

MINUTES

of the

**LICENSING COMMITTEE
HEARING**

held on 21 January 2019 at 6pm

Present:

Councillor L. Millane (Chairman of Hearing)

Councillors, R.A. Alcock, J. De. Vries, and R.A. Villa

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 hearing held on 12 December 2018 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Licensing Act 2003 – Application for a Full Variation of a Premises Licence – Bridge St Lounge and Grill, 1 Bridge Street, Writtle, CM1 3EY**

The Committee considered an application for a full variation of a premises licence in respect of Bridge St Lounge and Grill, 1 Bridge Street, Writtle, CM1 3EY. The licence being applied for was as follows:

Sale or supply of Alcohol, Playing of Recorded Music

Monday to Sunday 10:00- 02:00

Late Night Refreshments

Monday to Sunday 23:00-02:00

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

Objectors – Members of the Public

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

The applicant informed the Committee that the venue was set to become a fine dining Indian restaurant in a few weeks' time and that it was not intended to use the new licence on a regular basis. The applicant stated that he had been encouraged by customers to apply for a later licence due to successful events in the past. The applicant informed the Committee that there was no intention on his part of the venue becoming a nightclub style venue.

The local residents (who had made written representations) addressed the Committee and expressed the following concerns regarding the application:

- There was a strong feeling in the community that the application was not appropriate for the village setting.
- Noise disturbances from the premises would be emphasised due to many of the properties being listed buildings that only had single glazing windows.
- The sleep patterns of nearby residents would be affected by noise from the premises into the early hours, especially from customers leaving the premises and being collected by taxis.
- There was no police presence in the area and police would have to travel away from the City Centre to attend any issues at the premises.
- There would be an increase in antisocial behaviour due to the increase of customers drinking alcohol into the early hours.
- That a fine dining restaurant should not require a licence until 2am.
- That noise from the venue was already audible especially on Friday and Saturday nights to nearby residents.
- The representations detailed to the Committee the evidence that an increase in licensing hours would adversely affect nearby residents.
- That an extended licence would allow any current or future owners to turn the restaurant into a nightclub style venue.
- There was limited parking at the premises and this led to inappropriate and dangerous parking around the village.
- That any potential noise disturbances were amplified due to the quiet village setting, any noise would also travel greater distances due to the open village green nearby.
- That many residents had to wake up early to travel to work and that a 2am closing time would disturb sleep patterns.

After having heard the local residents, the applicant informed the Committee that he no longer wanted to apply for the variation on the licence and therefore withdrew his application. The applicant stated that the initial application had been for a different concept and that the now proposed fine dining Indian restaurant did not require an extended licence. The Committee accepted the withdrawal of the application.

RESOLVED that the application be withdrawn.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Chairman