

Application for a Variation to a Premises Licence

Supplementary Information in Support of Representation

.....

Dolce Vita

This report is to be considered alongside the formal representation submitted in respect of an application to Vary a Premises Licence submitted to the Licensing Authority. It is the intention of Dorset Police to avoid any repeat of information previously submitted and to provide both the applicant (or their representative) and members of the Licensing Sub-Committee with additional information, context, and evidence in support of the representation. This report is being completed and submitted as soon as practicable for the benefit of all parties. Whilst all details are correct at the time of completion, Dorset Police reserve the right to amend / introduce additional information and evidence in advance of the hearing.

Background

This application is in relation to an established licensed premises at Ashley Cross, a densely populated area of Poole, with residential properties encompassing a popular and diverse commercial, retail and hospitality business community, including late night premises. As a late-night premises in the centre of Ashley Cross, this location benefits from high levels of footfall through the early evening, however, is in an area commonly associated with alcohol-related crime & disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB).

The local Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) frequently deliver policing operations in the vicinity of this premises to tackle crime and ASB, targeting repeat offenders and those intent on committing harm to the community. The operations conducted in our Night-Time Economy (NTE) areas will often target specific concerns, including tackling the prevalent issue of Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) and any concerns associated with individuals or groups of people who are intent on causing harm to the wider communities.

This application to extend the operating hours of this premises until 3am will likely increase the levels of demand on Police and other blue-light agencies in this area of Poole. The levels of crime and anti-social behaviour will also likely increase beyond the existing levels, resulting in a negative impact on those living in the area.

Concerns

Dorset Police are concerned that the licence holder will encourage the public utilising the NTE in this area to remain in the vicinity into the early hours of the morning, extending the likelihood of noise pollution, anti-social behaviour and alcohol-related crime.

Dorset Police have invested significant resources into policing the areas with the highest level of demand through a variety of operations, including Operation Nightjar, Operation Vigilant and Operation Fireglow. The outcome of this enhanced delivery, coupled with the commitment of licensed premises to improve their compliance, ensuring that they operate best practice and adopt any reasonable advice and direction from the authorities has led to a reduction in violence and other crime directly attributed to licensed premises.

The extension of operating hours in this area that is so densely populated with residential properties, which accommodate a great number of families, will likely result in increased crime and disorder during the early hours of the morning, affecting the residents' enjoyment of their own properties.

Whilst each application must be assessed on their own merit and in the absence of a Cumulative Impact Area, the members of the Licensing Sub-Committee are invited to consider that the likely impact of granting this variation and the extension of operating hours further into the early hours of the morning will likely result in further applications from neighbouring premises to extend their operating hours beyond their current terminal hour.

Available Outcomes to the Sub-Committee

To assist the members of the Sub-Committee, Dorset Police make the following submissions in relation to the available outcome options in respect of this Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence –

Grant the Variation application as applied for

Dorset Police are concerned that extending the terminal hour for this premises will likely lead to further crime and anti-social behaviour, undermining the licensing objectives of preventing crime and disorder and public safety.

This will also undermine the investment of Dorset Police to reduce levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and to reduce the vulnerability of the public enjoying the NTE through identifying and challenging those intent of causing harm in our NTE's.

Modification of the conditions of the Premises Licence the members of the Sub-Committee considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

There are no conditions that could reasonably mitigate the concerns associated with increasing the operating hours of this premises further into the early hours of the morning.

Many of the concerns relate to customers dispersing from the premises in the early hours of the morning.

Refuse the whole or part of the application.

Whilst Dorset Police cannot be expected to offer evidence in respect of additional licensable activity that has yet to commence, the increased levels of demand caused the through additional crime and disorder will increase when premises operate further into the early hours of the morning.

The balance between protecting the peaceful enjoyment of the residents and the operational delivery of licensed premises can often be difficult to manage, and this is likely to come under additional strain if this variation is granted.

Whilst Dorset Police are keen to support responsible and appropriate licensable activities, we remain of the view that this application, given the location and the impact on other licensed premises and residents, should be refused to enable the licence holder to continue to promote the licensing objectives.

Conclusion

The Sub-Committee are reminded that Paragraph 2.1 of the Licensing Act 2003 Section 182 Guidance produced by the Home Office states that, "*Licensing authorities should look to the police as the main source of advice on crime and disorder*". We have provided an evidence-based summary of our concerns above, as required by Paragraph 9.43 of the Section 182 Guidance.