

LICENSING COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 27 MAY 2020 AT 3.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Ms Ellis-Williams (Chair) Councillors Mrs Bradley, Brown, Mallinson J (as substitute for Councillor Collier) Meller, Morton, Nedved, Shepherd, Miss Sherriff, Dr Tickner and Tinnion.

OFFICERS: Assistant Solicitor
Licensing Manager
Regulatory Services Manager

LC.08/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf on Councillor Collier.

LC.09/20 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

LC.10/20 PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was agreed that the items of business in Part A be dealt with in public and the items of business in Part B be dealt with when the public and press were excluded.

LC.11/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 February 2020 be agreed.

LC.12/20 UPDATE ON LICENSING ACT 2003

The Licensing Manager presented report GD.17/20 providing an update on the current position regarding applications under the Licensing Act 2003.

The Licensing Manager reported on the licence figures as 13 May 2020. The report detailed the New Premises Licenses and Temporary Event Notices which had been issued during the reporting period.

The Licensing Manager reminded the Committee that a Licensing Sub Committee had been held on 19 December 2019 to review the licence for Pizza Base, Lonsdale Street, Carlisle. The Sub Committee resolved to remove the sale of alcohol from the premise licence. The licence holder lodged an appeal and offered a compromise. A minor variation was submitted to modify the licence in order for it to be fit for purpose. A self-imposed suspension of alcohol sales for 3 months was also agreed in order for the premises to train staff and implement procedures for recording and verifying alcohol sales. The Sub-Committee and the Chair of the Licensing Committee had agreed the variation and suspension and it was finalised in Court on 12 May 2020. A copy of the licence detailing the amended hours, activities and conditions had been attached to the report.

The Committee congratulated the Licensing Team on the outcome of what had been a difficult case and felt it supported the Licensing Committee's role in ensuring that licensed premises met the conditions of their licence or action would be taken against them.

In discussing the outcome of the review the Licensing Manager confirmed that all Late Night Takeaways and licensed premises would be inspected on a regular basis to ensure that the conditions of their licences were being met. During the Covid 19 pandemic, delivery drivers had to maintain social distancing and consideration would be given to the best way for age verification to be taken on the doorstep at a safe distance.

The Licensing Manager noted that, on 20 March 2020, the Government ordered all UK pubs and restaurants to close as soon as they reasonably could and The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions)(England) Regulations 2020 came into force at 13:00 on 26 March 2020.

The Government relaxed planning rules and allowed pubs and restaurants to operate as takeaways providing hot food and drink and many licensed premises in the district had adapted their offer accordingly. Premises that had a licence for off sales of alcohol were permitted to include alcohol in the takeaway or delivery service. Applications could be made to vary premises licences to include off sales but no applications had been received.

Compliance with the Regulations could be enforced through a Prohibition Notice, one Notice had been served. Cumbria Police and Carlisle City Council Environmental Health and Licensing Services were working to identify premises not complying with the Regulations and undertaking enforcement activity in line with Police strategy.

RESOLVED – That Report GD.17/20 be noted.

LC.13/20 GAMBLING ACT 2005 –UPDATE

The Licensing Manager presented report GD.18/20 providing an update on applications made under the Gambling Act 2005.

The Licensing Manager then highlighted the licence figures as at 13 May 2020 as detailed in the report. The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Business Closure) (England) Regulations 2020 specifically include gambling premises within the list of businesses that were subject to restrictions or closure. Bingo halls, casinos, betting shops and amusement arcades were all included in the list of premises which must be closed. Bingo Halls were allowed to be used to broadcast a performance to people outside of the premises using the internet, radio or television. To date 100% compliance has been adhered to by the Gambling premises in the Carlisle district.

RESOLVED – That Report GD.18/20 be noted.

[The meeting ended at 3.25pm]