MINUTES OF
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 29 April 2015
(12:00 - 1:10 pm)

Board Members Present: Cllr Syed Ahammad, Cllr Kashif Haroon (Chair) and Cllr Hardial Singh Rai

Apologies:

13. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

14. Application for a Summary Review of the premises licence for River Club (Crooked Billett) River Road, Barking IG11 0EG

The Council’s Licensing Officer, Mr Paul Adams, presented a report in respect of an application for the summary review of the premises licence at River Club (Crooked Billet), River Road, Barking IG11 0EG.

The Sub-Committee were advised that on 28 April 2015, an application for the Summary review of the Premises Licence was received from Andrew O’Connor PC516KG on behalf of the Chief Officer for Police for the Metropolitan Police Area as the premises had been associated with serious crime and disorder.

The Licensing Authority on receipt of the application for Summary Review must, within 48 hours of the time of its receipt, consider whether it is necessary to take interim steps pending determination of the review of the premises licence.

The Licensing Authority in any event must undertake a full review within 28 days after the day of receipt of the summary review application.

The Sub-Committee was advised that the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) and Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) was Mr Lordan Ilies.

The authorised activities, the times for carrying out licensable activities and a copy of the premises licence were contained within the report.

The Sub-Committee and those present were reminded by Mr Adams that any interim steps put in place by the Sub-Committee would be effective immediately, with no right of appeal.

Andrew O’Connor PC 516 KG was present with a legal representative, Mr John Grime and addressed the Sub-Committee in relation to the application for a Summary Licence Review. Mr Grime advised the Sub-Committee:

1. The current licence contained scant conditions.

2. The current PLH and DPS took over the running of the premises in 2011, which
was now used for weddings and other celebratory occasions. Whilst the Mr Ilies had been cooperative with the Police, it was felt he was struggling with the current licence.

3. The premises was now considered as a focal point for violence, with three incidents taking place over the past three to four months.

4. In relation to the incidents that had taken place, there was a common theme of:
   - fighting taking place in the early hours of the morning
   - fighting inside and outside of the premises
   - criminal damage to vehicles
   - weapons being used in fighting including but not limited to metal bars, swords, knives, drinking glasses and pool/snooker cues.
   - involvement of security staff in fights

5. Before the most recent and serious incident, the Police had applied for a full review of the premises licence.

6. Due to three incidents taking place in the premises over the last three to four months, the Police had lost faith in the management of the premises and requested that seven conditions be included on the Premises Licence.

Mr Christopher Pullman, representing Mr Ilies, was present and requested a five minute adjournment to consult his client. The Sub-Committee agreed, with the meeting adjourning at 12.23pm and reconvening at 12.28pm.

Mr Christopher Pullman then addressed the Sub-Committee asking questions following the representation made by the Police. The questions, relating to the use of weapons on 26 April 2015 and the involvement of door staff on 13 April 2015, could not be answered by the Police as they were in relation to live investigations.

Mr Ilies was given the opportunity to address the Sub-Committee. Mr Ilies advised that:

a) The premises was used for celebrations (weddings, christenings and birthdays) for Romanians, but also by lorry drivers (for food) who were travelling through to France or other parts of Europe.

b) CCTV was now in place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with footage retained for 30 days.

c) The fights referred to had taken place on the patrons way home from the premises, not at the premises

d) The incident on 26 April 2015 was in relation to a gypsy wedding and as a result all future gypsy weddings had been cancelled.

e) All conditions proposed by the Police were agreeable, accept for licensable activities ceasing at 1.30am, as in Romanian culture cakes were cut at 1am.

The Sub-Committee noted that the premises was based in a largely industrial area and in response to questions, the Sub-Committee were advised that the current
licence had been in place since 2005 and had only been before the Licensing and Regulatory Board when it was converted from an old licence to a new licence under the Licensing Act 2003.

The Chair gave those present 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 Councils Licensing Policy and all evidence placed before it including all the written documentation and the oral submissions at the meeting.

The Sub Committee agreed that in order to promote the licensing objectives to vary the licence for the River Club as follows:

(i) All licensable activities to cease at 01.30 with a closing time of 02:00. The premises will open at 09:00.

(ii) A CCTV system shall be installed, kept and maintained at all times during the currency of the licence. The CCTV system serving the premises shall:

a. be maintained, fully operational and in good working order at all times the premises is open for business.

b. CCTV recordings shall show an accurate date and time that the recordings were made and all recordings shall be retained for a period of not less than 31 days.

c. the original, or a copy of the CCTV recording, shall be provided upon demand to any police officer, community support officer or other authorised person.

d. copies of CCTV recordings shall be provided in a format that can be viewed on readily available equipment without the need for specialist software.

b. CCTV coverage to include all entrances, exits and car parks operated by the venue in addition to comprehensive coverage inside the premises.

c. at least one member of staff should be on duty at any time the Premises Licence is on operation who has a working knowledge of the CCTV system and is able to supply on request copies of any images recorded.

(iii) When SIA licence door supervisors are employed, they shall be employed in a ratio of one door supervisor per 50 patrons or part thereof, whichever is the greater. Door supervisors shall be in position early enough in the evening to ensure that procedures for promoting public safety are effective, and shall remain on duty until the premises are closed.

(iv) A log of SIA staff on duty shall be maintained at the premises and are to be kept for at least three years and made available to Police and Council Officers upon request.

(v) SIA door staff to wear high visibility clothing.

(vi) No drinking vessels (glasses and bottles) of any kind to be taken outside of the
(vii) A lockable weapons box is to be installed where all seized weapons are to be kept until handed over to Police.