

**Committee:** Licensing  
**Date:** 7 February 2006  
**Agenda Item No:** 2  
**Title:** The Hockerill Sports and Social Club, Bishop's Stortford  
**Author:** Murray Hardy (01799) 510598

### **Summary**

- 1 This report sets out an application to vary the existing club premises licence in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. Representations have been made to the Licensing Authority regarding the proposed variation; therefore this application has been referred to the Committee for deliberation
  
- 2 **Background**

The Hockerill Sports and Social Club is situated in Beldams Lane, Bishop's Stortford, which currently operates under a club premises licence which was converted prior to 6 August 2005. This conversion was in accordance with the term "Grandfather Rights" and no additions or alterations were made to their previously held club registration certificate. It is currently managed by officers and committee members and operates in accordance with the approved rules of the club.
  
- 3 The premises, albeit with a Bishop's Stortford post code, does just comes within the County Boundary for Essex, thus falls within the jurisdiction of this Licensing Authority. The actual building is situated away from a public highway with its own access and car parking facilities. In addition to providing social recreation for Members and bona fide guests there are sporting facilities on site for athletics and cricket.
  
- 4 Visitors may be permitted to enjoy the facilities of the club provided they are accompanied by a member and details of their visit must be recorded in the visitor's book.
  
- 5 The application to vary the current premises licence has been made by Rod King who is the current club secretary.
  
- 6 The club is seeking to include activities that were not previously licensable and to extend their current permitted hours on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holidays.
  
- 7 The current permitted hours for the supply of alcohol is as follows:

Monday – Saturday 11.00 am to 11.00 pm  
Sunday 12 noon to 10.30 pm.

The new operating schedule indicates a request for the following licensable activities.

- 8 For recorded music which is to be confined to inside the premises only and described as amplified music the times sought are:

- a) Monday – Thursday 11.00 am – 11 pm
- b) Friday – Saturday 11.00 am – 12 midnight
- c) Sunday 12 noon – 11.30 pm

The non-standard timings which include all Bank Holidays are identical to the hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as indicated above.

- 9 For the provision of facilities for dancing which will take place inside the clubhouse and used mainly in connection with discothèques the times sought are:

- a) Monday – Thursday 11.00 am – 11 pm
- b) Friday – Saturday 11.00 am – 12 midnight
- c) Sunday 12 noon – 11.30 pm

The non-standard timings which include all Bank Holidays are identical to the hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as indicated above.

- 10 For the provision of facilities for entertainment of a similar description to that falling within the facilities for making music or dancing, the times sought are:

- a) Monday – Thursday 11.00 am – 11 pm
- b) Friday – Saturday 11.00 am – 12 midnight
- c) Sunday 12 noon – 11.30 pm

The non standard timings which include all Bank Holidays are identical to the hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as indicated above.

- 11 For the supply of alcohol at the premises the times sought are:

- a) Monday – Thursday 11.00 am – 11 pm
- b) Friday – Saturday 11.00 am – 12 midnight
- c) Sunday 12 noon – 11.30 pm

The non-standard timings which include all Bank Holidays are identical to the hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as indicated above.

- 12 The hours that the premises are to open for its members and guests are as follows:

- a) Monday – Thursday 11.00 am – 11 pm
- b) Friday – Saturday 11.00 am – 12 midnight
- c) Sunday 12 noon – 11.30 pm

The non-standard timings which include all Bank Holidays are identical to the hours on Friday, Saturday and Sunday as indicated above. It should be noted that the timings for the cessation of the supply of alcohol and the closing of the premises are identical.

- 13 The applicants in their operating schedule have indicated that the following measures will be taken to promote the licensing objective regarding the prevention of crime and disorder.
  - The club do not allow 18<sup>th</sup> birthday parties
  - The club insist on a responsible adult being present when hired to third parties
  - Notice at premises asking members and guests to behave in a proper manner and have respect for local residents.
- 14 The applicants in their operating schedule have indicated that the following measure will be taken to promote the licensing objective regarding public safety.
  - Keeping premises in good order from a maintenance perspective.
- 15 The applicants in their operating schedule have indicated that the following measure will be taken to promote the licensing objective regarding the prevention of public nuisance.
  - Keeping premises in good order from a maintenance perspective.
- 16 The applicants in their operating schedule have indicated that the following measure will be taken to promote the licensing objective regarding the protection of children from harm.
  - Proof of identity scheme in operation
- 17 Copies of this application have been served on the statutory bodies with no representations being received.
- 18 Representations have been received from an interested party based on the licensing objective that relates to the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of a public nuisance. It is feared that anti-social behaviour may be the result if the current licensing hours are extended and that excessive noise would result when recorded music is played and when patrons leave the premises.
- 19 In carrying out its statutory function, the Licensing Authority must promote the licensing objectives as defined in the Licensing Act 2003:
  - The prevention of crime and disorder
  - Public safety
  - The prevention of public nuisance
  - The protection of children from harm

- 20 The decision that the Committee can make for this application is to:
- Grant the application
  - Modify the application by inserting conditions
  - Remove the licensable activity from the licensee
  - Reject the application
- 21 When determining an application then due regard should be given to the Council's policy regarding licensing and the Secretary of State' Guidance.
- 22 If the Committee in their discretion wishes to impose conditions, the only conditions that can be imposed are those that are necessary and proportionate to promote the licensing objective relative to the representations received. Equally, the Committee cannot impose conditions that duplicate the effect of existing legislation.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 The application is determined
- 2 In the event of an appeal against the decision of the Licensing Authority, then a member is nominated to give evidence on behalf of the authority.

Background Papers:      Operating Schedule  
                                    Representations from an Interested Party  
                                    Plan of Premises  
                                    Location of Premises