

Licensing Panel (Licensing Act 2003 Functions)

Agenda Item 56
Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003		
Premises:	Seven Cellars 104A Dyke Road Brighton BN1 3JD		
Applicant:	Louise Oliver		
Date of Meeting:	19 October 2018		
Report of:	Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Communities & Housing		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Savage-Brookes	Tel: (01273) 292100
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Ward(s) affected:	St. Peter's And North Laine		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND POLICY CONTEXT

- 1.1 To determine an application for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for Seven Cellars.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Panel determine an application for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 for Seven Cellars.

3. CONTEXT/BACKGROUND INFORMATION & CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The application is for a Variation of a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003. The application described the nature of the variation as follows:

We are open from 11:00 until 20:00 Monday - Friday and from 10:00 until 20:00 on Saturday, and 11:00 to 20:00 on Sunday. I wish to extend the opening hours to close at 22:00 hours. I also wish to remove the restriction on the licence which forces customers to make purchases of more than one can of beer at a time. I feel this is an unnecessary restriction because the majority of the beers for sale are craft beer with an average price per can or bottle of £3-4. Some cans are as much as £6.50. I do not wish to continue to ask customers to buy 2 cans. Some people are not able to do this because it is too expensive. I also wish to show on record the updated floor plan of the shop to reflect how it looks currently.

3.2 Summary table of existing and proposed activities.

	Existing	Proposed
M) Supply of Alcohol	Monday – Saturday 10:00 to 20:00 Sunday 11:00 to 20:00 Off the premises	Monday – Saturday 10:00 to 22:00 Sunday 11:00 to 22:00 Off the premises
O) Hours premises are open to public	Monday – Saturday 10:00 to 20:00 Sunday 11:00 to 20:00	Monday – Saturday 10:00 to 22:00 Sunday 11:00 to 22:00
P) Conditions removed as a consequence of the proposed Variation	No single cans of beer will be sold.	

3.3 The applicant provided a statement about the business within the application form, which is attached at Appendix A. The Operating Schedule (Section 16) of the application is attached at Appendix B and the new plan of the premises is attached at Appendix C. The existing licence is attached at Appendix D.

3.4 Special Stress Area: The premises falls within the Special Stress Area. This area is deemed an area of special concern in terms of the levels of crime, disorder, and public nuisance experienced within them. (See paragraphs 3.2 – 3.2.4)

Representations received

3.5 Details of the representations made are notified to applicants on receipt by the Licensing Authority using a pro-forma. A summary appears below:

3.6 Two representations were received. They were received from Sussex Police and The Licensing Authority.

3.7 Representations received had concerns about the extension of trading hours, with concerns relating to Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Prevention of Public Nuisance.

3.8 Full details of the representations are attached at Appendix E. A map detailing the location of the premises is attached at Appendix F.

4. COMMENTARY ON THE LICENSING POLICY

4.1 The following extracts from Brighton & Hove City Council Statement of Licensing Policy are considered relevant to this application and **are numbered as they appear in the policy**:

1. Introduction

1.1 This Statement of Licensing Policy has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) and having regard to Guidance issued by the Home Office under Section 182 of the act. The licensing authority is Brighton & Hove City Council. The purpose of this statement is to promote the licensing objectives and set out a general approach to making licensing decisions. The discretion of the licensing authority in relation to applications under the act is only engaged if 'relevant representations' are made by other persons or responsible authorities. This policy will inform the approach to be taken when deciding applications and imposing conditions when relevant representations are received. It is also intended as a guide for applicants as to what to include in their operating schedules, always recognising that if no representations are received, the application must be granted. The licensing authority must carry out its functions with a view to promoting the licensing objectives and this policy is framed around those objectives. Each application will be given individual consideration on its merit. The scope of this policy covers the following:

- Retail sales of alcohol;
- The supply of alcohol by or on behalf of a club, or to the order of, a member of the club;
- The provision of regulated entertainment;
- The provision of late night refreshment.

1.2 The licensing objectives are:-

- (a) Prevention of crime and disorder;
- (b) Public safety;
- (c) Prevention of public nuisance;
- (d) Protection of children from harm.

1.3 Scope

Licensing is about regulating licensable activities on licensed premises, by qualifying clubs and at temporary events. Any conditions attached to various authorisations will be focused on matters which are within the control of individual licensees and others with relevant authorisations; i.e. the premises and its vicinity. Each application will be given individual consideration on its merit. Nothing in this policy shall undermine the right of any individual to apply under the terms of the act for a variety of permissions and to have any such application considered on its individual merits. Similarly, nothing in this policy shall override the right of any person to make representations on an application or seek a review of a licence or certificate where provision has been made for them to do so in the act.

3.2 Special Stress Area

The map below details the area of the Brighton city centre which borders the Cumulative Impact zone at 3.1.3 and which is deemed an area of special concern in terms of the levels of crime and disorder and public nuisance experienced within it. The area recommended for further monitoring and detailed guidance within the Special Policy comprise the following as pictured below delineated in purple:

Cumulative Impact and Special Stress Area



The Special Stress Area - an area bounded by and including: the north side of Western Road, Brighton from its intersection with the west side of Holland Road northwards to its intersection with the north side of Lansdowne Road; eastwards to the junction with Furze Hill, along the north side Furze Hill to its end and then due east along Victoria Road to its junction with Montpelier Road (west side), north to where Montpelier Road joins Vernon Terrace then north to Seven Dials; north west along the west side of Dyke Road until the junction with the Old Shoreham Road, then East along the north side of Old Shoreham Road, north end of New England Road, across the north side of Preston Circus, eastwards along the north side of Viaduct Road, then at the junction with Ditchling Road, North East along the north side of Upper Lewes Road until the junction with Lewes Road; south along the Lewes Road to junction with Hartington Road, along the north side of Hartington Road until the junction with St. Helen's Road, south into

May Road, eastwards until its junction with Freshfield Road, then south into Upper Bedford Street, into Bedford Street to the mean water mark south of Bedford Street, then due west until the mean water mark south of Lower Rock Gardens.

- 3.2.1 This Special Stress Area (SSA) is of concern to the licensing authority because of the relatively high levels of crime and disorder and nuisance experienced within it. The area will be kept under review.
- 3.2.2 New and varied applications for premises and club premises certificates within the SSA will not be subject to the presumption of refusal, but operators will be expected to pay special attention when drawing up their operating schedules and to make positive proposals to ensure that their operation will not add to the problems faced in these areas. Appendix A of the SoLP sets out a list of potential measures the licensing authority considers may be appropriate. These may be more or less appropriate depending upon the style of operation applied for.
- 3.2.3 On receipt of any application in the SSA, where a relevant representation has been made, the licensing authority will scrutinise the application carefully and will look at the measures proposed in the operating schedules and compare them to the measures set out in Appendix A, Licensing Best Practice Measures. Where discretion has been engaged, those applications which fall short may be refused or conditions applied to comply with policy measures.
- 3.2.4 The Licensing Authority will keep the Cumulative Impact Zone and Special Stress Area under review. Should the authority find that problems of crime and disorder or nuisance are not improving, or are worsening, the Special Policy will be reviewed.

3.3 The Matrix Approach

The Licensing Authority will support:

- 3.3.1 Diversity of premises: ensures that there is a mix of the different types of licensed premises and attracts a more diverse range of customers from different age groups, different communities and with different attitudes to alcohol consumption. It gives potential for positively changing the ambience of the city or an area of it. This will have a positive effect in reducing people's fear of crime and in increasing the number of evening visitors to the city centre. The Community Safety Strategy recognises that too many single uses in a confined area and patrons turning out onto the streets at the same time may create opportunities for violent crime and public disorder and therefore supports: mixed use venues encouraging a wider age balance.
- 3.3.2 A "matrix" approach to licensing decisions has been adopted and is set out below. It provides a framework of what the licensing authority would like to see within its area and gives an indication of the likelihood of success or otherwise to investor and businesses making applications.

Matrix approach for licensing decisions in a Statement of Licensing Policy (times relates to licensable activities)

	Cumulative Impact Area	Special Stress Area	Marina	Other Areas
Restaurant	Yes (midnight)	Yes (midnight)	Yes	Yes (midnight)
Café bar	Yes (11.30)	Yes (midnight)	Yes	Yes (midnight)
Late Night Takeaways	No	Yes (midnight)	Yes	Yes (midnight)
Night Club	No	No	Yes	No
Pub	No	Yes (11pm)	Yes	Yes (midnight)
Non-alcohol lead (e.g. Theatre)	Yes (favourable)	Yes (favourable)	Yes	Yes (favourable)
Off-licence	No	No	Yes	Yes (Up to 11pm but if in densely residential area may be earlier – see note 7 below)
Members Club (club premises certificate)	Yes (<100 capacity) (11pm)	Yes (<100 capacity) (11pm)	Yes	Yes

Notes on matrix

Subject to the following notes, the policy, as represented in the matrix, will be strictly adhered to

- 1) Each application will be considered on individual merit

- 2) Applications within the CIZ are subject to the special policy on cumulative impact at para 3.1, and those within the special stress area to the special stress policy considerations at para 3.2.
- 3) Departure from the matrix policy is expected only in exceptional circumstances
- 4) Exceptional circumstances will not include quality of management or size of venue except where explicitly stated in policy matrix.
- 5) Exceptional circumstances may include: consultation with and meeting requirements of responsible authorities, an appropriate corporate social responsibility policy, community contribution to off set impact (such as financial contribution to infrastructure), community support, alcohol sale ancillary to business activity (demonstrable to responsible authorities and licensing authority, for instance by licence condition allowing authorised officers access to sales accounts).
- 6) The following licensing activities are encouraged and valued by the licensing authority: outdoor regulated entertainment, community based street parties, members clubs, traditional pubs outside the city centre and non-alcohol led licensable activities, particularly within city centre.
- 7) Other Areas; consideration will be given to the nature of the area and location in relation to any application. In a residential area for example the concerns of local residents will be relevant when considering applications for off-licences, pubs or café bars, especially if there is evidence of anti-social behaviour, street drinking or underage drinking. Earlier closing times may be appropriate. Regard will be had to the Public Health Framework for assessing alcohol licensing and the Street Community and Drug Activity Profile. These documents are available on the following page of our website www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/licensingact.
- 8) In an area where there are already several existing off-licences and where representations are received about negative cumulative impact on the licensing objectives of a further premises, the application may be refused on these grounds.
- 9) Outdoor events will be supported where arranged through the council's event planning process. Generally, regulated entertainment in the open air including tents and marquees should have a maximum closure hour of 2300. Earlier hours may be imposed in sensitive open spaces or near residential areas. The Licensing Authority will have regard to Noise Council guidance.

3.5 Off licences

- 3.5.1 In recent years there has been a noticeable shift towards more people buying alcohol from shops and drinking at home before going out prior to going into premises such as pubs and clubs. The council is concerned that alcohol loading from off-licence sales is a significant problem in the city and adversely affects the licensing objectives as it gives rise to problems of drunkenness, disorderly behaviour and a higher risk of alcohol sales to children. Representations from the police, local residents and the director of public health at licensing panel hearings have testified to these problems and Information published in the Public Health Framework for assessing alcohol licensing presents a ward by ward analysis of crime and disorder and health data which is relevant in this respect.
- 3.5.2 The special policy on cumulative impact and the special stress areas apply to off-licences as explained in the matrix approach at 3.3. But in general where applications are made for new premises or variations to existing licences, and where the police or others make representations against the grant of a further

licence for off sales, the council will give specific consideration to restricting the number, type, and the hours of premises selling alcohol exclusively for consumption off the premises. Decisions will be grounded in the Public Health Framework for assessing alcohol licensing. The council will want to be assured that the operating schedule of premises, and their overall management, training and levels of staffing, are appropriate to ensure that the licensing objectives are promoted in what may be challenging circumstances. Retail outlets and stores where the provision of fresh produce is the principle product sold maybe considered more favourably.

3.5.3 The Licensing Authority encourage off licences to join the Council led “Sensible on Strength” scheme to reduce the availability of cheap super strength beers and ciders. Off licences voluntarily sign up not to sell cheap super-strength beers and ciders over 6% ABV and operate good practice measures (see 3.5.4), for which they receive an accreditation as a responsible retailer.

3.5.4 Areas of best practice that may be included in an Operating Schedule include;

- the installation of a digital CCTV system by liaison with, and to a standard approved by Sussex Police
- Challenge 25 policy
- Refusals system
- Documented staff training including underage sales, drunkenness and proxy sales
- Voluntary restriction of high strength alcohol - operating schedules may be used to limit high ABV beers and ciders
- BCRP membership (or other accredited scheme)
- No sale of single cans
- Displays should not be located at the entrance/exit points or near checks out

4 Prevention of Crime and Disorder

4.1.1 The following details and measures are intended to address the need for the prevention of crime and disorder which may be associated with licensed premises and certificated club premises. Conditions attached to licences and certificates will, as far as possible, reflect local crime reduction strategies.

4.1.2 The licensing authority acknowledges that training and good management play a key part in preventing alcohol and drug related crime. The authority expects that all licensees of on-licensed premises attend training programmes which will raise their awareness of the issues relating to drugs and violence in licensed premises, and that suitable training be extended to all bar staff and door supervisors so that drug dealers and users will be deterred from using licensed premises for illegal purposes and that incidents of violence in licensed premises will be reduced. Licensees are also encouraged to attend training programmes to help identify children at risk and issues of basic child protection. It is the duty of the designated premises supervisor (DPS) to train staff on induction concerning conditions on their premises licence.

4.1.3 It is expected that the DPS will spend a significant amount of time on the premises. When not on the premises it will be essential that the DPS is contactable, particularly should problems arise with the premises and that staff are authorised by the DPS.

4.1.4 The location of violent attacks, anti-social behaviour and hate crime or related incidents may be used to justify closing times.

4.3 Care, control and supervision of premises

4.3.1 The Licensing authority supports the Business Crime Reduction Partnership and other approved schemes. Where appropriate, premises licence holders should be members of the BCRP for the deterrence to violent crime that such membership provides. The BCRP NightSafe radio scheme is normally expected as an operational requirement for city centre bars, clubs and pubs and is an example of good practice in achieving the aim of reducing crime and disorder and improving public safety. Well managed pub-watch schemes provide information exchange between the premises licence holders and responsible authorities that reduce and deter violent crime and disorder. The council will support a responsible licensing scheme.

4.3.2 The effective management and supervision of a venue is a key factor in reducing crime and disorder, both within it and outside. The police will consider the applicants, objecting to the application where appropriate. The police may suggest crime prevention measures in relation to, for example, the internal layout of the premises, closed-circuit television, help points, lighting and security staff. The police may ask for conditions which support such measures to be imposed when licensing applications are granted, eg type of licence, capacity, operating hours restrictions.

4.3.3 Following the grant of a licence, the management and supervision of the premises, in so far as it might impact on crime and disorder, will continue to be monitored. Particular attention will be paid to any licensed premises where there is evidence of criminal activity or any association with racist or homophobic crime. The licensing authority will keep itself well briefed on the nature, location and type of premises where alcohol related violence and disorder are occurring so it can take full account of the facts and avoid exacerbating problems as required by the Community Safety Strategy. Where licensed premises are found to cause nuisance or be associated with disorder or unreasonable disturbance, the review process may be invoked, and powers of revocation or the imposition of conditions may be considered. Conditions may include use of closed-circuit television, licensed door supervisors and earlier closing times. Such action to restrict the operation may be taken for trial periods to allow businesses an opportunity to remedy existing disorder, nuisance or disturbance.

6 Prevention of Public Nuisance

6.1 The following details and measures are intended to address the need for the prevention of public nuisance which may be associated with licensed premises and certificated club premises.

- 6.1.1 In determining applications for new and varied licences, regard will be had to the location of premises, the type and construction of the building and the likelihood of nuisance and disturbance to the amenity of nearby residents by reason of noise from within the premises, as a result of people entering or leaving the premises or from individuals or groups of customers gathered outside (e.g. in order to smoke).
- 6.1.6 Reasonable controls are available to all premises operators to minimise the impact of noise from customers outside. The council's Environmental Health Department has issued guidance on a number of steps that can be taken in this respect which are endorsed by this policy (see 6.2 below).

8 Integration of Strategies

- 8.1 The licensing authority shall secure the proper integration of this policy with local crime prevention, planning policy, transport, tourism and cultural strategies by:-
- Liaising and consulting with the Sussex Police, Community Safety Forum, Sustainability Commission representatives and following the guidance in community safety and crime and disorder strategy
 - Liaising and consulting with Public and Alcohol Programme Board
 - Liaising and consulting with the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service
 - Liaising and consulting with the Local Strategic Partnership, Safety Advisory Group (Emergency Planning) and Equalities and Social Justice Consultation Forum
 - Liaising and consulting with the Planning authority
 - Liaising and consulting with the Highways authority
 - Liaising and consulting with local business and business associations. Having regard to any future documents issued relating to the Private Security Industry Act 2001, for example liaison or information sharing protocols
 - Liaising and consulting with the Trading Standards Team, for example with regard to test purchasing codes of practice
- 8.2 In line with statutory requirements and the Council's Inclusion Policy, the Licensing Authority shall have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, and to promote equality of opportunity and positive relations between persons of diverse backgrounds, for example communities of interest such as: lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people; disabled people; racial and ethnic groups; religious and faith groups.
- 8.3 This policy supports the aims of the tourism strategy, recognising the benefits for the tourism economy of creating a safer and more attractive city centre and improving competitiveness with other European cities. The Licensing Committee should receive any reports relevant to the needs of the local tourist economy and the cultural strategy for the area to ensure that it considers these matters.

- 8.4 The Licensing Committee should receive relevant information relating to the employment situation of the area and the need for new investment and employment where appropriate.
- 8.5 Specific conditions may be attached to premises licences to reflect local crime prevention strategies. Such conditions may include the use of closed circuit television cameras, use of the NightSafe radio system or accredited scheme, the provision and use of shatterproof drinking receptacles, drugs and weapons search policy, the use of registered door supervisors, specialised lighting requirements, hours of opening. Certificates issued to club premises shall reflect local crime prevention strategies and may include any or all of the requirements listed above.
- 8.6 The licensing authority will have regard to the need to disperse people quickly and safely from the city centre to avoid concentrations which may produce disorder and disturbance.

APPENDIX A – Licensing Best Practice Measures

Best Practice Measures to be included for consideration, in particular in SSA:

Matters that would normally be expected in operating schedules:

- the adoption of a policy (e.g. Challenge 25) with acceptable proof of id as per existing Statement of Licensing Policy
- all off sales to be made in sealed containers for consumption away from the premises
- a smoking policy which includes an assessment of noise and litter created by premises users
- the use of plastic or polycarbonate drinking vessels and containers, especially in outside areas or after specified hours
- a policy in relation to searching customers and for drugs, weapons, seized or lost and found property
- use of a refusals book for registering attempts to buy alcohol by under-age persons or refusals to those intoxicated
- the installation of a digital CCTV system by liaison with, and to a standard approved by, Sussex Police
- policies for dispersal of customers which may include signage regarding taxi services' telephone numbers and advice to respect neighbours and minimize noise

Items to which positive consideration would be given:

- membership of Business Crime Reduction Partnership, Pubwatch, Neighbourhood Watch or similar schemes
- use of 'NightSafe' radio system or similar accredited scheme
- regular training and reminders for staff in respect of licensing legislation, policies and procedures; records of which should be properly recorded and available for inspection
- records of regular checks of all parts of the premises in relation to drug use

- systems in place to ensure details of barred clients are exchanged with other operators
- giving an agreed minimum notice of special events (screening of major sports events, birthday parties, adult entertainment, etc.) to relevant authorities and use of appropriate additional measures at such events

Recommend best practice for both on and off premises

- Staff must be aware of the risk of the problem of proxy sales and offer assistance to responsible authorities to deter offences
- Signage on premises should set out legal duties
- Voluntary restriction of high strength alcohol – operating schedules may be used to limit high ABV beers and ciders
- Staff training – in addition to personal licence holders training, staff must be adequately trained for duties
- Challenge 25 would be the norm, particularly in the off licence trade
- Signage – proxy sale – deterrence

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The Licensing Act 2003 provides for fees to be payable to the licensing authority in respect of the discharge of their functions. The fee levels are set centrally at a level to allow licensing authorities to fully recover the costs of administration, inspection and enforcement of the regime.

Finance Officer Consulted Michael Bentley

Date: 02/10/18

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The licensing authority must act to promote the four licensing objectives which are:

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

The licensing authority must have regard to its statement of licensing policy and the guidance issued by the Secretary of State in carrying out its functions.

Lawyer Consulted: Rebecca Sidell

Date: 03/10/18

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 Diversity is valued and strong, safe communities are vital to future prosperity. Licensing policy aims to protect children from harm including sale and supply of alcohol to children.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Licensing policy aims to prevent public nuisance and develop culture of live music, dancing and theatre.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix A – Statement from applicant about variation
2. Appendix B – Operating Schedule (Section 16) of the Application
3. Appendix C – Plan of Premises
4. Appendix D – Part A of current Premises Licence
5. Appendix E – Representations
6. Appendix F – Map of area

Documents in Members' Rooms

Brighton & Hove City Council, Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 as amended 24th March 2016.

Home Office, Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, April 2018.

Public Health Framework for assessing Alcohol Licensing. Annual Report – Ward. 3rd edition. Public Health Intelligence. October 2017

Background Documents

Brighton & Hove City Council, Licensing Act 2003: Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 as amended 24th March 2016.

