

Licensing Act Sub-Committee

Agenda

Date: Monday, 13th June, 2011
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Delamere 2, Floor 6, Delamere House, Delamere Street, Crewe
CW1 2JZ

The agenda is divided into 2 parts. Part 1 is taken in the presence of the public and press. Part 2 items will be considered in the absence of the public and press for the reasons indicated on the agenda and at the foot of each report.

PART 1 – MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC AND PRESS PRESENT

1. **Appointment of Chairman**

To appoint a Chairman for the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

To provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interests and for Members to declare if they have pre-determined any item on the agenda.

3. **Application for the Variation of a Premises Licence: Staffordshire Knot, 15 West Street, Congleton CW12 1JN (Pages 5 - 26)**

To consider an application for the variation of the Premises Licence for Staffordshire Knot, 15 West Street, Congleton CW12 1JN

THERE ARE NO PART 2 ITEMS

For requests for further information

Contact: Julie Zientek
Tel: 01270 686466
E-Mail: julie.zientek@cheshireeast.gov.uk

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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

PROCEDURE FOR HEARINGS – LICENSING ACT 2003

The Licensing Committee

The full Licensing Committee consists of fifteen elected Members of the Council. From this full Committee will be drawn sub-committees of three members to deal with licensing functions under the Licensing Act 2003. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Licensing Committee shall have the discretion to refer a matter up to a hearing of the full Licensing Committee.

Officers at Hearings

- **The Committee Officer** introduces all parties and records the proceedings
- **The Legal Adviser** provides independent advice to the Members on legal matters and procedure.
- **The Licensing Officer** will introduce the matter and outline the application; the officer will also answer any questions Members may have.

PROCEDURE

NOTE: If the Sub-Committee has not already elected a Chairman, that will be the first item of business.

1	Chairman	The Chairman will: (i) call the matter to be considered; (ii) call for any declarations of interest; (iii) ask all parties to introduce themselves; (iv) summarise the procedure to be followed at the hearing; (v) will consider any request made by a party for another person to appear at the hearing; (v) will advise the parties of any maximum period of time in which it has to present its case (if a maximum is imposed this shall be equal for all parties).
2	Licensing Officer	Will introduce and summarise the application, highlighting areas of contention or dispute.
3	Committee Members	May ask questions of the Licensing Officer
4	Applicant	Will present his/her case, calling witnesses, as appropriate. <i>(If necessary, applicant will produce any notices required by law. Legal Adviser will draw attention to this if required.)</i>
5	Responsible Authorities (who have made representations)	Each in turn may ask <u>questions</u> of the applicant, by way of clarification.

6	Local residents (ie. defined as “interested parties”)	To be invited to ask <u>questions</u> of the applicant, by way of clarification. <i>It is normal practice for a spokesperson only to speak on behalf of a group of residents.</i>
7	Committee Members	Each in turn may ask <u>questions</u> of the applicant.
8	Applicant	May make a <u>statement</u> or ask his witnesses to clarify any matters which he feels are unclear, or may have been misunderstood.
9	Responsible Authorities	Will make their representations.
10	Applicant	Or his representative or witnesses to ask <u>questions</u> of Responsible Authorities represented at the meeting, by way of clarification.
11	Local residents (ie. defined as “interested parties”)	May ask <u>questions</u> of the Responsible Authorities represented at the meeting, by way of clarification. (Note: This is not the point at which local residents should be stating their objections.)
12	Committee Members	May ask <u>questions</u> of the Responsible Authorities represented at the meeting
13	Local residents (ie. defined as “interested parties”)	The local residents who are objecting to the application will be invited <u>to make observations on the application</u> and present the bases of their objections.
15	Applicant	Or his representative or witnesses may ask <u>questions</u> of the Local Residents, by way of clarification.
16	Committee Members	May ask <u>questions</u> of the Local Residents.
17	Chairman	To invite both Responsible Authorities and Local Residents to make their closing addresses.
18	Applicant	Or his representative will <u>briefly summarise the application</u> and comment on the observations and any suggested conditions.
19	Committee	<u>Will retire</u> to consider the application. The Committee may request the Legal Advisor to advise on legal issues.
20	Committee	Will return to <u>give its decision</u> , with reasons, which will be announced by the Chairman and subsequently confirmed in writing to the applicant and to all the parties that made representations.

		In cases where a decision cannot be given at the end of the hearing, parties will be advised of the decision within five working days.
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Notes

1. The hearing shall normally be held in public. There may be occasions on which the Committee find it necessary to exclude members of the press and public; any such decision will be taken on the basis that the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing taking place in public.
2. The Chairman may require any person behaving in a disruptive manner to leave the hearing and may (a) refuse to permit that person to return, or (b) permit him/her to return only on such conditions as the authority may specify, but any such person may submit in writing any information which they would have been entitled to provide orally if they had not been required to leave.
3. Prior to the hearing each party shall have given notification and served documentation (eg statements of witnesses or reports of experts) as required. Late representations and evidence will only be considered with the agreement of all parties.
4. Anyone entitled to be heard may be represented by any person, whether or not that person is legally qualified.
5. Hearsay will be permitted but the Sub-Committee will be reminded to give it appropriate weight.
6. Due note shall be taken of the provisions of the Hearings Regulations 2005.
7. The Chair may, in the interests of expediency or convenience of the parties, vary the procedure from time to time, provided notice is given to the parties and the rules of natural justice are observed.

SUMMARY OF PROCEDURE

- 1 Chairman appointed (if this has not been done previously).
- 2 Chairman to call for declarations of interest and request that all parties introduce themselves.
- 3 Chairman summarises the procedure for the hearing
- 4 The Licensing Officer summarises the application
- 5 Applicant to present his/her case.
- 6 Applicant to be questioned by all parties (to clarify points only) following which, he/she can clarify any other matters which he/she feels may have been misunderstood when the application was presented.
- 7 Applicant to be questioned by the Committee.
- 8 Responsible Authorities to make their representations following which they can be questioned by all parties by way of clarification.
- 9 **Local residents** (defined as interested parties) will be invited to present the bases of their objections, following which they can be questioned by all parties by way of clarification.
- 10 The applicant will be invited to sum up his/her case
- 11 Committee/Sub-Committee withdraws to make its decision
- 12 Committee/Sub-Committee returns to announce its decision to all present.

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

LICENSING ACT SUB-COMMITTEE

Date of meeting **Monday 13th June 2011** **9:30 a.m.**

Report of: **Jane Cornes, Licensing Administration Officer**
Title: **Application for Variation of a Premises Licence**
 Staffordshire Knot, 15 West Street, Congleton

1.0 Report Summary

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide details of an application for the variation of an existing Premises Licence under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 ('the 2003 Act'). It outlines the current licence authorisations together with the evidence presented by the parties in relation to the application.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Licensing Act Sub-Committee is requested to:

2.1.1 consider the variation application and any relevant representations received; and

2.1.2 determine what steps, if any it considers are necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 The Licensing Act Sub-Committee has the power to determine this application in accordance with the provisions of the 2003 Act.

4.0 Wards Affected

4.1 Congleton West Ward

5.0 Local Ward Members

Councillor Gordon Baxendale
Councillor Roland Domleo
Councillor David Topping

6.0 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The Licensing Authority has adopted a Statement of Licensing Policy in accordance with section 5 of the 2003 Act and Guidance issued under section 182 of the 2003 Act.

7.0 Financial Implications 2011/12 and beyond

- 7.1 None

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 Where relevant representations are received in relation to an application for the variation of a Premises Licence under section 34, the Licensing Authority must hold a hearing within 20 working days (of the end of the consultation period) to consider both the application and the relevant representations.
- 8.2 Section 35 of the 2003 Act provides that before determining the application, the authority must hold a hearing to consider it and any relevant representations. In accordance with the provisions of section 35 of the 2003 Act, the authority must, having regard to the application and any relevant representations, take such of the steps mentioned in subsection (4) (if any) as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. Sub-section 35(4) provides that the authority may: (a) modify the conditions of the licence; or (b) reject the whole or part of the application;

9.0 Risk Assessment

- 9.1 Section 181 and Schedule 5 of the 2003 Act make provision for appeal to the Magistrates' Court of any decision made by the Licensing Authority.

10.0 Background and Options

- 10.1 Mr Valentino Paolo Martone applied on the 18th April 2011 for a variation to the Premises Licence (under section 34 of the 2003 Act) for the Premises known as Staffordshire Knot, 15 West Street, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1JN. The variation application is to extend the Licensing activities hours to:-

Live Music	11:00 – 02:30 Every day (Indoors)
Recorded Music	11:00 – 02:30 Every day (Indoors)
Similar Regulated Entertainment	11:00 – 02:30 Every day (Indoors)
Making Music & Dancing	11:00 – 02:30 Every day (Indoors)
Similar Entertainment Facilities	11:00 – 02:30 Every day (Indoors)
Late Night Refreshment	11:00 – 02:30 Every day (Indoors)
Supply of Alcohol	11:00 – 02:30 Every day
	(Christmas Eve and New Years Eve until 04:00 hours)
	Saturday and Sunday of all Bank holidays until 02:30 am

Opening hours of the Premises 10:00 – 03:00 hrs
(Christmas Eve/New Years Eve opening hours until 04:30)
Saturday and Sunday of all Bank holidays opening until 03:00 am

The steps offered to promote the licensing objectives are:-

- More stringent management with an emphasis on responsible levels of alcohol sales in order to ensure no drunk or disorderly behaviour which could harm the public occurs.
- Employ more staff including security staff to ensure alcohol is sold in responsible quantities and to stop any anti social behaviour before it can become a public safety issue.
- Stricter sales of alcohol to be enforced.

10.3 The Designated Premises Supervisor is: Mr Valentino Paolo Martone

10.4 A copy of the Premises Licence for the above mentioned premises is attached as : **Appendix A**.

10.5 The consultation period for this variation application ended on 16th May 2011. During the consultation period representations were made by persons living and working in the vicinity. The objections concern the potential for public nuisance, rowdy and anti-social behaviour and property damage, together with alcohol related crime which, it is believed by the persons making representations, could be associated with this Licence, Copies of the representations are attached at :(**Appendix B**). (1-6)

A location plan is also attached (**Appendix C**) showing Staffordshire Knot highlighted and surrounding residential area.

10.6 The Licensing Authority has been advised that Mr Smethurst, (Cheshire Police Licensing Officer) met with the applicant to discuss the application. The Licensing Authority has received notification from the Police that an agreement was reached with the applicant that the following conditions would be attached to the licence in order to promote the licensing objectives:

- A CCTV system will be installed at the premises to the satisfaction of the Police Licensing Officer and this will continuously record at all times the premises are open to the public. Unedited recorded images will be securely stored at the premises for a minimum period of 28 days and copies made freely available upon request to a constable or to an employee of Cheshire Police or the local authority.
- Door supervisors will be on duty at the premises every Friday and Saturday and on New Years Eve from 10pm and they are to remain at the premises until the premises close to the public.

- The Designated Premises Supervisor, or another responsible member of the management team, will regularly attend the local Pubwatch meetings.
- No glass, bottle or other vessel may be taken outside the premises after 10pm.
- The proof of age scheme Challenge 25 will be operated for all sales of alcohol.

The Licensing Authority has also received notification from Margaret Hopley (Environmental Health Officer) of Cheshire East Council that agreement has been reached with the applicant for the following conditions to be added to the licence to promote the licensing objectives:

1. Noise or vibration shall not emanate from the premises so as to cause a nuisance to nearby residents.
2. Refuse such as bottles shall be disposed of from the premises at a time (i.e. between 08:00 to 22:00) when it is not likely to cause a disturbance to residents in the vicinity of the premises.
3. There shall be placed at all exits from the premises in a place where they can be seen and easily read by the public, notices requiring customers to leave the premises and the area quietly.
4. Whilst regulated entertainment is taking place, all windows and doors shall remain closed.

No other representations have been received from any of the Responsible Authorities.

- 10.7 In determining the application, the Licensing Act Sub-Committee must have regard to representations made by the applicant and any representations received from responsible authorities or interested parties. The Committee is required to take such steps (if any) as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

11.0 Overview of Day One, Year One and Term One Issues

11.1 Not Applicable

12.0 Access to Information

There are no background papers associated with this report.

For further information:

Officer: Mrs Jane Cornes
Designation: Licensing Administration Officer
Tel No: (01270) 537113
Email: jane.cornes@cheshireeast.gov.uk

**Schedule 12
Part A**

Regulation 33,34

**Premises Licence
*Cheshire East Borough Council***

Premises Licence Number

LAPRE/1265/05

Part 1 – Premises Details

Postal address of premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description, including Post Town, Post Code

Staffordshire Knot
15 West Street
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1JN

Telephone number

Where the licence is time limited the dates

Licensable activities authorised by the licence

Supply of Alcohol
Performance of Live Music
Performance of Recorded Music
Similar Regulated Entertainment
Provision of facilities for Dancing
Making Music
Similar provision of Entertainment Facilities

Times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities

All permitted licensable activities

Every Day 11:00 - 00:00

Burn's Night, Valentines Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday, St George's Day, Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, Saturday and Sunday of all Bank Holidays - until 01.00

The opening hours of the premises

Monday	10:00 - 00:30
Tuesday	10:00 - 00:30
Wednesday	10:00 - 00:30
Thursday	10:00 - 00:30
Friday	10:00 - 00:30
Saturday	10:00 - 00:30
Sunday	10:00 - 00:30

Burn's Night, Valentines Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday, St George's Day, Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, Saturday and Sunday of all Bank Holidays - until 01.30

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and / or off supplies

Alcohol is supplied for consumption both on and off the Premises

Part 2

Name, (registered) address, telephone number and email (where relevant) of holder of premises licence

Mr Valentino Paolo Martone
4 Heydon Close
Congleton
Cheshire. CW12 4UR

Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable)

Name, address and telephone number of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol

Mr Valentino Paolo Martone
4 Heydon Close
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 4UR

Personal licence number and issuing authority of personal licence held by designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol

Personal Licence Reference: LAPER/0307/10

Licensing Authority: Cheshire East Borough Council

Annex 1 – Mandatory conditions

- 1 No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence: At times when there is no designated supervisor in respect of the licence, or at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence, or their licence is suspended.
- 2 Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

Licensing Act 2003 (Mandatory Licensing Conditions) Order 2010 The following conditions are effective from 6th April 2010.

- 3 The responsible person shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that staff do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.
An irresponsible promotions means any more or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises in a manner which carries a significant risk of leading or contributing to crime and disorder, prejudice to public safety, public nuisance, or harm to children-
 - a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to –
 - i. drink a quantity of alcohol, within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or
 - ii. drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise);
 - b) provision of unlimited unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed price or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic (Other than any promotion or discount available to an individual in respect of alcohol for consumption at a table meal, as defined in section 159 of the Licensing Act);
 - c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less;
 - d) provision of free or discounted alcohol in relation to the viewing on the premises of a sporting event, where the provision is dependent on –
 - i. the outcome of a race, competition or other event or process, or
 - ii. the likelihood of anything occurring or not occurring;
 - e) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner.
- 4 The responsible person shall ensure that no alcohol is dispensed directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of a disability).
- 5 The responsible person shall ensure that free tap water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.

The following conditions are effective from 01 October 2010:

6. a) The premises licence holder shall ensure that an age verification policy applies to the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.
 - b) The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and a holographic mark.

7. The responsible person shall ensure that -

- a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures –
 - i. beer or cider; half pint;
 - ii. gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and
 - iii. still wine in a glass: 125 ml; and
- b) customers are made aware of the availability of these measures.

Annex 2 – Conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule

There shall be in place for the Premises a Challenge 25 proof of age scheme which must be operated for all sales of alcohol. The policy shall require any person who appears to be under the age of 25 years of age to produce a "PASS" accredited proof of age card or, if a proof of age card is not available, a photocard driving licence, passport or national identity card to prove that they are over the age of 18 years.

Annex 3 – Conditions attached after a hearing by the licensing authority

None

Annex 4 – Plans

The Plan 1265/05 can be viewed at the Licensing Authority.

Part B

Premises Licence Summary
Cheshire East Borough Council

Premises Licence Number

LAPRE/1265/05

Part 1 – Premises Details

Postal address of premises, or if none, ordnance survey map reference or description, including Post Town, Post Code

Staffordshire Knot
15 West Street
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1JN

Telephone number

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Burn's Night, Valentines Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday, St George's Day, Christmas Eve, Boxing Day, Saturday and Sunday of all Bank Holidays - until 01.30

Where the licence authorises supplies of alcohol whether these are on and / or off supplies

Alcohol is supplied for consumption both on and off the Premises

Name, (registered) address of holder of premises licence

Mr Valentino Paolo Martone
Staffordshire Knot
15 West Street
Congleton
Cheshire. CW12 1JN

Registered number of holder, for example company number, charity number (where applicable)

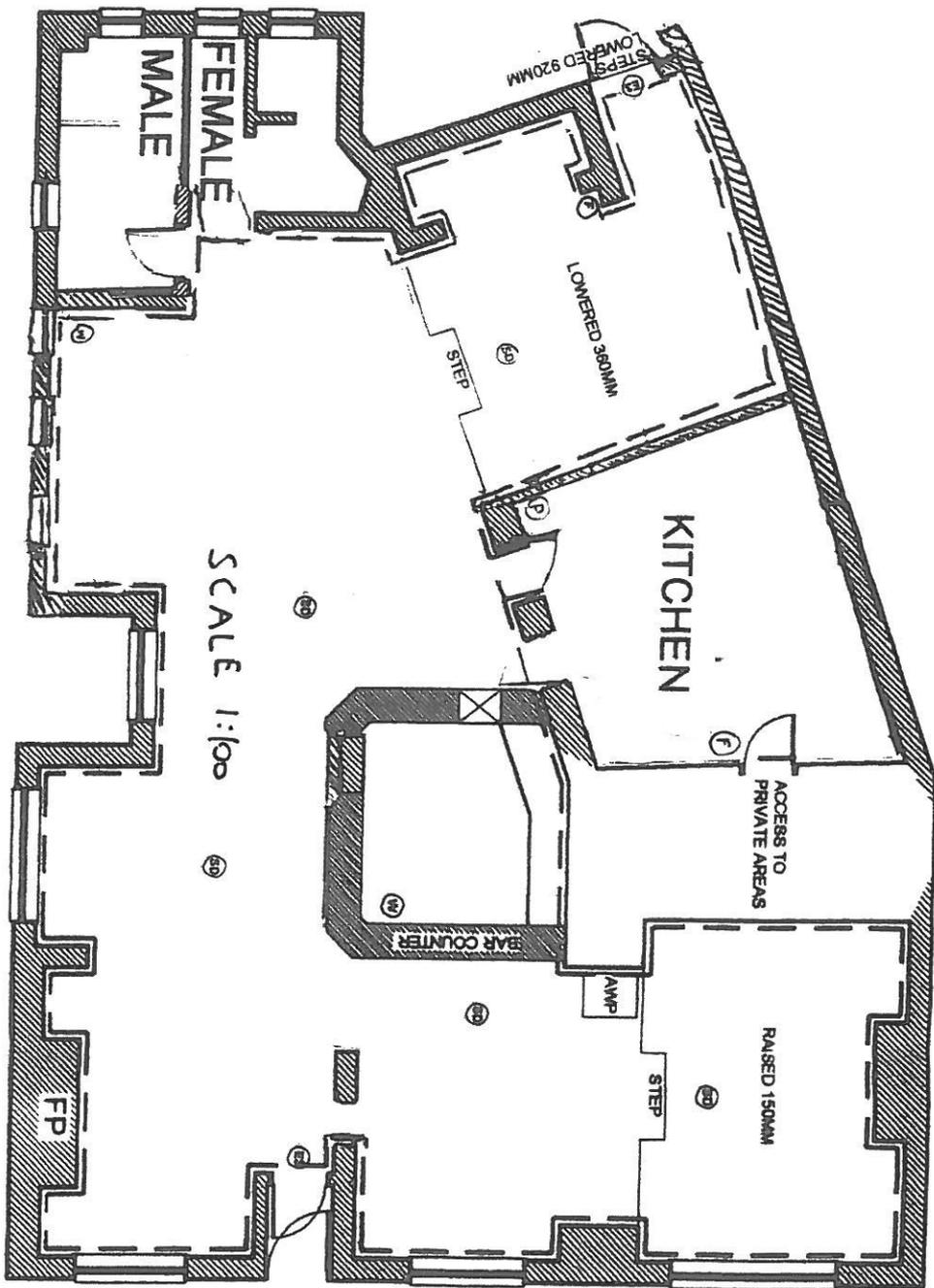
Name of designated premises supervisor where the premises licence authorises for the supply of alcohol

Mr Valentino Paolo Martone

State whether access to the premises by children is restricted or prohibited

Restricted

Licence Granted: 07.03.2011



SCALE 1:100

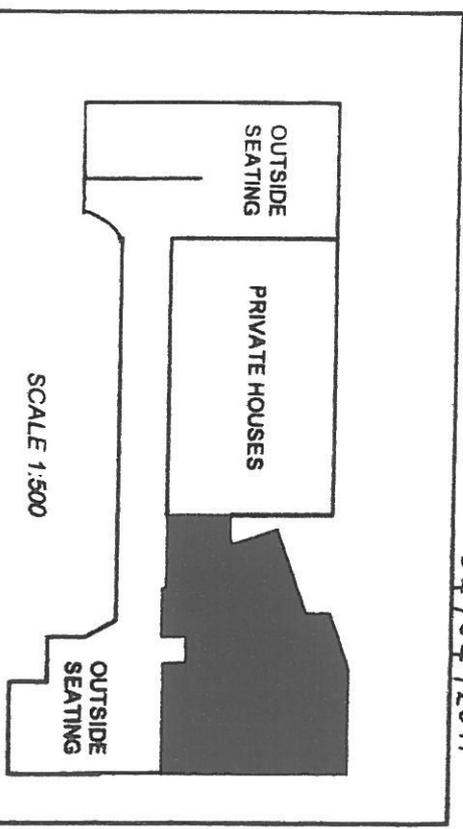
EXISTING GROUND FLOOR PLAN

KEY

- ☉ SMOKE DETECTOR
- ☉ WATER EXTINGUISHER
- ☉ FOAM EXTINGUISHER
- ☉ DRY POWDER EXTINGUISHER
- ☉ ILLUMINATED EXIT SIGN WITH DIRECTIONAL ARROW
- ☐ CIG CIGARETTE VENDING MACHINE
- ☐ AMP FRUIT MACHINE

1:100

04/04/2011



SCALE 1:500

DENOTES THE SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

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1.

Longleton
Buckinghamshire

12-5-2011

Dear Sir

I am objecting to licensing hours being requested for the Public House the Staffordshire Knot in West Street.

As a long time resident in the street (58 years) I can only imagine what a life will now be like with not one but two licensed properties across from one another, with live music and liquor on hand until 3 am, not a pleasant thought.

There has been trouble from the Public House before when

police were called, so who can say what will happen with longer hours, and time to down more alcohol ~~and~~ available.

I hope that common sense will prevail when granting this licence.

Mrs.

Licensing Department
Municipal Buildings
Earle Street
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 2BJ

at
Congleton
Cheshire

12th May 2011

Dear Sir or Madam,

Ref Applicant, The Staffordshire Knot, 15 West Street Congleton CW12 1JN

I am writing with regard to the above premises and their application to extend the existing licence to serve alcohol & entertain until 3 AM.

I wish to register my objections to this application.

Over the last 15 years or so this particular public house has undergone several alterations to the inside which have not really increased the dwindling customers. So in an effort to increase the patronage disco nights & karaoke were tried & live entertainment was advertised & put on. The DJ's announcements & loud music could be heard the length of the street late into the night. This coupled with the existing late hour drinking led to late night drunkenness, noise, abusive language, fighting and vandalism by patrons leaving the pub.

There was a massive brawl back in March last year where property was damaged people were hospitalised after late drinking & entertainment went wrong and the publican and staff were unable to control this rioting & the police force had to send 8 cars to restore law & order.

At the age of 84 I am most concerned that these kinds of incidents do not re occur & I can sleep undisturbed safely at night without the fear of such activities.

CCTV & doormen make no difference to people's drunken behaviour once they have left the premises they just couldn't care less & no one stops taxis blowing their horns & shouting to get fare paying drinkers to come out of the pub, this followed by car doors slamming & engines revving in the early hours. It is totally unfair on the streets residents asleep in their own homes.

Having lived in this street for 57 years or more I feel that it would be ill considered to increase the drinking hours & entertainment license of any pub to such a late 3am hour of the morning. Moreover should not this type of extended drinking & entertaining be confined to purpose built nightclubs in their correct locations? Not in the middle of a residential area where the outfall is intolerable for the surrounding community thus spoiling decent people's lives.

I ask that you give my objections to this application your most serious consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Congleton
CV12 1JR

12.5.11

15 West Street, Congleton, CV12 1JR.

To whom it May Concern,

I am writing with disagreement if the license is permitted for alcohol and entertainment at the above address.

I believe they are applying for a 3am closure, 7 days a week.

As a new resident to Congleton, only living here for 9 months I have in that short time had three started burglaries and also there has been damage to the 48 West Street and Vortex garage. I know this has been due to Best Pacts and Duttons etc, however since there closure 'West Street' has been blissful, so I'm sure you can appreciate my disapproval to this application.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours Sincerely,

1

1

Congleton
Cheshire

12/05/11

F.A.O.
Licensing Department
Municipal Buildings
Earle Street
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 2BJ

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to object about the extended licence application for-THE STAFFORDSHIRE KNOT, 15 WEST STREET, CONGLETON, CW12 1JN.

My reason for objecting is that WEST STREET is just around the corner a few minutes walk from RIVER STREET and I don't want any possible noise disturbances or vandalism outside my house at three o'clock in the morning!

I can't understand why a pub wants to be serving alcohol up until that time every night / morning? If people want to party and drink in the early hours then there's already a nightclub in the town centre which is out of the way of private houses.

No-one wants their community and lives affected by alcohol drinking until all hours, let alone the risk of a repeat of what happened at this pub in March last year when a "riot" broke out which the local newspaper the Congleton Chronicle front page reported on, with up to 30 people involved, 8 police cars in attendance at the scene, the road had to be cordoned off, bottles were being hurled and glasses smashed, several assaults including an attack on a woman bystander, and a man being thrown through a full size shop window.

A 3.00am license any day of the week is in my opinion totally inappropriate for this venue, these are my views and reasons for strongly objecting about a 3.00am license in a nice quiet residential street which is also sited in a conservation area!

Thanking You,

Yours Sincerely,

Congleton
Cheshire

12th May 2011

Licensing Department
Municipal Buildings
Earle Street
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 2BJ

Application Reference: - The Staffordshire Knot, 15 West Street, Congleton, CW12 1JN.

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are writing with respect to the above license application to extend the licensing and entertainment hours up until a 3.00am in the early hours of the morning. We wish to register our objection to this application.

As the owners and residents of number West Street, Congleton, for the past 56 years we have enjoyed living in our family home which is situated in a **Conservation Area** surrounded by other residential period and listed properties.

Along with our neighbours, we are all very concerned about the excessive licensing hours which have been applied for. The application licensing hours in which to serve and consume alcohol on a **daily basis** would seemingly be far more appropriate to the requirement of a nightclub establishment as opposed to a public house.

We most certainly did not envisage the possibility of any unsociable hours disruption of early morning revellers at 3.00am or even later spilling out onto a residential street on a potential **carte blanche** daily basis, in our opinion the Staffordshire Knot's existing licensing hours are quite appropriate for the public house location, with residential properties sited to the rear and a row of terraced houses sited opposite to the frontage. There is also an outside area to the pub which if used for entertainment could cause a further noise nuisance to residents.

A major late night incident that took place in March 2010 last year outside this public house was an extremely frightening experience; we were absolutely terrified inside our own home with rioting taking place in the street. The street was cordoned off with 8 police cars present at the scene, there were bottles being thrown, glasses being smashed, shouting, fighting, people being assaulted, a lady attacked and a man thrown through a shop window. It was horrendous and we most certainly do not want to ever risk being subjected to a repeat occurrence.

We are both extremely concerned about noise in the quiet and still of night combined with any potential alcohol related anti-social behaviour that may occur. Another concern we have is related to possible vandalism and property damage which is often associated to late night drinking.

Could you please give serious consideration to our objections as we are retired senior citizens both in our eighties and living with disabilities. At this time in our lives to have our nightly sleep pattern being constantly disturbed would be intolerable.

Yours sincerely,

WEST STREET CONGLETON
CONGLETON, CHESHIRE
TELEPHONE

Licensing Department
Municipal Buildings
Earle Street
Crewe
CW1 2BJ

13th May 2011

Application Reference - The Staffordshire Knot, 15 West Street, Congleton, CW12 1JN.

Dear Sir or Madam,

As the property owner and sole business proprietor of _____ which is sited in close proximity to the applicant, I would like to object to the licensing hours applied for in relation to above application.

I am extremely concerned with respect to a 3.00am finish and the consequences it may entail with the consumption of alcohol until this unsociable hour of the morning on what would be entitled to be a regular nightly occurrence, if the existing license is extended.

At present West Street at 3.00am is virtually silent in the still of night and should remain this way to ensure that its residents are embellished the entitlement of a peaceful night's sleep and properties remain to a certain extent untroubled by destructive vandalism.

As statistics clearly show alcohol consumption often fuels - noise, public urinating, vomiting, verbal abuse, wilful vandalism, violence and crime. We have all seen TV footage and media coverage of this type of despicable behaviour that affects so many of our cities and towns, especially apparent in the early hours of the morning when groups of people exit premises onto our streets and the vast expenses incurred in public services stretched to their limits in trying to contain these diabolical situations.

In fact this exact type of despicable behaviour was witnessed first hand by the residents and businesses of West Street when a major incident occurred late at night in March 2010 outside this public house.

The incident was described in detail on the front page of the Congleton Chronicle, it involved numerous police and vehicles in attendance, a mass brawl with fighting, bottles used as missiles, broken glasses, assaults, a lady bystander being attacked, and almost unbelievably a person was actually thrown through a shop window pane.

This is only a brief outline of the actual happenings and property damage so perhaps you can understand serious concerns over extending this license to allow 2.30am entertainment and alcohol consumption, with a 3.00am finish on what could be a daily basis if granted. There are residential properties to the rear and opposite the pub which also has an outside area, perhaps this and even open pub windows or doors should be taken into consideration regarding entertainment and possible uncontained outside noise disturbance. There is also the associated factor of taxis or vehicle noise in the still of night and early hours to be considered.

Congleton is a market town and West Street is primarily a residential area which has an abundance of properties of architectural heritage. West Street is sited within the towns conservation area and I would ask consideration be given to this and other aforementioned concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

Appendix C



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