmental health and building control officers and no issues have been raised.

Financial Implications.

5. The renewal of a licence for a premise as a venue for civil marriages and civil partnerships incurs a fee payable to the local authority which is currently £1700.00

Legal implications.

6. The current licence for the Bannatyne Hotel expires on 6th April, 2021. The grant of a further licence is required for the hotel to continue with its bookings for civil marriages and partnerships. The standard renewal licence is for three years from the date of expiry of the current licence. The licensing committee can issue a licence on a shorter timescale as a temporary measure should it wish and/or make specific conditions including where the ceremony can take place, how many can attend and improvements for accessibility.

Conclusion.

7. Members are asked to renew the licence for Bannatyne Hotel as an approved premise for civil marriages and civil partnerships for a further three years from 6th April, 2021.

Recommendation.

8. It is recommended that:
- (a). The licence for Bannatyne Hotel, Southend Avenue, Darlington as an approved premise be granted for a further three years from 6th April, 2021.
- (b) That the places designated where civil marriages and civil partnerships can take place and the maximum of numbers of persons who can attend those marriages and civil partnerships continue to be:

Room	Maximum Capacity (where no government restrictions apply)
Maxine's Restaurant/Study Room	80
Wilbur Suite	150
The Library	20
The Gazebo	6*

**ie. two registrars, the couple and two witnesses inside the gazebo. Guests Outside on the garden is unlimited.*

Reasons.

To facilitate the continuation of Bannatyne Hotel, Southend Avenue, Darlington as a premise approved for civil marriages and civil partnerships.

**Luke Swinhoe, Assistant Director, Law and Governance and Proper Officer
for Darlington Registration District**

Background Papers

Application for renewal of licence as an approved premise for Civil Marriage and Civil Partnership from Bannatyne Hotel.

Anthony Hall, Superintendent Registrar Ext 6400