

# Licensing Sub-Committee report



31 January 2022

Report of: Licensing Officer  
 Application: New Premises Licence  
 Premises: Wilton Hall, Wilton Avenue, Bletchley  
 Applicant: Wilton Hall Limited  
 Date of Application: 10 December 2022  
 Application Ref: 160957

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	<b>No</b>
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## 1. Application

- 1.1 This is an application for a new premises licence, attached at **Annex A**. The premises are being proposed to operate as an event venue (for example but not exclusively, weddings). The premises are currently unlicensed, but the venue previously held a premises licence between 2005 and 2020 when it was surrendered. Prior to the Licensing Act 2003 (the Act) it was licensed for Public Entertainment by the Council and held an alcohol licence from the Magistrates. There has been a hall on site since 1943.
- 1.2 The Sub-Committee only has discretion to consider the licensing application which covers alcohol supply, entertainment, and late-night refreshment. Other issues unless related to these in some way and the licensing objectives are not within its gift.

### Hours Sought

Sale of alcohol Supply of Alcohol (on supply); Late Night Refreshment; and Regulated Entertainment

Monday to Wednesday	09:00 to 23:00
Thursday	09:00 to 23:30
Friday and Saturday	09:00 to 00:30
Sundays	10:00 to 23:00

Additional hours on New Year's Eve as detailed.

## Opening Hours

To close 30 minutes after last licensable activity as above.

The licensed area is shown as per the plan at **Annex B**. It encompasses a ground and small first floor area.

- 1.3 The application contains an operating schedule at section 18 that details the steps the applicant would take if the licence was granted. As part of the representations received the Sub-Committee can consider if this sufficiently addresses issues being raised under the licensing objectives. For potential assistance in respect of residents, photographs showing the premises and its position is provided at **Annex C**.
- 1.4 Within the statutory consultation period the Council received 21 representations.

## 2. Responsible Authorities

- 2.1 The Licensing Authority has received four representations. These are as follows:
  - (a) Environmental Health in terms of the potential for noise disturbance (attached at **Annex D**). This resulted in an agreement to reimpose noise conditions from the previous licence in place and the representation has been withdrawn.
  - (b) Licensing Officer in respect of nuisance issues arising from parking of patrons (attached at **Annex E**).
  - (c) The Planning Authority (attached at **Annex F**).
  - (d) Thames Valley Police on the inadequacy of information (attached at **Annex G**).

The other responsible authorities of Trading Standards, Public Health, Health and Safety, MKTogether; and Home Office Immigration have not made representation.

## 3. Other Persons

- 3.1 'Other Persons' is the legal term that encompasses residents, businesses and others who feel that granting of a licence would undermine one or more of the Licensing objectives in some way.
- 3.2 The Council has received 17 representations that include the Bletchley Park Area Residents Association, West Bletchley Council, Councillor Rankine and residents. These are listed and presented in **Annex H** together with a schematic plan showing the vicinity of those making representation to the application where they are resident.

3.3 There are common themes to many of the representations as the Sub-Committee will see but to summarise the principal issues are:

1. There is insufficient parking for the capacity proposed and this causes and is already causing for non-licensed events issues surrounding public safety, public nuisance, and crime and disorder issues such as intimidation of residents by patrons and staff.
2. The proposed capacity of 750 is unsafe in terms of escape provision.
3. The previous licensed capacity was 350. WBC believe the capacity should be 160 based on car parking provision.
4. The licensed hours are excessive for the locality, the occupancy, and activities proposed (in particular noise). This includes noise from entertainment and people leaving.
5. Removal of the hedge at the front of the hall by the applicant is now causing a noise and light pollution issue to residents' opposite and they will be affected by this if the licence is granted.
6. Changes made to the side of the premises by No5 Wilton Avenue have made the path a public safety risk (officer comment: West Bletchley Council believe the path belongs to the Milton Keynes Council and so the repair of this has been referred to Highways at the Milton Keynes Council for confirmation
7. Parking by some of patrons is illegal.
8. There are technical inaccuracies in the application which make it inconsistent (officer comment: different licensable activities applied for can have different finish times).
9. The application will lead to large numbers of people drinking on the street (officer comment: application is for consumption on the premises only, no off sale).
10. The applicant has removed noise reduction measures inside the venue during refurbishment thus increasing the likelihood of noise disturbance to residents.

#### 4. Officer Observations

4.1 There are no standard hours for premises – each case must be decided on their own merits. In licensing terms this is a similar application to the licence that was previously in place, but a comparison is provided at **Annex I** as residents and Environmental Health have both referred to this. Overall, the new application is for slightly fewer hours in terms of a terminal hour other

than on Sunday and with slightly earlier opening. The premises are opposite residential.

- 4.2 Whilst those making representations are concerned about a lack of parking there are parking restrictions in place on Wilton Avenue in terms of double and yellow lining with potential for some enforcement of these (see photos at **Annex C**). As a result of representations received the Licensing officer has notified Milton Keynes Parking of the faded condition of some of these.

## 5. Determination of the Application by the Sub-Committee

- 5.1 The Sub-Committee is required to determine the application in accordance with the Licensing Act and must, having regard to the representations, take such steps that it considers appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives.
- 5.2 The steps that the Sub-Committee can take are:
- (a) modify the terms of the application in granting a licence;
  - (b) rejecting the application or part of the application; or
  - (c) grant the Licence as applied for.
- 5.3 The four Licensing Objectives are:
- (a) The Prevention of Crime and Disorder.
  - (b) Public Safety.
  - (c) The prevention of Public Nuisance.
  - (d) The Protection of Children from Harm.
- 5.4 When carrying out its functions under the Act, and determining an application, the Licensing Authority must have regard to the Guidance issued by the Home Secretary under section 182 of the Act and its own Statement of Licensing Policy.
- 5.5 Extracts from the Guidance appropriate to this application are attached at **Annex J**. A full copy is available online or from the Licensing Team.
- 5.6 Extracts from the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy relevant to this application are attached at **Annex J**. A full copy is available online or from the Licensing Team.

### Contact Officer

For further information on this application please contact Ed Fisher on telephone 01908 252409 or e-mail: [eddie.fisher@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:eddie.fisher@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

## List of Background Papers

Milton Keynes Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2018-2023.

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/environmental-health-and-trading-standards/licensing/alcohol-and-entertainment/milton-keynes-council-licensing-policy>

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

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/705588/Revised\\_guidance\\_issued\\_under\\_section\\_182\\_of\\_the\\_Licensing\\_Act\\_2003\\_April\\_2018\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/705588/Revised_guidance_issued_under_section_182_of_the_Licensing_Act_2003_April_2018_.pdf)