

Meeting	Licensing Committee
Portfolio Area	Communities, Community Safety and Equalities
Date	2 nd December 2021

APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION OF PREMISES LICENCE – THE CROOKED BILLET PUBLIC HOUSE – SYMONDS GREEN LANE, SYMONDS GREEN STEVENAGE, SG1 2HP.

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To determine an application for the variation of a Premises Licence for The Crooked Billet Public House, Symonds Green Lane, Symonds Green, Stevenage. SG1 2HP. Local residents have made representations against this application.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee reviews the evidence presented by Local residents and applicant (and/or representatives) and determines what action should result in respect of the Variation of Premises Licence application.

3 SUMMARY OF APPLICATION

- 3.1 Greene King Retailing Ltd has applied for the variation of the premises licence for The Crooked Billet Public House, Symonds Green Lane, Symonds

Green. Stevenage SG1 2HP. The variation proposes extending the hours for the sale of alcohol from 23.00hrs to midnight on Sunday through to Thursday inclusive and extending the hours from Midnight to 01.00hrs the following morning on Fridays and Saturdays. Late night refreshment will be extended from 23.30hrs to midnight on Sundays through to Thursdays. On Friday and Saturday it will be extended from Midnight to 01.00hrs the following morning. Opening hours will be extended from 23.30hrs to 00.30hrs Sundays through to Thursdays and from 00.30hrs to 01.30hrs the following morning on Fridays and Saturdays. Further changes to the licensing conditions are detailed within the application. This application was accepted as valid and duly made by the Council on 11th October, 2021. A copy of the application is attached at Appendix A.

4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Crooked Billet is a licensed premises which until recently has been operating as a pub. It is now undergoing renovation, a new management team has been installed and they state that they wish to run the premises as a restaurant and bar. The premises are situated at one end of a semi-rural part of Stevenage. Although the premises are bounded by residential properties, it stands alone with no adjoining properties; it stands back from the road. A location map is attached at Appendix B. At the time of writing this report, the premises are undergoing renovation and are not open for trade.
- 4.2 The nearest Licensed premises are the Fisherman Public House in Fishers Green, just under a mile away.
- 4.3 There have been two recent complaints about the premises in connection with its renovation. There are no recent complaints which can be connected to the running of the premises.

5 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

- 5.1 No representations have been made by any of the Responsible Authorities.

6 INTERESTED PARTIES

- 6.1 Representations have been made by local residents who have concerns; these are attached at Appendix C. To summarise residents believe that the extension to opening hours and the hours permitted for licensable activities to a premises situated in a quiet, Conservation/residential area, with very little traffic will cause an increase in noise and Public nuisance late at night.

7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial Implications

7.1.1 There are no financial or resource implications arising from the content of this report.

7.2 Legal Implications

7.2.1 The Committee is advised that paragraphs 9.1 – 9.10 & 9.31- 10.10 of the Guidance under section 182 of the Act describe the powers of a Licensing Authority on the determination of an application.

7.2.2 The following options are available to the committee under section 35(4) (a) and (b) of the Licensing Act 2003:

- To modify the conditions of the licence
- To reject the whole or part of the application

7.3 Policy Implications

7.3.1 *Stevenage Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2020 – 2025*

The following sections of the licensing authority's statement of licensing policy apply to this application:

17.2 The Licensing Authority, in determining if the application for a review is relevant, will have regard to the current guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Act in so far as to whether an application is frivolous, vexatious or repetitious. Representations made by a responsible authority cannot be deemed as being frivolous, vexatious or repetitious.

17.4 In instances where the crime prevention objective is being undermined, revocation, even in the instance of this being a first review of the premises licence, or club premises certificate, will be given serious consideration.

7.3.2 *Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003*

The Committee is reminded of the Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003. These particular sections are relevant to this review application:

The Review Process paragraphs 11.1 – 11.11

Repetitious Representations paragraphs 11.12 – 11.15

Reviews arising in connection with crime paragraphs 11.24 – 11.28

7.4 Equalities and Diversity Implications

7.4.1 Any decision by the Committee is based on evidence before it at the meeting; there are no equalities and diversity implications.

7.5 Crime and Disorder

- 7.5.1 The Committee is reminded of their duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the crime and disorder implications of their decisions and the authority's responsibility to co-operate in the reduction of crime and disorder in the Borough.

8 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- BD1 Licensing Act 2003
- BD2 Stevenage Borough Council, Statement of Licensing Policy 2020-2025
- BD3 Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003

9 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Prior to the end of the consultation period for this application, licensing officers met with the applicants to discuss the representations received. At this meeting the applicants were asked if they would be willing to Voluntarily amend their application for Variation of Premises licence to include the following conditions:

- No deliveries may be made to the premises between 22.00hrs and 08.00hrs.
- No Rubbish, including bottles, shall be moved, removed or placed in outside areas between 22.00hrs and 08.00hrs.

The Applicants were also asked if they would be willing to have a conciliation meeting with local residents who had made representation against the application. The applicants were unable to decide upon these requests at the meeting. Subsequently, on 17th November 2021, the applicants legal representative contacted the licensing team by email to advise that the applicants had accepted the conditions detailed above. The applicants were also prepared to attend a conciliation meeting.

The outcome of this meeting will not be known before the deadline for the publishing of this report.

10 APPENDICES

- A Application to vary a premises licence
- B Location map
- C Representations from Local residents
- D Current Premises Licence