

Licensing Sub-Committee 2 – 25th March 2014

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Application for the Grant of a Street Collection Permit

More Mascots Please CIC

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the application made by Miss Ceri Davies of More Mascots Please CIC, for the grant of a Street Collection Permit to collect in Dudley Town Centre.

Background

2. In January 1999, the Licensing Section in accordance with the Neighbouring Authorities Working Group introduced a policy requiring all street collection permit applicants to submit income and expenditure accounts for the previous financial year.
3. In recent years applications for Street Collections have been received from independent commercial companies undertaking collections on behalf of specific charities. Therefore, in November 2009, the Council introduced a further policy that all applicants for Street Collection permits be required to submit with the application, income and expenditure accounts for the previous financial year of the charity for which the collection is being made and also for the company or organisation making the collection. This is to ensure that a substantial amount of the monies collected are used for charitable purposes.
4. Miss Davies first made application for the grant of a street collection permit on 1st August 2013 for various dates in September and October 2013. Miss Davies did not produce the required accounts, as specified by Council Policy. However, Miss Davies did produce a letter, which stated that she did not have audited accounts available. This application could not be processed due to insufficient accounts being received.
5. A further application was received from Miss Davies on 14th November 2013, for various dates and locations in December 2013, submitted with this application was a bank account statement. Again the bank statement did not conform with Council policy and the application could not be processed.
6. Miss Davies was informed on the 3rd December that the Licensing Office had referred the matter to the Assistant Director who instructed that the matter be put

before the Licensing and Safety Sub-Committee, Miss Davies was also informed that it was not possible for the Committee to determine the application prior to the dates requested and Miss Davies was therefore requested to submit further dates.

7. A further application was received from Miss Davies on the 21st January 2014 requesting dates in Dudley and Stourbridge for the 8th February and 18th February, Miss Davies submitted hand written accounts with this application, a copy of that application together with hand written accounts has been circulated to Committee Members and interested parties. Miss Davies was advised on the 22nd January 2014, that due to time restrictions it would not be possible to put her application before the Committee prior to the 8th February 2014.
8. An email was received from Miss Davies on 10 February 2014 requesting revised dates in April during the Easter holiday for Dudley Market Place. A copy of that email has also been circulated to Committee Members and interested parties.
9. Copies of the application has been circulated to the West Midlands Police and the Directorate of the Urban Environment (Highways). These agencies raised no objections to the application.
10. This application falls within the Council's recent responsibility for licensing which has a direct link to the Council's key corporate priority that safety matters.

Finance

11. There are no financial implications.

Law

12. Street collection permits are governed by the Police, Factories etc (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1916.
13. Under this Act the Council have made regulations for street collections.
14. The Council has unfettered discretion to the granting of street collection permits and there are no statutory rights of appeal against the refusal of a street collection permit.

Equality Impact

15. This report takes into account the Council's policy on equal opportunities.
16. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in development these proposals.

Recommendation

17. That the Committee consider the application for the grant of a street collection permit in respect of More Mascots Please.



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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

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List of Background Papers