

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 20 June 2019 at Pippbrook, Dorking from 10.00am to 10.43am

Sub-Committee Members Present: Councillors Daly (Chair), Loretto and Reilly

Also Present: Paul Holiday (Mole Valley District Council – Senior Licensing Officer), Stephanie Webb (Mole Valley District Council – Principal Solicitor), Kate Singleton (Mole Valley District Council – Principal Solicitor), Lucy O’Connell (Principal Democratic Services Officer)

Applicant: Kris Lea

1. **Election of Chairman**

Councillor Daly was elected as Chairman of the Sub-Committee.

2. **Disclosure of Interests**

Cllr Tim Loretto disclosed that he was an acquaintance of Mark White of Dorking Wanderers FC Limited but that he did not in any way consider the relationship pecuniary or prejudicial to this committee.

3. **Application for a Premises Licence**

Shell Waitrose Buckland, Reigate Road, Buckland, Reigate RH3 7ET

It was noted that at the request of the agent and with the agreement of Buckland Parish Council and representatives of the objectors that the decision on this application be deferred to a later date.

4. **Application for Variation of a Premises Licence**

Meadowbank Football Ground, Mill Lane, Dorking, Surrey

The Sub-Committee received the report which asked it to consider the granting of a variation of a Premises License at Meadowbank Football Ground, Dorking, in light of and having regard to the application and representation received.

Kris Lea (Director Dorking Wanderers FC Ltd) (The Applicants) attended the hearing and gave a brief statement outlining the reasoning behind the variation request.

The Members of the Sub-Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions of The Applicant.

Councillor Tim Loretto asked the Applicant what steps they would take to defend against the risk that late night drinkers would gravitate to the premises and whether they should consider having a policy of not admitting the public after, say 10pm. The Applicant assured the Sum-Committee that they had 2 security officers for functions and events and that no-one would be admitted if they were intoxicated. He said that late night drinkers were more likely to end up in one of the other late night drinking establishments in Dorking. Furthermore, they already had a policy that no-one was allowed into the premises after 10pm.

The Applicant was questioned on the one mile club that he had referred to in his statement. The Applicant said that it only related to a discount for food and football tickets, not alcohol, and had expired now. It had been a way of engaging the local community.

The Applicant was questioned as to the provision of a notice being put up to ask customers to leave quietly and via the St Martin’s car park to avoid footfall past the residential areas in the immediate proximity of the premises. The Applicant assured the Sub-Committee that, according to their security officers, about 80% of the footfall

went via the car park. He was happy to include a provision in the signage to use this exit route and to instruct security to encourage customers to use this exit route.

The Applicant was then questioned about the allegation in one of the Representations that there had been an incident with police presence. The Applicant clarified that he was aware of this incident and that it related to a Friday night Surrey County FA cup final. The incident had taken place on the High Street and was unconnected to the premises or to Dorking Wanderers. He further said that Surrey County FA marshalled the match and had removed supporters from the grounds earlier in the day who had smuggled their own alcohol into the stands. They had not consumed alcohol on the premises.

The Licensing Officer was then invited to submit his report. He reported that the parties who had lodged objections had informed him that they were unable to attend and wished their written representations to stand in their stead.

The Applicant was invited to make closing statements. He said that there was sometimes a misconception that everything at the park, the finger gets pointed at the football club. There is nothing recorded with the police that is directly linked to the club or to the lounge. He further said that they do everything that they can, working closely with the FA and with Surrey police. He was proud of their record and wanted to continue it.

The Sub-Committee subsequently withdrew from the room to consider its decision at 10.21am, in light of and having regard to the evidence put forward at the hearing.

The Sub-Committee returned to the Council Chamber to deliver its decision at 10.40am.

Resolved:

Having considered the Council's own licensing policy, s.182 Secretary of State guidance and the written and oral representations made by the Applicant and the Interested Parties, the Licensing Sub-Committee decided to grant the variation applied for subject to a condition that requires the following:

Notices shall be prominently displayed at all exits requesting patrons to respect the needs of local residents and businesses and leave the area quietly via the St Martin's Walk car park.

Reason for Decision:

The reason for this decision is that from all of the evidence to date it appears that this is a responsibly run establishment. However, the Sub-Committee were mindful of the representations received regarding noise when leaving the premises. The Sub-Committee feel that this condition will mitigate this and the condition was informally offered by the Applicant in any case as part of the application.

The Sub-Committee was mindful of the need to uphold the fundamental licensing objections of Public Safety, the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Prevention of Public Nuisance in accordance with the Secretary of State's guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

Rights of Appeal

There is a right to appeal to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of receiving this written decision notice. The variation to the premise licence will take effect from 20th June 2019.

Date: 20 June 2019

Signed
Chairman