

Licensing Sub-Committee 4 – 5th December 2006

Report of the Director of Law and Property

Application for Amusements with Prize Machines Permit

Purpose of Report

1. To consider the application for the grant of an amusements with prizes machines permit for four machines on behalf of Poppleston Allen in respect of the Meadow Lark, Dibdale Road, Dudley, West Midlands.

Background

2. On the 18th May 2005, an application was received from Poppleston Allen Solicitors in respect of Meadow Lark, Dibdale Road, Dudley to convert an existing licence into a premises licence and to vary the premises licence simultaneously. That application was granted on the 14th June 2006 and subsequently varied on the 1st October 2006. The premises licence was issued for the following days, times and conditions.

Playing of Recorded Music	Days and hours as permitted by S.182 Licensing Act 1964		
Late night refreshment	Mondays to Sundays	10:00	00:00
Exhibition of a film	Monday to Sunday	10:00	00:00
Sale of alcohol	Mondays to Sundays	10:00	00:00
Performance of Live Music	Monday to Sunday	10:00	00:00
Indoor sporting events	Monday to Sunday	10:00	00:00

3. On the 11th October 2006, an application was received for the grant of a permit for four amusements with prizes machines at the premises, a copy of that application is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
4. The local authority licensing policy states as follows:

- The Licensing Authority will be prepared to grant without a hearing, permits authorising up to two Section 34 Gaming Act machines in any premises. If authorisation is sought for more than two machines the applicant will be required to attend a hearing to support the application. All plans submitted with applications for premises licences must set out the siting of each Amusement with Prizes machine.
 - Parliament has placed no restrictions on the age at which such machines may be played (other than those in amusement arcades). It is therefore a matter for the discretion of the premises licence holder and any adults accompanying the children concerned whether they are entitled to play such machines. In the case of premises used exclusively or primarily for the consumption of alcohol, all children under the age of 16 will only be permitted entry to the premises if accompanied by adults. All such machines must be sited in accordance with the Gaming Act, further advice will be given on receipt of application.
 - There is unlikely to be the need for a hearing where the application is for renewal of the existing permit for more than two machines or where the application is for the grant of an Amusements with Prizes permit at premises which already have an existing permit for more than two machines, and where that number is not increased.
5. This application falls within the Council's recent responsibility for liquor licensing which has a direct link to the Council's key corporate priority that safety matters.

Finance

6. There are no financial implications.

Law

7. The Council is the appropriate Authority for the purpose of considering applications for the grant of a permit to use machines for gaming, under Section 34 and Schedule 9 of the gaming Act 1968.
8. Under Paragraph 8(1)(a) of Schedule 9, the Council has absolute discretion as to whether or not to grant a permit.
9. If the Committee decides to grant this application, then it is open to the Committee to grant the application subject to a condition limiting the number of machines which may be made available on the premises.

Equality Impact

10. This report complies with the Council's policy on equal opportunities.
11. The licensing of premises and individuals will impact on children and young people through their attendance at licensed premises.

12. There has been no consultation or involvement of children and young people in developing these proposals.

Recommendation

13. That the Sub-Committee determine the application.

John Poyell

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DIRECTOR OF LAW AND PROPERTY

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List of Background Papers