

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
24th December, 2014

Present:- Councillor Dalton (in the Chair); Councillors Buckley and N. Hamilton.

CLUB/PREMISES CERTIFICATE (LICENSING ACT 2003) - THE KINGFISHER PUBLIC HOUSE, 17 MARY STREET, ROTHERHAM

The Sub-Committee considered an application and certificate, submitted by South Yorkshire Police, for the interim steps which could be taken pending the full review hearing on Thursday 15th January, 2015 for the premises licence in respect of the premises known as the Kingfisher public house, 17 Mary Street, Rotherham. It was noted that the Licensing Act 2003 had been amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act, 2006, with the insertion of Section 53A and Section 53B, which enabled the Police to instigate a fast track review of a premises licence where the Police considered that licensed premises may be associated with serious crime, or serious disorder, or both.

Accordingly, the Licensing Authority received representations from the South Yorkshire Police which were not withdrawn and the Sub-Committee considered those representations.

The Sub-Committee heard representations from Chief Inspector I. Womersley of South Yorkshire Police and from the solicitor for the Old Mill Brewery (the premises licence holder), as well as from the Designated Premises Supervisor of the Kingfisher public house. Those present also viewed CCTV footage of an incident which had taken place outside the premises in the early hours of Saturday morning, 20th December 2014.

Members were informed that the premises had been a cause for concern for South Yorkshire Police and its partner organisations for some time, with intelligence being gathered about the premises being linked to drugs and sexual activity. Information also linked some patrons at the premises with organised crime in the Sheffield area. A serious incident had taken place whereby a customer, having been refused service by the Designated Premises Supervisor, had started a fight with other customers at the premises. The Police attended in response to this incident and later questioned the level of co-operation of the Designated premises Supervisor. Members also heard that the premises had been the subject of a number of Action Plans and several visits from the Police Licensing Enforcement Officer and partner agencies to try and bring the premise into line. This approach had achieved some measure of success.

The Sub-Committee heard from the solicitor representing the premises licence holder who was of the view that the incident that had taken place (20 December) was not of such a serious nature as to warrant an expedited review of the premises licence. Any links to organised crime, referred to by the Police, were not established with the Kingfisher pub.

Members heard from the Designated Premises Supervisor relating to the incident at the pub and his level of co-operation with the Police investigation.

The Sub-Committee also took into consideration the Police CCTV evidence, which they viewed before making a decision.

The Sub-Committee gave due consideration to this expedited review of the Kingfisher public house premises licence, with specific reference to these licensing objectives: public safety; the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance. Members took particular account of the particular local situation of the premises relating to the area, location and geography and the serious nature of the crime and disorder which had taken place at the premises.

Resolved:- That, after due consideration of the application for expedited review and to the representations submitted, the premises licence for the premises known as the Kingfisher public house, 17 Mary Street, Rotherham, shall be suspended with immediate effect and until the full review of the premises licence has been determined in line with timescales laid down in the Licensing Act 2003.