

LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 1 MINUTES - 24 APRIL 2018

Present: Councillors Woodward (Chair), D Edwards and Livingston.

35. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE - GRAND PALACE, OXFORD ROAD, READING

The Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services submitted a report on an application by Oxford Delight Limited for the grant of a Premises Licence in respect of Grand Palace, 43-45 Oxford Road, Reading, RG1 5BJ.

The report stated that there was currently no premises licence in place. The previous licence for China Palace had been revoked by the Licensing Applications Sub-Committee 1 on 14 November 2017 (Minute 15 refers). The Premises Licence Holder had not appealed the decision and the licence had lapsed on 18 December 2017.

The report stated that the application was for the grant of a premises licence to permit the following licensable activities:

Hours for the Sale by Retail of Alcohol (on the premises)

Monday to Sunday 1200 hours until 0300 hours

Late Night Refreshment (on the premises)

Monday to Sunday 2300 hours until 0300 hours

Provision of Live Music, Provision of Recorded Music

Monday to Sunday 2300 hours until 0300 hours

Provision of Films

Monday to Sunday 1200 hours until 0300 hours

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday 1200 hours until 0330 hours

A copy of the application was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The report stated that representations had been received from Reading Borough Council Licensing Team, Reading Borough Council Environmental Health Team, Thames Valley Police and Home Office Immigration Enforcement, which were attached to the report at Appendix 2, 3, 4 and 5.

At the hearing the applicant confirmed that they were now proposing a reduction in hours and for all activities to cease at 2300 hours.

The report stated that in determining the application the Licensing Authority had a duty to carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives, as follows:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance

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- The protection of children from harm

The report also stated that any conditions placed on the premises licence should be appropriate and proportionate with a view to promoting the licensing objectives and that the Licensing Authority could amend, alter or refuse an application should it be deemed appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

The report set out paragraphs 1.5, 8.38 to 8.46, 9.11 to 9.13 and 9.25 from the Secretary of State's Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003 issued in April 2017. The report also set out paragraphs 7.15.1, 8.1.1 to 8.1.4, 8.1.6 to 8.1.11, 8.2.1 to 8.2.5, 8.3 and 8.4.1 and 8.4.2, 8.5.1 to 8.5.3, 8.6.1 and 8.6.8 of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

Jean Champeau, Senior Licensing Officer, Reading Borough Council, PC Simon Wheeler, Thames Valley Police, Matthew Wilkinson, Immigration Enforcement and Lisa Richard, Licensing, Food and Safety Manager, Reading Borough Council, addressed the Sub-Committee on their representations regarding the application.

The applicant, Mr Mingzhong Shi, was present and addressed the Sub-Committee on the application and responded to questions. Dr Silang Luo translated for Mr Shi.

Resolved -

That, in order to promote the four licensing objectives, in particular the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety, and the oral and written representations made, the Secretary of State's guidance and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy as detailed in the report, the application for the grant of a premises licence in respect of Grand Palace, 43-45 Oxford Road, be refused. The Sub-Committee had concerns regarding the suitability of the applicant due to:

- a. the lack of knowledge and understanding of the licensing objectives by the applicant;
- b. the objections made by Reading Borough Council Licensing Team, Thames Valley Police, Immigration Enforcement and Reading Borough Council Environmental Health Team raised serious and legitimate concerns which the applicant had not rebutted to the Sub-Committee's satisfaction;
- c. to grant the application would undermine the licensing objectives.

(The meeting started at 5.00pm and finished at 7.00pm)