

Evans, Kieran

From: Evans, Kieran
Sent: 02 November 2016 14:14
To: 'Kieran Evans'
Subject: FW: Olney Wine Bar and Brasserie

From: Frank Fender [mailto:frank@fjflicensingsolutions.co.uk]
Sent: 19 October 2016 19:47
To:
Cc: Evans, Kieran
Subject: Olney Wine Bar and Brasserie

Dear Mr Davison

I am the consultant who submitted the application for a new premises licence for Olney Wine Bar and Brasserie. I act on behalf of the applicants, Olney Wine Bar and Brasserie Limited.

The Licensing Authority at Milton Keynes Council have made me aware of the representation which you have made in respect of this application. Your representation has been forwarded to me, as required under The Licensing Act 2003, and I am writing to you in order to address the concerns you have expressed.

As you have made a valid representation, the application will be determined at a hearing of the Licensing Sub Committee at Milton Keynes Council - unless you feel we have addressed your concerns satisfactorily and you are minded to withdraw the representation. Obviously, I am hoping that after you read this email, you will consider withdrawing the representation, although I fully respect your right to maintain the representation and to have it heard before the said sub committee.

I am not sure if you are aware, but the Olney Wine Bar already has an existing premises licence, which permits the premises to open from 08.30hrs to 01.00hrs on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 08.30hrs to 02.00hrs on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and from 08.30hrs to 00.30hrs on a Sunday.

These are the current opening hours for the premises, authorised for Olney Wine Bar. The hours for the different licensable activities are slightly different:

The hours currently permitted for the sale of alcohol are currently from 10.00hrs until 00.30hrs on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 10.00hrs to 01.30hrs on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and from 12.00hrs to 23.30hrs on a Sunday.

The hours currently permitted for music entertainment and performance of dance, are from 20.00hrs midnight on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, from 21.00hrs to midnight on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday and from 12.00hrs to 23.00hrs on a Sunday.

The application currently at the Council Offices seeks to standardise the hours for the various permitted licensable activities, and the terminal hours sought for the activities are similar to the existing licence - although the terminal hour for the music entertainment hours sought are a little longer than the existing hours.

What I am trying to say here, is that there is already an existing licence to allow activities for hours which are not too dissimilar to those already permitted.

This does of course, beg the question - why a new application then?

The answer to that question is simple. The current licence relates to the current Olney Wine Bar premises at 9 High Street South. I am sure that the Town Council is aware that the premises next door, Cross Keys House (number 11) has been acquired by my client and planning permission has recently been granted to make alterations to that building, to link it to the existing wine bar. The new application takes the new premises (Cross Keys House) into account as well.

There is also to be refurbishment work carried out in both Cross Keys House and the existing Olney Wine bar. When renovations take place at existing licensed premises, an application has to be made to the Licensing Authority for permission to make those changes. The changes being made here mean a new application is the sensible way forwards.

Once refurbished, and open to the public, the premises intends to operate as a wine bar and brasserie. The space on the ground floor of the premises will be larger than before, and there will also be 2 smaller private dining / function rooms on the first floor. This promises to be a venue which will serve Olney proud, rather than become a blight to the community.

There will be an emphasis on food at these premises - as the word 'brasserie' would suggest. The music entertainment is sought as part of the application, so that customers who have been dining can enjoy some music, and even have a dance if that is their wish. The intention is to provide a pleasant, relaxing environment where customers can feel safe and spend an enjoyable evening.

Your representation starts by stating that you do not feel that the measures set out in the application will be adhered to. I would like to point out that the measures proposed will become conditions on the licence - and if they are not adhered to, then there are severe consequences (the maximum penalties are 6 months imprisonment, an unlimited fine, and possibly a review of the licence leading to a potential revocation). It is therefore absolutely paramount that operators of licensed premises adhere to the measures proposed.

I can confirm that staff will be trained in all the measures proposed - that will become a condition in itself.

In respect of the non standard timings applied for, these will provide flexibility for the operator to be able to put a specific function on for those nights if there is a demand. For example, given the intended nature of the premises, why wouldn't a restaurant operation not want to be open later on Valentines night?

Please be aware that the later hours on those days are only when those days fall other than on a weekend.

Your final concern is in respect of risk assessments involving the use of door supervisors. I would like to point out that this type of measure is often proposed after discussions with the Police (as was the case with this application). What it means, is that should the premises operator choose to put on a function where there could be a perceived risk to crime and disorder, then they would employ door supervisors to negate that risk and to ensure everyone's safety. Given the style of operation intended at these premises, that likelihood is extremely low, but the Police like that measure to be included to ensure operators continue to risk assess what they are doing. It is very good working practice to do so.

The final part of your representation has, I believe, been addressed by Mr Evans of the Licensing Authority.

In concluding this email, we are confident that the reopening of Olney Wine Bar will be welcomed by the vast majority of the local community. The wine bar had a superb reputation and not only attracted local people from Olney, but also people from surrounding towns and villages. This is something which Olney should be proud of, and it is expected that the reopening of the premises will bring a similar pride to the area.

If after reading this email, you are minded to remove your representation, then I would ask you to make contact with the Licensing Authority to do so. If you feel further clarification is required, then please do not hesitate to contact me either by return email, or on my number below.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Frank

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