

MINUTES

of the

**LICENSING COMMITTEE
HEARING**

held on 3 June 2019 at 6.30pm

Present:

Councillor L.A. Mascot (Chair of Hearing)

Councillors, A.E. Davidson. D.G. Jones. And C.R. Tron

1. **Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

All Members were reminded to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) or other registerable interests where appropriate in any of the items of business on the meeting's agenda, none were made.

3. **Minutes**

The minutes of the hearings held on 26 March and 4 April 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4. **Licensing Act 2003 - Application for a New Premises Licence – Admirals Park, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 2PL**

The Committee considered an application for a new premises licence in respect of Admirals Park, Chelmsford, CM1 2PL. The licence being applied for was for an annual event to take place on five consecutive days including two set up days as follows:

Provision of films:

Friday 19:00 - 22:00
Saturday 10:30 – 22:00
Sunday 10:30 – 18:00

Provision of recorded music:

Friday 17:00 – 23:00
Saturday 10:00 – 23:00
Sunday 10:00 – 18:30

Supply of alcohol:

Friday 17:00 – 22:40
Saturday 17:00 – 22:40
Sunday 10:00 – 18:00

It was noted by the Committee that there were three options namely;

1. Grant the application, on the terms and conditions applied for.
2. Grant the application, on the terms and conditions applied for, modified to such extent as considered appropriate to promote the Licensing Objectives.
3. Refuse the application in whole or in part.

The following parties attended this hearing and took part in it:

The Applicant – Arena Sports Live
Objector – One local resident

The Chair advised that the written representations had been read and considered by the members of the Committee in advance of the meeting. The Chair invited the applicant to introduce their application.

The applicant introduced their application and informed the Committee that it was for a single annual event and that they were an experienced operator of events across stadiums and arenas with high public attendance. The applicant stated that this event would be family friendly, non-music based and would include film screenings. It was also stated that despite the application being for five consecutive days, only the Friday to Sunday would be open to the public with the other two days being used for setup etc. The Committee was informed that the applicant had held similar style events at various venues last summer.

The applicant told the Committee that they had visited the venue today to check suitability and confirmed there would be a family zone included. The applicant also confirmed that the recorded music would just be background music played in the bar areas. The Committee also heard that parks near to residential areas were preferred by the applicant in order to promote visitors walking to the event.

The local resident who had objected to the application addressed the Committee and made the following points;

- Events in Admirals Park had often caused issues for residents in Admirals Walk, including taxis using the road as a pick up or drop off point in addition to anti-social behaviour from visitors leaving events.
- The operators of a similar event last year recognised the impact on residents of Admirals Walk and liaised with them in advance and put measures in place to mitigate issues. This had included stationing someone at the road entrance to ensure it was only used by residents and that similar measures would be welcomed and appreciated for this licence.

In response to the concerns raised by the local resident the applicant stated that they were happy to work with the local resident and help to mitigate any issues on Admirals Walk. The applicant stated they would be happy to agree to any measures suggested by the Committee to mitigate the impact on Admirals Walk.

In response to questions from the Committee the applicant stated that;

- A security company would be contracted for the event with SIA trained staff to work across the event site.
- They had organised thousands of public events including about 15 of a similar nature to the one being applied for.
- There was a target to sell approximately 500 tickets for the event on the Friday evening and approximately 2000 each for the Saturday and Sunday.

The Council's Licensing Officer stated that the applicant did not actually need a licence for background music in a bar area and that they could play background music until 11pm without a licence.

The Committee retired at 6.51pm to deliberate on the matter and returned at 7.15pm.

RESOLVED that the Director of Public Places be authorised to grant the application on the terms applied for subject to the following condition and advisory.

The imposition of the following condition:

During the hours the event is open to the public, to ensure the provision of adequate stewarding on admirals walk with a view to minimising anti-social behaviours and public nuisance.

Advisory:

The committee would advise that the applicant consider stopping the provision of recorded music at 10:30pm on Friday and Saturday.

The Chair provided a summary of the reasons for the Committee's decision and advised that a formal decision notice would be sent out in due course to the relevant parties.

The committee had carefully considered the concerns expressed by the objector, who is a local resident. The committee considered that subject to the imposition of the condition, there was no evidence to indicate prospective harm at this stage.

The committee was mindful of the fact that there was only one objector to the application, and none of the responsible authorities (e.g. The police or environmental health) had put in an objection or sought to impose any conditions in relation to control of noise etc.

The committee had noted however, that the single objector to this application is a local resident who lives in very close proximity to the application site. He had made reference to experiencing noise nuisance and other issues on Admirals Walk connected with the annual beer festival and other events which had taken place at Admirals Park.

(6.30pm to 7.17pm)

The meeting closed at 7.17pm.

Chair