

Minutes of the meeting of the LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2019 at 5.33 pm

Present: Councillor Legg (Chair)
Councillors Cryer-Whitehead and Marlow

Officers: K Hulatt (Principal Solicitor - Litigation), S Teesdale (Licensing and Business Manager), A Ward (Licensing Officer) and J Crighton (Committee Manager)

Also Present: J Buckley (applicant), A Pillinger (applicant's legal representative), E Tagg (Great Linford Parish Council), Parish Councillor D Stabler (Great Linford Parish Council) and three members of the public

LSC20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

LSC21 APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE - LIDL, WOLVERTON ROAD, BLAKELANDS

The Licensing Officer advised the Sub-Committee that the hearing had been arranged in respect of a New Premises Licence for Lidl Great Britain, Wolverton Road, Blakelands.

The Licensing Officer informed the Sub-Committee that the application was for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, Monday to Sunday between the hours of 07.00 am and 11.00 pm.

As required by the relevant regulations, the applicant had displayed the prescribed notices of the application around the perimeter of the premises and an advert had been placed in the local newspaper, dated 3 October 2019.

The applicant's representative addressed the Sub-Committee and explained that Lidl Great Britain worked effectively in promoting the licensing objectives in all their stores across the country.

The training of staff was vital and an extensive training programme was undertaken in stores and refresher training was followed up

every six months. All staff were required to sign an Alcohol Policy Register and training records were maintained.

In the event that a member of staff operating a check-out believed a customer was under 25, under the influence of alcohol or attempting a proxy purchase they did not challenge the customer but instead alerted a Shift Manager, who would make the required identification checks and ascertain whether to approve the sale.

The display of alcohol was located in the furthest aisle away from the entrance to the stores and a high profile of staff were situated on the shop floor which discouraged potential shoplifters.

Lidl Great Britain were a partner of the Community Alcohol Partnership scheme and worked closely with communities to prevent underage drinking and its associated problems.

The hours sought in excess of those imposed by the Sunday Trading Act 1994 would allow Lidl Great Britain increased flexibility if planning permission was varied or the Act be amended.

The Sub-Committee were satisfied that Lidl have had full regard to the law and have robust processes in place in terms of underage or problem drinking.

Great Linford Parish Council submitted an objection against the application as they were concerned that it would undermine the licensing objectives of the prevention of public nuisance and crime and disorder.

The Parish Council were supportive of the planning permission for Lidl Great Britain but were of the opinion that sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises would increase the level of crime and anti-social behaviour in the area.

There was no evidence before the Sub-Committee that the hours applied for would contribute to any anti-social behaviour in the area. The allegations of anti-social behaviour were non-specific and there was nothing to link it to the times that the supermarket was proposing to be licenced. The Parish Council had not objected to the bulk of the hours that the applicant wished to trade and could not evidence that the alleged undermining of the licensing objectives was only likely to occur, or more likely to occur, during the hours they opposed.

The Parish Council recommended that the sale of alcohol be limited to Monday to Saturday between the hours of 07.00 am and 10.00 pm and Sunday between the hours of 10.00 am and 5.00 pm.

The mere fact that the supermarket would have a licence in place to serve alcohol for two hours more than the objector would like during the week and for a longer period on a Sunday, was not enough evidence to suggest that it would have any impact at all on the licensing objectives.

RESOLVED -

That the application be granted.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 6.33 PM

DRAFT