

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 1

Tuesday 18th April, 2006 at 11.00 am
in the Council Chamber, The Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Ryder (Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Ameson and Tomkinson

Officers

Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Legal Advisor) and
Mrs K Farrington - Directorate of Law and Property

91 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

92 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 14th March, 2006, be approved as a correct record and signed.

93 **APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE – BARNETT LANE POST OFFICE, 3 BARNETT LANE, KINGSWINFORD**

This item was withdrawn.

94 **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUSION THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as specified below and, in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant paragraph of Part I Schedule 12A</u>
Application for the grant of a house to house collections permit on behalf of Fundraising Initiatives Limited	3

95 APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A HOUSE TO HOUSE
COLLECTIONS PERMIT ON BEHALF OF FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES
LIMITED

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application made by Mr Christopher Wichard for the grant of a house-to-house collections permit on behalf of Fundraising Initiatives Limited.

Mr Wichard, Chief Promoter of Fundraising Initiatives Limited was in attendance at the meeting, together with Mr Harris, Consultant for Fundraising Initiatives Limited.

Following introductions, the Legal Advisor outlined the procedure to be followed.

Mrs J Elliott, Licensing Officer, Directorate of Law and Property, presented the report on behalf of the Council.

Mr Harris then explained in detail the role carried out by Fundraising Initiatives Limited (FIL) on behalf of the 27 UK-registered charities they represented. He stated that the charities engaged them to generate long-term support to their work by recruiting donors, who gave to the charities on an ongoing basis by way of direct debit. Donors could continue to make donations indefinitely but could cancel at any time. He emphasised that FIL did not handle any cash. Donations were given by direct debit only. He informed the Sub-Committee that they only represented one charity at a time and the entire proceeds of the collection went to the charity. He stated that fundraisers were not paid fully for the donors they recruited until donations had been maintained for five months.

He then informed the Sub-Committee that each fundraiser underwent a comprehensive 2-week training programme followed by examinations. An experienced fundraiser also supervised them when they first went out on the road, to monitor performance. He mentioned that FIL had a system in place that could monitor each fundraiser's cancellation figures so as they could decide whether re-training or even dismissal was required if figures were high.

He stated that each fundraiser was required to display an identification badge at all times, to demonstrate clearly that they were an officially appointed fundraiser. The badge also contained information verifying the company they worked for and a telephone number, which potential donors could ring to check to see if the fundraiser was bona fide. He informed the Sub-Committee that if a person was interested in donating, but was not comfortable in giving a stranger their bank details, the fundraiser would offer a telephone number for the charity, to enable them to make a donation direct to the charity.

In responding to questions asked by the Sub-Committee, Mr Wichard commented that training of fundraisers was ongoing. He also indicated that charities also visited FIL to ascertain its experience and viability before committing themselves.

Further questions were asked with regard to the number of fundraisers that would be allocated to a specific area. Mr Wichard stated that in any area, there would normally be about six experienced fundraisers, including one team leader.

Mr Wichard also stated that fundraisers did not expect to be invited into potential donors' houses as the consultation was generally undertaken on the doorstep. He also commented that fundraisers tried to avoid knocking on elderly people's doors. If an elderly person answered the door, the fundraiser was polite and apologised for the disturbance before visiting the next house.

Mr Harris then informed the Sub-Committee that they wished to work positively with the Council and also stated that they would respect any decision made by the Sub-Committee.

The parties then withdrew from the meeting in order to enable the Sub-Committee to determine the application.

Following a lengthy discussion, the Sub-Committee, having made its decision, the respective parties were invited to return and the Chairman then outlined the decision.

RESOLVED

That the application made by Mr Christopher Wichard for the grant of a house-to-house collections permit, on behalf of Fundraising Initiatives Limited, be granted for a period of six months, on condition that the applicant notifies the Police and the Local Authority's Licensing Section of the date, time and specific area for each collection, one month in advance of each collection.

The meeting ended at 12.25pm.

CHAIRMAN