

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

LICENSING AND REGULATORY SUB-COMMITTEE – Wednesday 6th March 2024 @

APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE – Chillington Play Barn Ltd T/A Hockerhill Farm, Kiddmore Green Road Brewood, ST19 9BQ

REPORT OF LICENSING OFFICER - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & LICENSING

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To consider the premises licence application submitted by Chillington Play Barn Ltd, in respect of Hockerhill Farm, Kiddmore Green Road, Brewood ST19 9BQ

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Licensing Authority (Sub-Committee) determine the Premises licence application for Hockerhill Farm, Kiddmore Green Road Brewood, ST19 9BQ

3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	A safe and sustainable district.
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	Yes/No	Not applicable as item relates to individual determination within the existing policy.
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	Yes/No – Report to Legal and Regulatory Committee	
KEY DECISION	Yes/No	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	Details – Not Applicable	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	No	
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes/No	The sub-committee must seek to ensure that this premises promotes the objectives of the licensing regime. The sub- committee must have regard to the authority’s licensing policy (where relevant) and any central government guidance. The sub-committee is entitled to question the applicant, Pattingham Vineyard so as to satisfy itself that the licensing objectives will be met. All parties have a right of appeal to a Magistrates Court. Appeals should be in writing to the

		Magistrates Court within 21 days from the date the applicant is notified of the licensing authority decision.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	No	Summary of Details
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Details as necessary

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4. INFORMATION

4.1 An application for a premises licence was received from Chillington Play Barn Ltd via the GOV.UK portal on the 10th January 2024. This was forwarded to the 'other responsible authorities' and notices displayed and was advertised in accordance with the requirements of the Act. The application and plan are attached as **Appendix A and A1**

4.2 The premises are situated just outside the village of Brewood on the Kiddmore Green Road a site plan of the play barn and surrounding area is attached as **Appendix B**.

4.3 The application requests the following licensable activities:

Proposed Licensable Activities	Days of the Week	Time from /Time to
sale of alcohol	Monday to Friday	12 Noon to 5pm
	Saturday & Sunday	12 Noon to 3.30pm

4.4 It is the understanding of the Licensing Authority that the application for the premises licences has been properly made. The statutory requirement to give notice of the application has also been complied with.

4.5 No outstanding representations have been received from any of the responsible authorities namely: Planning Enforcement and Environmental Protection; Environmental Health and Licensing; Development Control; Staffordshire Fire and Rescue; Children and Lifelong Learning; Primary Care Trust (PCT), Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire County Council (Trading Standards) and Home Office (immigration).

4.6 Staffordshire police have agreed conditions with the applicant on the 30th January 2024 the agreed conditions are attached as **Appendix C**

4.7 Five (5) representations from a local residents have been received by the licensing authority between 22nd January and 5th February 2024 the objection are attached as **Appendix D**. The grounds for the representation are made against the licensing objectives of :

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The protection of Children from Harm

4.7 Copies of all the objections have been served on the applicant "Chillington Play Barn Ltd"

5. Licensing Act 2003 - Section 182 Guidance

Licensing objectives and aims

1.2 The legislation provides a clear focus on the promotion of four statutory objectives which must be addressed when licensing functions are undertaken.

1.3 The licensing objectives are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- Public safety;
- The prevention of public nuisance; and
- The protection of children from harm.

Section 182 Guidance

Determining actions that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives

Protection of children from harm

2.28 The protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm. This includes not only protecting children from the harms associated directly with alcohol consumption but also wider harms such as exposure to strong language and sexual expletives (for example, in the context of exposure to certain films or adult entertainment). Licensing authorities must also consider the need to protect children from sexual exploitation when undertaking licensing functions.

2.29 The Government believes that it is completely unacceptable to sell alcohol to children. Conditions relating to the access of children where alcohol is sold and which are appropriate to protect them from harm should be carefully considered. Moreover, conditions restricting the access of children to premises should be strongly considered in circumstances where:

- adult entertainment is provided;
- a member or members of the current management have been convicted for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for allowing underage drinking (other than in the context of the exemption in the 2003 Act relating to 16 and 17 year olds consuming beer, wine and cider when accompanied by an adult during a table meal);
- it is known that unaccompanied children have been allowed access;
- there is a known association with drug taking or dealing; or
- in some cases, the premises are used exclusively or primarily for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises.

2.30 It is also possible that activities, such as adult entertainment, may take place at certain times on premises but not at other times. For example, premises may operate as

a café bar during the day providing meals for families but also provide entertainment with a sexual content after 8.00pm. It is not possible to give an exhaustive list of what amounts to entertainment or services of an adult or sexual nature. Applicants, responsible authorities and licensing authorities will need to consider this point carefully. This would broadly include topless bar staff, striptease, lap-, table- or pole-dancing, performances involving feigned violence or horrific incidents, feigned or actual sexual acts or fetishism, or entertainment involving strong and offensive language.

2.31 Applicants must be clear in their operating schedules about the activities and times at which the events would take place to help determine when it is not appropriate for children to enter the premises. Consideration should also be given to the proximity of premises to schools and youth clubs so that applicants take appropriate steps to ensure that advertising relating to their premises, or relating to events at their premises, is not displayed at a time when children are likely to be near the premises.

2.32 Licensing authorities and responsible authorities should expect applicants, when preparing an operating schedule or club operating schedule, to set out the steps to be taken to protect children from harm when on the premises.

2.33 Conditions, where they are appropriate, should reflect the licensable activities taking place on the premises. In addition to the mandatory condition regarding age verification, other conditions relating to the protection of children from harm can include:

- restrictions on the hours when children may be present;
- restrictions or exclusions on the presence of children under certain ages when particular specified activities are taking place;
- restrictions on the parts of the premises to which children may have access;
- age restrictions (below 18);
- restrictions or exclusions when certain activities are taking place;
- requirements for an accompanying adult (including for example, a combination of requirements which provide that children under a particular age must be accompanied by an adult); and
- full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place.

2.35 Licensing authorities should give considerable weight to representations about child protection matters. In addition to the responsible authority whose functions relate directly to child protection, the Director of Public Health may also have access to relevant evidence to inform such representations. These representations may include, amongst other things, the use of health data about the harms that alcohol can cause to underage drinkers. Where a responsible authority, or other person, presents evidence to the licensing authority linking specific premises with harms to children (such as ambulance data or emergency department attendances by persons under 18 years old with alcohol-related illnesses or injuries) this evidence should be considered, and the licensing authority should also consider what action is appropriate to ensure this licensing objective is effectively enforced. In relation to applications for the grant of a licence in areas where evidence is presented on high levels of alcohol-related harms in persons aged under 18, it is recommended that the licensing authority considers what conditions may be appropriate to ensure that this objective is promoted effectively.

9.34 Applicants should be encouraged to contact responsible authorities and others, such as local residents, who may be affected by the application before formulating their applications so that the mediation process may begin before the statutory time limits come into effect after submission of an application. The hearing process must meet the requirements of regulations made under the 2003 Act. Where matters arise which are not covered by the regulations, licensing authorities may make arrangements as they see fit as long as they are lawful.

9.38 In determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community, the licensing authority must give appropriate weight to:

- the steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives;
- the representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties;
- this Guidance;
- its own statement of licensing policy.

9.42 Licensing authorities are best placed to determine what actions are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in their areas. All licensing determinations should be considered on a case-by-case basis. They should take into account any representations or objections that have been received from responsible authorities or other persons, and representations made by the applicant or premises user as the case may be.

9.43 The authority's determination should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve.

9.44 Determination of whether an action or step is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives requires an assessment of what action or step would be suitable to achieve that end. While this does not therefore require a licensing authority to decide that no lesser step will achieve the aim, the authority should aim to consider the potential burden that the condition would impose on the premises licence holder (such as the financial burden due to restrictions on licensable activities) as well as the potential benefit in terms of the promotion of the licensing objectives. However, it is imperative that the authority ensures that the factors which form the basis of its determination are limited to consideration of the promotion of the objectives and nothing outside those parameters. As with the consideration of licence variations, the licensing authority should consider wider issues such as other conditions already in place to mitigate potential negative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives and the track record of the business. Further advice on determining what is appropriate when imposing conditions on a licence or certificate is provided in Chapter 10. The licensing authority is expected to come to its determination based on an assessment of the evidence on both the risks and benefits either for or against making the determination.

6. Legal status

Section 4 of the 2003 Act provides that, in carrying out its functions, a licensing authority must 'have regard to' guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182. This Guidance is therefore binding on all licensing authorities to that extent. However, this Guidance cannot anticipate every possible scenario or set of circumstances that may arise and, as long as licensing authorities have properly understood this Guidance, they may depart from it if they have good reason to do so and can provide full reasons. Departure from this Guidance could give rise to an appeal or judicial review, and the reasons given will then be a key consideration for the courts when considering the lawfulness and merits of any decision taken.

Nothing in this Guidance should be taken as indicating that any requirement of licensing law or any other law may be overridden (including the obligations placed on any public authorities under human rights legislation). This Guidance does not in any way replace the statutory provisions of the 2003 Act or add to its scope and licensing authorities should note that interpretation of the 2003 Act is a matter for the courts. Licensing authorities and others using this Guidance must take their own professional and legal advice about its implementation.

7. Local Authority's Powers

7.1 Should the Licensing Authority consider it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives it is required to modify the conditions of the premises licence and/or reject the whole or part of the application as appropriate for the promotion of those objectives.

If the Licensing Authority does not consider it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives to take such steps the application must be granted as sought.

In determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests for the local community, the licensing authority must give appropriate weight to:

- the steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives;
- the representation (including supporting information) presented by all the parties;
- the Home Office guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003;
- its own statement of licensing policy.

The Licensing Authority is not bound to follow such guidance but must have regard to it and if departing from it have rational reasoning for doing so.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

8.1 This report has human rights implication for the premises licence holder as "every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions." [a licence]. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law. This does not impair the right of a State [the committee] to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest.

8.2 In addition as regards the conduct of the hearing there is the right to a fair hearing as "in the determination of his civil rights and obligations" everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal [the committee] established by law. "Judgment" shall be pronounced publicly but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the hearing where the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the committee where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EqIA not applicable

10. PREVIOUS MINUTES

Not applicable

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

List of background papers used in preparation of report:

Licensing Act 2003

Section 182 Guidance
South Staffordshire Licensing Policy
Human Rights Act 1998

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