

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
Council Chamber - Town Hall
11 May 2015 (10.30 - 11.05 am)**

Present:

COUNCILLORS

Conservative Group	Viddy Persaud
Residents' Group	Jody Ganly
East Havering Residents' Group	Linda Van den Hende (Chairman)

Present at the hearing for the applicant were; Mr Rob Churly (Area Manager) and Mr Kerim Ozbengu (DPS).

Also present were Mr Paul Jones (Havering Licensing Officer), the Legal Advisor to the Sub-Committee and the clerk to the Licensing sub-committee.

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

No interest was declared at this meeting.

1 APPLICATION TO VARY A GAMING MACHINE PERMIT UNDER SECTION 283 SCHEDULE 13 OF THE GAMBLING ACT 2005

PREMISES

JJ Moons
46-62 High Street
Hornchurch
RM12 4UN

APPLICANTS

JD Wetherspoon Plc
Wetherspoon House
Reeds Crescent
Watford, Herts
WD24 4QL

2. **Details of requested variation**

The application to vary the premises gaming permit was made appropriately. It sought to increase the number of gaming machines available for use from the current limit of five to six.

The premises licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 permits the venue to open from 07:00 each day and close variously at 00:30, 01:00 and 01:30 the day following, comprising a total period of 127 hours per week during which the public have access to the premises and hence the gaming machines.

Currently gaming machine permit no. 7809 permits up to five category C machines to be available for use on the premises during the hours it is open to the public as authorised by the attendant premises licence, i.e. for an average of 18 hours 14 minutes each day for each of the five machines.

3. **Details of Representations**

Valid representations should address at least one of the following three licensing objectives:

- **Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime**
- **Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way**
- **Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling**

There were no representations either from interested parties or from a responsible authority.

The Sub-Committee enquired of the applicant's representatives what provision was in place to address the licensing objectives, particularly in respect of protecting children and vulnerable persons from harm.

The DPS, Mr Kerim Ozbengu and Mr Rob Churly (Area Manager) responded on behalf of the applicant. Mr Ozbengu (DPS) informed the Sub-Committee that the premises operated during the day time with at least three staff members. He confirmed that all staff at the premises had undertaken an induction training, dealing with customer & customer services and Challenge 21 training. Mr Ozbengu also stated that other training that staff had to undertake included identifying vulnerable people and identifying underage drinking training. The sub-committee was informed that the premises had no objection to placing additional gambling signage on the premises that also highlighted the helpline contact number.

The sub-committee was also informed that for safety reasons the premises did not allow children on the premises on Friday & Saturday from 6pm as

this were the busy evenings. Generally children were not allowed on the premises after 9pm on other days. The premises also encouraged parents not to play the machines in the vicinity of their children.

4. **Determination**

Consequently upon the hearing held on 11 May 2015, the Sub-Committee's decision regarding the application to vary the category C gaming machines licence was as set out below, for the reasons shown:

The Sub-Committee was obliged to determine this application with a view to promoting the gambling objectives, which are:

- **Preventing gambling from being a source of crime or disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime**
- **Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way**
- **Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling**

In making its decision, the Sub-Committee also had regard to: -

- a. the Gambling Act 2005,
- b. in accordance with the codes of practise issued by the Gambling Commission under section 24,
- c. in accordance with the Guidance to Licensing Authorities issued by the Gambling Commission under s. 25,
- d. in accordance with the licensing policy published by the London Borough of Havering pursuant to s. 349.

5. **Decision**

After deliberation the Sub-Committee had some concern regarding the potential for harm to children and vulnerable people, however given the staffing levels and understanding of the Gambling and Licensing objectives, the sub-committee was prepared to grant the permit for an additional gaming machine, bringing the total to six.

The sub-committee recommended that additional gambling signage be placed on the premises reminding customers that gaming machines are only to be played by those over 18.

In addition, the sub-committee recommended that the new gaming machine was only operational in the position indicated on the plan which would be attached to the decision notice.

Chairman