

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF A LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE  
16 August 2005 (10.30 am-11.45am)**

**Present:**

**COUNCILLORS:**

**Conservative Group**                      Alexandra Smith (Chairman)  
Edward Cahill

**Residents' Association**      Owen Ware  
**Group**

Ms Jane Dawson (the applicant) Simon Collinson (operations director – Oak Taverns) Derron Jarell (solicitor to the Council) Graham Hopkins (licensing officer) Richard Edwards (police borough licensing sergeant) and Anthony Clements (clerk) were also present.

There were seven members of the public and three members of the press present.

No apologies or declarations of interest were received.

The Chairman advised Members and the public of action to be taken in the event of emergency evacuation of the Town Hall becoming necessary.

**NEW ELM PARK – ELM PARK AVENUE, ELM PARK, HORNCHURCH  
– OPPOSED VARIATION TO A PREMISES LICENCE**

The Council's licensing officer presented his report. The application was to allow the premises to extend opening hours from 0900 until 0030 the following day from Sunday to Thursday and from 0900 to 0130 the following day from Friday to Saturday. Alcohol would be supplied until 30 minutes before the requested closing time. The application also sought to extend finish times until 0100 on Sundays and Mondays of Bank Holiday weekends, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day.

One representation was received from the Police under the responsible authorities' procedure. The Police licensing sergeant informed the Sub-Committee that, while there had been virtually no reports of crime linked directly to the pub, there may well have been incidences of lower level crime that were not reported to the police. If problems occurred at the pub, particularly on weekend nights, there was a danger that police would be slow to respond due to the number of officers required to police Romford town

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centre etc. The new Act did require a greater degree of accountability on the part of the licensee and it was accepted by the police that there had been much less trouble at the pub since the current licensee had taken over.

The Sub-Committee received oral submissions of objections from two members of the public who had already made valid representations in accordance with the four licensing objectives. The other members of the public present had agreed that these representatives should speak on behalf of the whole group. The people making representations informed the sub-committee that houses in the vicinity of the pub suffered from noise pollution in the form of music coming from the pub, people shouting and indulging in rowdy behaviour on exiting the premises. Nearby residents also suffered from people urinating in their gardens. The residents felt that the pub had a poor image and was in a poor condition internally. It was not a family pub but rather, was a hostelry for hardened drinkers. Local youths regularly hung around on the forecourt outside the pub which was intimidating to local residents.

The Sub-Committee also received an oral submission from the applicant and the brewery's operations director which stated that the pub was a viable amenity for a large cross-section of local people. Both the Council and Police had used the pub's function room for meetings and a youth club had met at the pub in the past. There were problems with crime in the wider Elm Park area as well as a lack of police resources locally. The applicant offered to cease new admissions after 11.30 pm and discontinue the playing of music at midnight. The brewery were happy to meet with residents on a quarterly basis in order to discuss issues of concern. It was not proposed to necessarily open for the full hours granted, just to have the option to do this. The brewery were also prepared to accept a restriction where children would not be allowed to be on the premises after 9 pm.

In response to questions from the Sub-Committee, the applicant admitted that there was no noise limiter device at the premises. The pub did have CCTV which was available to the Police. The applicant did not wish to make use of door supervisors at this time. The Police representative was concerned that, while the playing of music may now be stopped earlier, there was no reduction in the hours in which alcohol would be served. The applicant did agree to restrict the premises' Sunday opening time to its current time of 11 am.

At this point the Chairman adjourned the hearing to allow the Sub-Committee to make its decision.

On reconvening, the Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** that the application for a variation to the premises licence be granted in part. The supply of alcohol and all other licensable activities requested were to be allowed from 9 am

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until midnight Monday to Saturday and from 11 am until midnight on Sunday. This was due to the Committee's concerns over the creation of increased public nuisance were the requested variation to be granted in full. In addition, the following conditions were to be attached to the licence:

1. No further admissions to be allowed after 11 pm and the windows of the premises also to be closed after this time.
2. No outside drinking after 11.30 pm.
3. No children to be allowed on the premises after 9 pm.
4. The applicant to undertake a risk assessment on security and the use of door supervisors at the premises.

The Committee also encouraged the applicant to undertake greater liaison with local residents.

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CHAIRMAN

Date \_\_\_\_\_