

West Midlands Police

**Objections to vary the licence conditions of the Halesowen &
Hasbury Club 52 Hagley Road Halesowen B63 4RH**

With reference to the above application West Midlands Police are of the opinion that should the application be granted the licensing objective in relation to the prevention of public nuisance may be compromised.

The premises currently operate under a club premises certificate. My information is that a company called Westbourne Leisure took over the premises in the early part of 2009. Westbourne Leisure is a profit making organisation and since they have taken over the Hasbury Club it has been run in breach of its licensing conditions by selling alcohol by retail.

My attention was brought to this matter In December 2009. After enquiries at the premises it was found that there was no visitor's book in force and there was no way of monitoring who was a member at the premises and who was not. This was another breach of the club premises certificate that had been going on for a considerable time.

It was suggested that the best way forward for the premises would be to apply for a premises licence as there was no way the premises could continue running under its existing club premises certificate. In the meantime I was assured by the DPS Mr Kenny that a visitor's book would be re instated while the application went through.

When the application was submitted I noticed that there was a variation to the existing hours for the club for live music, recorded music, performance of dance, anything similar, making music, dancing late night refreshment and alcohol till midnight Sunday to Wednesday and till 0100hrs Thursday to Saturday. This was an hour in excess of the previous conditions. Further to this the application offered no specific information as to how the licensing objectives would be upheld. Due to the shoddy way the premises had been run since Westbourne took over, the fact that the club has no noise limiter, and is set in a heavily residential area I had fears over how the premises would be run. I asked Sue Stokes a representative of Westbourne dealing with the application if Westbourne would reconsider the application in respect of the hours requested until it

could be proved that the premises could be run responsibly. I also gave guidance on how they could improve the application by giving advice on how premises licence holders could take steps to uphold the licensing objectives. Sue Stokes agreed in principal to my proposal and agreed to re submit the application.

Since that time a new application has been submitted requesting hours for all licensable activities later still till 0130hrs operating as a proprietary club. On 26th February 2010 a month after my initial consultation I have found that the visitors book has still not been maintained. I have seized this book as evidence that during this previous month only one visitor has been signed in and that the signing in process is not being monitored with persons signing in with bogus names.

I feel that as company dealing with licensed premises Westbourne Leisure have little concern for the licensing act with maverick practices and a disregard of the advice of responsible authorities.

Until Westbourne Leisure can show some responsibility by operating this premises within the rules set out in the licensing act I have serious concerns for the residents that live near the premises that the licensing objectives in relation to noise and nuisance would be compromised. Westbourne Leisure have been content to operate outside of the licensing act to date and should be able to show how they can run the premises within the previous licensed timings in a proper fashion before any further extension to licensable activities is considered.

Mick Boyd
Licensing Dudley South