11. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

12. Application for a new premises licence: Central Park, Dagenham, RM10 7EH

The Councils Licensing Officer, Paul Adams, presented a report to Members which was regarding an application for a Premises Licence for Central Park, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7EH.

The application was to hold no more than 3 events in one calendar year in Central Park during the hours of 09:00 and 23:00 to include Live Music, recorded Music, Performance of Dance and the sale of alcohol.

The Sub Committee were advised that during the consultation period valid representations had been received from residents and these were contained in the agenda before the Sub Committee.

Representation had been received from the Metropolitan Police, requesting they had,

a) Direct input to the Safety Advisory Group during the scrutiny phase of any event to be held in the park under the authorities licence
b) No event will be held under the authority of the premises licence unless the police have been given notice of at least 30 days.

Mr Adams advised the Sub Committee that if they were minded to approve the application, the applicant had agreed to accept these conditions as part of the licence and therefore the objection had been withdrawn.

Representation had also been received from Adult and Community Services (as the role of Child Protection responsible authority) regarding the sale of alcohol and the adoption of a Challenge 25 policy or written age challenge procedures. Mr Adams advised the Sub Committee that the applicant had agreed to accept the adoption of a Challenge 25 policy if the Sub Committee were minded to approve the application.

The Sub Committee questioned as to whether the Rugby Club situated within Central Park were to be included as part of the Premises Licence, it was confirmed that the Club had a separate premises licence.
In response to further questions, Mr Adams advised the Sub Committee that Central Park previously had a premises licence however this was surrendered by the Council.

Ms Chamberlin, a local resident, was present and was invited by the Chair to address the Sub Committee setting out her concerns.

Ms Chamberlin was a long term resident close to Central Park and was concerned that a Premises Licence would encourage antisocial behavior in the park. At previous vents there had been issues with noise and alcohol misuse and often when events had finished the park had not been cleared. Due to the open nature of the park, when such events were taking place it was often better for residents to leave their homes to escape the noise and return when the event had finished.

The Chair then invited Mr Goslin, a local resident, to address the Sub Committee setting out his objections to the application. Mr Goslin's main concerns were regarding antisocial behavior in Central Park and he felt that such events should not take place there. There had been noise complaints regarding previous events that had taken place in the park and Mr Goslin asked the Sub Committee to consider that there were a lot of elderly residents living close to the Park.

The Applicant, Mr Paul Hogan, Divisional Director of Culture and Sport, was present and was invited by the Chair to address the Sub Committee, answering some of the concerns raised by those who had made representation.

Mr Hogan advised the Sub Committee that the Council took its Health and Safety duties seriously and would comply with the law throughout any event. The Safety Advisory Group would be re installed to ensure that throughout scrutiny of any events due to be put on in the park would be undertaken and this would involve experts within the relevant fields.

Mr Hogan confirmed that the Council only intended to put one event on this year at the park, a music festival which, if the Sub Committee were minded to approve, would take place on Saturday 6 June 2015. Alcohol would be served during the duration of the event (13:00 to 22:00) and the stage would be placed so that it would be backing onto the Civic Centre and not residential properties. Whilst there would still be some noise emanating from the stage, noise pollution would be reduced significantly by its location.

The Chair then gave each party the opportunity to sum up before the Sub Committee retired to deliberate.

DECISION

The Sub Committee had considered and had particular regard to the statutory guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, the Council’s Licensing Policy and all evidence placed before it including all the written documentation and the oral submissions at the meeting.

The Sub Committee considered and had particular regard to the Licensing objectives of:

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of Public Nuisance

The Sub Committees decision was to grant the application, with the following conditions:

a) Direct input to the Safety Advisory Group during the scrutiny phase of any event to be held in the park under the authorities licence
b) No event will be held under the authority of the premises licence unless the police have been given notice of at least 30 days.
c) Events would only take place at the weekends (Friday and Saturday with Sunday only if it is followed by a Bank Holiday)
d) A dispersal policy must be agreed by the Safety Advisory Group.

These conditions were considered necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.