

LICENSING ACT 2003 HEARING TUESDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2017 AT 5PM

APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

1. Premises:

Domino's Pizza
64 Christchurch Road
Reading
RG2 7AZ

2. Applicant:

DPSK Ltd

3. Premises Licence:

There is currently a premises licence pursuant to the Licensing Act 2003 in force at the premises. The current licensable hours are:

Late Night Refreshment

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Sunday from 2300hrs until 0100hrs
Wednesday/Friday/Saturday from 2300hrs until 0200hrs

Opening Hours

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Sunday from 1000hrs until 0100hrs
Wednesday/Friday/Saturday from 1000hrs until 0200hrs

A copy of this licence - numbered LMV000277 - is attached at appendix RF-5.

4. Proposed licensable activities and hours:

The application is for the grant of a premises licence for the following activities:

Late Night Refreshment

Monday to Sunday from 2300hrs until 0500hrs

Opening Hours

Monday to Sunday from 0000hrs until 2400hrs (24 hours)

5. Temporary Event Notices

In considering any application the Licensing Authority should be aware of the possible use of Temporary Event Notices to extend entertainment activities or hours of operation. A premises may extend the hours or scope of their operation by the use of Temporary Event Notices. Up to 15 events per year can be held under this provision at a particular premises. These events may last for up to 168 hours provided less than 500 people are accommodated and provided the total number of days used for these events does not exceed 21 per year.

6. Date of receipt of application: 29th September 2017

A copy of the application form is attached as Appendix RF-1

7. Date of closure of period for representations:

27th October 2017

8. Representations received:

During the 28 day consultation process for the application, the following representations were received from:

Reading Borough Council's Licensing team (attached at appendix RF-2)

Reading Borough Council's Noise team (attached at appendix RF-3)

A further 45 representations were received from local residents and they are attached at appendix RF-4

9. Licensing Objectives and Reading Borough Council's Licensing Policy Statement

In considering representations received the Licensing Authority has a duty to carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives, which are as follows:

- the prevention of crime and disorder;
- public safety
- the prevention of public nuisance
- the protection of children from harm

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

The Council's licensing policy also places an onus on applicant's who wish to open past 11pm to demonstrate how they will mitigate the issues of crime and disorder and potential public nuisance.

Amended Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (April 2017)

Licensing Objectives and Aims:

1.5 (However) the legislation also supports a number of other key aims and purposes. These are vitally important and should be principal aims for everyone involved in licensing work.

They include:

protecting the public and local residents from crime, anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance caused by irresponsible licensed premises;

Steps to promote the licensing objectives:

The Secretary of State's Guidance (latest edition of April 2017) at paragraphs 8.38 to 8.46 specifically outline what an applicant should address in order to be able to demonstrate that the proposed use of the premises for licensable activities would not undermine the licensing objectives.

Section 8.38 states that applicants are expected to have regard to the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy. This would have provided the applicant early sight of what the expectations of the Licensing Authority are and to demonstrate they have taken cognisance of the issues within the locality they propose to operate in.

Section 8.39 outlines that applicants are expected to demonstrate that they understand the layout of the local area and the proximity to residential premises or crime and disorder hotspots so as to fully and effectively gauge the risk posed by their proposed operation to the local area.

Section 8.40 states that applicants are expected to include positive proposals in how they will manage any potential risks. Where specific policies, such as Cumulative Impact exist, the applicant should demonstrate within the operating schedule an understanding on how their proposals may impact that area.

Section 8.41 states that applicants are expected to make enquiries as to the locality of their premises and develop appropriate policies. Applicants must consider factors that may undermine any of the licensing objectives (such as proximity to residential dwellings)

Section 8.42 underlines where the applicant can obtain information about the area in which they propose to operate including the Council's licensing policy and online crime data resources such as police.uk

Section 8.43 states that all parties (applicants, licensing authority and responsible authorities) should work in partnership before the any application to use local knowledge to resolve potential disputes before they arise.

Section 8.44 states that applicants are expected to provide licensing authorities with sufficient information to be able to determine the extent with which their proposed steps are sufficient to promote the licensing objectives. It goes on to say that applicants should underline why they believe their proposals are appropriate for the premises.

Section 8.45 underlines the importance of partnership working and to work out disputes accordingly.

Section 8.46 makes clear that the applicant should demonstrate within their application how their proposals will promote each of the licensing objectives.

Licensing authorities acting as responsible authorities

9.13 Licensing authorities are included in the list of responsible authorities. A similar framework exists in the Gambling Act 2005. The 2003 Act does not require responsible authorities to make representations about applications for the grant of premises licences or to take any other steps in respect of different licensing processes. It is, therefore, for the licensing authority to determine when it considers it appropriate to act in its capacity as a responsible authority; the licensing authority should make this decision in accordance with its duties under section 4 of the 2003 Act.

Public Nuisance

2.14 The 2003 Act enables licensing authorities and responsible authorities, through representations, to consider what constitutes public nuisance and what is appropriate to prevent it in terms of conditions attached to specific premises licences and club premises certificates. It is therefore important that in considering the promotion of this licensing objective, licensing authorities and responsible authorities focus on the effect of the licensable activities at the specific premises on persons living and working (including those carrying on business) in the area around the premises which may be disproportionate and unreasonable. The issues will mainly concern noise nuisance, light pollution, noxious smells and litter.

2.16 Public nuisance is given a statutory meaning in many pieces of legislation. It is however not narrowly defined in the 2003 Act and retains its broad common law meaning. It may include in appropriate circumstances the reduction of the living and working amenity and environment of other persons living and working in the area of the licensed premises. Public nuisance may also arise as a result of the adverse effects of artificial light, dust, odour and insects or where its effect is prejudicial to health.

Integrating strategies

14.56 It is recommended that statements of licensing policy should provide clear indications of how the licensing authority will secure the proper integration of its licensing policy with local crime prevention, planning, transport, tourism, equality schemes, cultural strategies and any other plans introduced for the management of town centres

and the night-time economy. Many of these strategies are not directly related to the promotion of the licensing objectives, but, indirectly, impact upon them. Co-ordination and integration of such policies, strategies and initiatives are therefore important.

Planning and building control

14.57 The statement of licensing policy should indicate that planning permission, building control approval and licensing regimes will be properly separated to avoid duplication and inefficiency. The planning and licensing regimes involve consideration of different (albeit related) matters. Licensing committees are not bound by decisions made by a planning committee, and vice versa.

14.58 There are circumstances when as a condition of planning permission, a terminal hour has been set for the use of premises for commercial purposes. Where these hours are different to the licensing hours, the applicant must observe the earlier closing time. Premises operating in breach of their planning permission would be liable to prosecution under planning law. Proper integration should be assured by licensing committees, where appropriate, providing regular reports to the planning committee

Licensing Act 2003

The Licensing Act 2003 under Section 18 (6) also states that any relevant representation should be considered in the context of:

(a) the likely effect of the grant of the premises licence on the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Therefore in the context of the grant of a licence, it is reasonable for the Licensing Authority to base its decision on an application on what the likely effect of granting a licence would have on the promotion of the licensing objectives.

The Council's Licensing Policy Statement:

Planning

7.1 The Authority recognises that licensing applications should not be seen as a re-run of the planning application process and that there should be a clear separation of the planning and licensing regimes to avoid duplication and inefficiency. However, the Authority will normally expect applicants to demonstrate that, *their proposed use of the premises is lawful in planning terms*, including complying with any conditions that may be imposed upon a planning consent, prior to applications under this Act being submitted. Nevertheless, the Council recognises that it is permissible for applications for licences to be made before any relevant planning permission has been sought or granted by the planning authority.

11.4 Licensed Premises in Residential Areas

11.4.1 In general the Authority will deal with the issue of licensing hours on the individual merits of each application. However, when issuing a licence, stricter conditions are likely to be imposed with regard to noise control in the case of premises that are situated in largely residential areas. In general, public houses located in and catering for residential areas wishing to open beyond 11pm will need to demonstrate clearly that public nuisance will not result from later operation.

Other Documents for Information

A copy of the premises' planning permission - attached at appendix RF-6
A map highlighting where the premises is located - attached at appendix RF-7