

Report to: Licensing Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting: 08.06.2015.

Report Title: Review of Premises licence. Zar Zar Bar, Queens Road, Hastings.

Report By: Mike Hepworth
Head of Environmental Services

Purpose of Report

To consider an application to review the Premises Licence as a result of representations received.

Responsible Authorities. Three.

Interested Parties. One.

Recommendation(s)

- 1. Members consider the content of the report, the options available and reach a decision.**

Reasons for Recommendations

The Licensing Act 2003 requires a licensing sub committee to consider such applications when appropriate representations have been made. The decision reached at the sub committee can be subject to appeal at the Magistrates Court by any party to the hearing who is aggrieved by the decision.

Introduction

1.0 Background

1. On 7th February 2005 the Licensing Act 2003 came into force for all local authorities, marking the practical commencement of the Government's new liquor licensing regime.
2. On the 14th April 2015 Hastings Borough Council received an application for the review of an existing premises licence for Zar Zar Bar, 91-92 Queens Road, Hastings, TN34 IHL, from Sussex Police District Commander Paul Phelps, made under Section 51 the Licensing Act 2003. (Attached at Appendix A).
3. Zar Zar Bar has operated in Queens Road, Hastings under its current name and licence holder since July 2012, the premises licence holder being Mr Nigel Lewes trading as Zar Zar Bar Ltd. (Attached map Appendix B).
4. The premises currently holds a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003. (Attached Appendix C).
5. The existing premises licence covers the use of the premises for live music, recorded music, late night refreshment and the supply by retail of alcohol.
6. It currently operates under trading hours that vary according to the type of licensable activity and the day of the week. The opening hours for the premises being Monday to Sunday 09.00 to 03.00, however different hours exist for each licensable activity on the licence. In addition the licence hours are extended on all bank holidays, Christmas and New Year to the terminal hour of Saturdays.

2.0 Application

7. The grounds for review made by Sussex Police are under the licensing objectives "The Prevention of Crime and Disorder" and "The Prevention of Public Nuisance", I have considered the application and consider it valid and in line with the central government guidance issued on such matters.
8. In their application they refer to a series of 14 incidents over past 12 months several of which have resulted in persons sustaining injuries, they also comment extensively about the poor management of the premises by the licence holder and his staff. They seek a minimum of 4(four) weeks suspension of the licence and a series of 6 (six) conditions to be added to the licence.
9. When submitting an application for a review under the Licensing Act 2003 the applicant is required to send copies of the review application to the other responsible authorities listed under the Act and a copy to the premises licence holder, this has been done.
10. In addition, the licensing authority is required to place a copy of the notice on the premises concerned and the public notice board situated at the Town Hall this has been done, in addition the review notification has been placed on the Council

website. These notices must remain in place for 28 days to allow further representations to be made.

11. An application for review cannot be considered by the Council's Licensing Sub-Committee until the 28 day representation period has elapsed, in this case that ended at midnight on the 12th May 2015.

3.0 Consultation

12. As a result of this consultation period, the Authority has received further representations from two other responsible authorities. Mr John Ballam, Environmental Protection Officer, comments on the existing noise problems around the premises involved under the licensing objective "The Prevention of Public Nuisance", this is considered valid under the government guidance. Mr Trevor Scrase, Senior Licensing Officer of Hastings Borough Council comments about the history of the premises, the failure of the management to engage with the Authority and issues found on his visits to the premises under the licensing objectives "Prevention of Crime and Disorder" and "Prevention of Public nuisance", this is considered valid under government guidance (Attached appendix D).
13. A further representation has been received in the form of an e mail from a local business, they comment on the ongoing problems with the premises and the effect it is having on the residents and passers-by. (Attached Appendix D).

4.0 Legal Considerations

14. The Licensing Act 2003 is now the only process to licence and control premises for all forms of entertainment, late night refreshment and the sale of Alcohol.
15. The review process is laid down in statute and allows for representations to be made by specified groups of people provided they are relevant to one or more of the licensing objectives listed in the Act and are not considered frivolous, vexatious or repetitive.
16. If a relevant representation is made by either a responsible authority or an interested party, a hearing must be held.
17. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has issued guidance under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003. This guidance is provided to Licensing Authorities to assist them in carrying out their functions.
18. Hastings Borough Council has developed, published and reviewed its Statement of Licensing Policy as required by the Licensing Act 2003.
19. All members of the Licensing Committee have been supplied with copies of the DCMS Government guidance and the Hastings Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy.
20. Human rights considerations must be taken into account fully in balancing licensing issues, in particular, Article 1 of the first protocol and article 8. Article 1 relates to the protection of property and the peaceful enjoyment of possessions and property. Holding a justices licence would be considered a possession. Article 8 relates to

the right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence. These are however qualified rights and can be deprived of “in the public interest”. Interference is permissible if what is done:-

21. Has its basis in law;
22. Is necessary in a democratic society to fulfil a pressing need or pursue a legitimate aim;
23. Is proportionate to the aims being pursued; and,
24. Is related to the prevention of crime; or, the protection of public order or health.
25. The licence holder has a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court against any decisions made by the licensing Sub-Committee with respect to this application for review.

5.0 Options

26. To modify the conditions of the licence.
27. To exclude a licensable activity from the scope of the licence.
28. To remove the designated premises supervisor.
29. To suspend the licence for a period not exceeding three months.
30. To revoke the licence.

Members are reminded they must give written reasons for their decision, to ensure that the appeal procedure can be progressed.

Wards Affected

Castle

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	Yes
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	No
Human Rights Act	Yes
Organisational Consequences	No
Local People's Views	No
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Appendix A. Application for review.

Appendix B. Map of Venue.

Appendix C. Copy of current licence.

Appendix D. Additional representations (Mr Ballam, Mr Scrase)

Officer to Contact

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