

Licensing Act Sub-Committee

Supplementary Agenda

Date: Friday, 30th October, 2020

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Virtual

3. **Application for a new Premises Licence at The Bridge Hotel, The Village, Prestbury, SK10 4DQ (Pages 3 - 26)**

This page is intentionally left blank

HELLON, Richard

From: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Sent: 12-Oct-2020 08:58
To: [REDACTED] HELLON, Richard
Subject: [OFFICIAL] FW: Letter of support for the Bridge Prestbury

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10-Oct-2020 18:01
To: LICENSING (Cheshire East)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter of support for the Bridge Prestbury

To whom ever this may concern,

Please accept this email & full support of the Bridge, Prestbury.

The Bridge, is a wonderful asset to the village & local community to which I belong. It's brought families from far & near to try their culinary delights & wonderful hospitality.

Including weekend breaks & the most breathtaking wedding venue.

This in turn brings custom & business to the whole village which is very happily accepted.

The Bridge has been beautifully restored to its former glory & friends & family (including our four legged friends) can appreciate the beautiful gardens & wonderful music soirées, which brings it to a whole new level.

The setting is utterly tranquil with the river Bollin gently flowing by...

It also brings many jobs to local residents & young students which adds to the community feel of the place.

The Bridge is back on the map again where it truly belongs.

Friends, family & myself fully support it in any way we can.

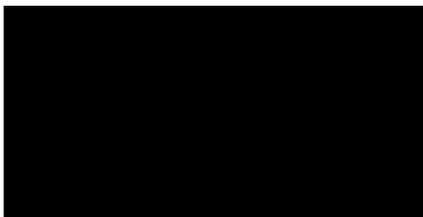
Regards,



This page is intentionally left blank

EVANS, Kim

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 08-Oct-2020 12:06
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Support for license



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 October 2020 14:27
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Support for license

Subject: Support for license

Hi Dom

I believe the Bridge wants to extend their licence and as a local resident who lives near by I would like to say how much we like the new appearance and vibe that the Bridge is giving. I've had some lovely times their recently, especially Since you introduced the live music.

I have noted some points below to support you and hope you succeed.
I would point out these positives.

- Brings trade & custom to the area and to other local shops/businesses
- Live Music that is not intrusive to residents
- Adds positive value to the local Prestbury community
- Brings a popular social space that was not previously available
- Family friendly environment
- Quality establishment
- Local residents that use the property on a regular basis
- Puts Prestbury on the gastronomic map
- Provides superb event spaces

Only one point to ask would be that live music late nights would be restricted to weekends as during the week might be too much for your locals.

Kind regards [REDACTED]

Please feel free to forward this email with your application.

OPERATING SCHEDULE

Hours

Sale of alcohol and regulated entertainment: 11:00 – 01:00 Monday to Saturday; 11:00 – 00:00 Sunday (01:00 Bank Holiday Sundays)

Late night refreshment 23:00 – 01:00 Monday to Saturday; 23:00 – 00:00 Sunday (01:00 Bank Holiday Sundays)

Opening: 24/7

A) The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

1. A CCTV system shall be maintained and operated at the premises with cameras positioned both externally and internally.
2. Recorded CCTV images will be maintained and stored for a period of twenty-eight days and shall be produced to the Police or Licensing Authority upon request.
3. CCTV will be in operation at any time a person is in the premises. Where CCTV is recorded onto a hard drive system, any DVDs subsequently produced will be in a format so it can be played back on a standard PC or DVD player.
4. Any person left in charge of the premises must be trained in the use of any such CCTV equipment, and be able to produce CCTV images to an officer from a responsible authority upon request.
5. SIA registered door staff shall be employed at the premises, in accordance with a risk assessment, to be carried out by the DPS on an event by event basis.
6. When employed, a register of those door staff employed shall be maintained at the premises and shall include:
 - (i) the number of door staff on duty;
 - (ii) the identity of each member of door staff;
 - (iii) the times the door staff are on duty.
7. Open containers of alcohol shall not be removed from the hotel or its grounds.
8. Staff will be trained in the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 with regard to the licensing objectives and the laws relating to under age sales and the sale of alcohol to intoxicated persons, and that training shall be documented and repeated at 6 monthly intervals.
9. Any and all instances of crime and disorder will be reported promptly to the police.
10. An incident log shall be kept at the premises and made available for inspection on request to an authorised officer of the Council or Police, which will record the following:
 - (i) All crimes reported to the venue
 - (ii) Any complaints received
 - (iii) Any refusal of the sale of alcohol
 - (iv) Any visit by a responsible authority or emergency service

The incident log shall be reviewed and signed by the DPS on a monthly basis.

B) Public Safety

1. Adequate and appropriate first aid equipment and materials will be kept on site, regularly checked and kept in an easily accessible place by staff.
2. Regular safety checks shall be carried out by staff.
3. Management shall liaise with the Fire Authority as necessary to ensure compliance with all necessary fire regulations.
4. The premises shall maintain public liability insurance.
5. All exit routes throughout the premises shall be kept unobstructed, free of trip hazards and clearly signed.
6. Public areas will be maintained free from obstruction and trip hazards.

C) The Prevention of Public Nuisance

1. Appropriate and effective measures shall be taken at all times to ensure that any noise from the premises shall not be at a level which could cause a noise nuisance at the nearest residential premises.
2. The grounds of the hotel shall be cleared of litter at regular intervals.
3. Conspicuous notices shall be erected in positions within the Hotel building and at exit doors which are clearly noticeable to patrons – to request customers to be considerate in terms of noise as they leave the premises and to leave the area quickly and quietly. This should be reinforced by staff and any DJ/band as patrons leave the building.
4. All external windows and doors shall be closed whilst amplified music is taking place, except for normal access and egress.
5. No licensable activities shall take place outside after 11pm daily.
6. Outside areas shall not be used, save for smokers, after 11pm Sunday to Thursday and midnight Friday and Saturday (and Bank Holiday Sundays).
7. The premises licence holder shall maintain a tamper proof in house sound system which must be used for all performances of live and recorded music. The sound system will include a limiter which will be set, in conjunction with the Environmental Health Team at Cheshire East Council, at such a level as to ensure that a nuisance is not caused to nearby noise sensitive properties.
8. The Licence Holder/Designated Premises Supervisor or responsible person nominated by him/her in charge of the premises shall ensure that regular noise assessments are made around the site boundary during the playing of live and amplified music to ensure that any noise emanating from the premises is not likely to cause a noise nuisance at the boundary of the nearest noise sensitive properties. Appropriate action shall be taken to reduce the level of noise where it is likely to cause a disturbance to local residents. A log book shall be maintained which details the date, time, type of entertainment, person undertaking the check, notes as regards the assessment of the noise and action taken if necessary. The log book should be kept at The Bridge Hotel and made available for inspection by an authorised officer of the Council at any time.
9. Live and recorded music shall not take place externally after 10.30pm on any day.
10. A Dispersal Policy and a Smoking and AI-Fresco Dining Policy shall be implemented and adhered to – see attached.
11. Customers shall be permitted to stay inside the premises whilst waiting for taxis.

12. There shall be no disposal of bottles outside the premises between the hours of 20:00 and 09:00.
13. There shall be no disposal of refuse outside the premises or deliveries made to the premises between the hours of 20:00 and 07:30.
14. The Licence Holder/Designated Premises Supervisors or responsible person nominated by him in charge of the Premises shall ensure that the Premises, including the car park, are vacated quietly within 30 minutes of the terminal hour of the Licence, and that proper supervision of all persons leaving the car park and otherwise leaving the premises is provided.
15. Conspicuous notices shall be positioned in the car park requesting patrons to make the minimum amount of noise on leaving.

D) The Protection of Children From Harm

1. A "Challenge 25" Policy shall be implemented in full and appropriate identification sought from any person who appears to be under the age of 25. The only acceptable forms of ID are photographic driving licences, passports, HM forces warrant cards, EU/EEA national ID card or similar document or a form of identification with the "PASS" hologram.
2. Staff training will include the Challenge 25 Policy and its operation. In particular, staff shall be trained to take such action as is necessary to prevent the sale of alcohol to persons over the age of 18 where those customers are engaged in the distribution of alcohol to persons under the age of 18. The training must be given to a new member of staff before they commence employment and all staff must receive refresher training every 6 months.
3. Notices advising what forms of ID are acceptable must be displayed.
4. Notices must be displayed in prominent positions indicating that the Challenge 25 policy is in force.

This page is intentionally left blank



THE BRIDGE:
BEFORE & AFTER



Before

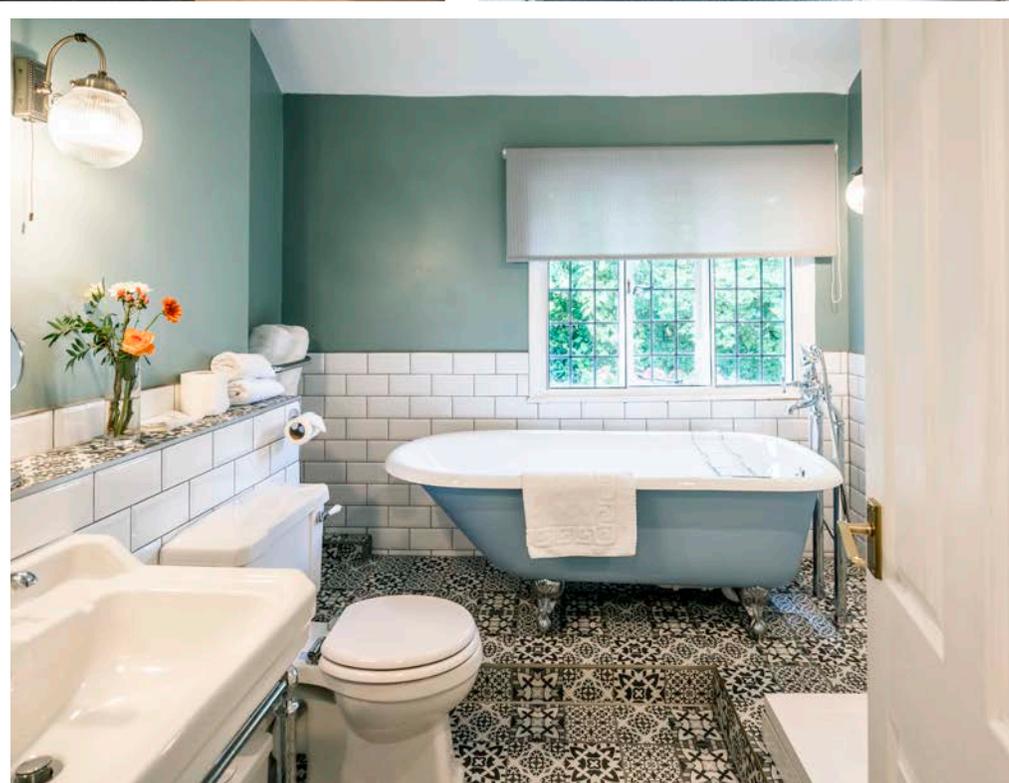


Before



Before

After



After



After



Page 17





After



After



WITNESS STATEMENT OF DOMINIC HEYWOOD

1. My name is Dominic Heywood and I am the co-founder of Flat Cap Hotels. I make this statement in support of the application made by the The Bridge Cheshire Limited for a new premises licence for The Bridge Hotel, Prestbury; and in response to the representations received against this.

Background

2. I would firstly wish to give the Committee some brief background on Flat Cap Hotels.
3. Flat Cap Hotels is a family owned and operated restaurant, bar, bedroom and event brand firmly rooted in the heart of Cheshire. We are a passionately independent group of hotels with a highly individual view of the hospitality world. We offer boutique bedrooms, flamboyant furnishings and beautifully restyled interiors. We have taken distressed buildings with great historical and local importance through full refurbishments, re-imaging the spaces before welcoming the public into the stunning venues.
4. Since our inception, the aim and ethos of Flat Cap Hotels has been to bring something very different to the table, combining a flair for the extraordinary with a fondness for fine food, imaginatively presented.
5. As a group, we continuously invest in the local areas in which we are occupied. We always use local suppliers, such as the local butcher, farmers and dairies, and we have even established our very own product line with The Prestbury Candle Company.
6. We work, live and operate in Cheshire and take advantage of the abundance of wonderful local businesses to ensure that the surrounding economy is always firmly

supported by the Flat Cap Group. We are not a national company; we champion local employment and local business.

7. Our all day dining concept; and our cosy staycations; as well as our ability to allow people to meet, entertain and hold any event, from weddings, christenings and funerals to baby showers mean that we can and do accommodate people of all ages and needs. We continue to embrace the community of Cheshire by frequently implementing offers and encouraging people not only to visit our venues such as The Bridge, but also the local areas, like Prestbury High Street.

The Bridge

8. In terms of the Bridge itself, I would say that since acquiring the site in 2018 we have done huge amounts to improve and modernise the site. The Bridge has been a pub since the 1600s, and has been recorded as a coaching inn for much of its existence. From 1955 – 2016 it was owned and operated by a local family who established it as a restaurant, bar and hotel in the sort of form it trades today.
9. It has long been used as a wedding and events venue, and has long had the benefit of the wonderful outdoor space nearby the River Bollin.
10. Unfortunately, though, despite its long history, the venue then saw a significant downturn in trade. It was generating very little income, was unable to maintain its status as a focal point of the village and contribute to the local economy and champion other local businesses. Ultimately, and very sadly the business went into administration. We bought The Bridge from the administrators, saving it from becoming yet another lost local pub, an empty, boarded up building which in my view would have been a stain on the High Street.
11. Indeed, when we acquired the premises the Grade II listed building was in a state of disrepair. The Flat Cap Group committed a sizeable investment into the building and undertook a sympathetic restoration to safeguard its listed status and its future in the village. We fully refurbished all 27 bedrooms as well as the restaurant and event spaces. In doing this we have taken all the charm and history of the building, updating it whilst preserving its stunning listed features.

12. The extensive renovations and refurbishments that have been undertaken have insured that the restaurant is a point of interest and has placed this historic landmark firmly back on the Cheshire map. We are really proud of this achievement. I attach a document with images showing the premises both before and after our renovations.
13. The event spaces can cater for all sorts of events, from family celebrations to corporate events for people from all ages. We also provide space for local art classes and yoga classes and are often hosts to local businesses such as Dress Cheshire and The Prestbury Candle Company. It is intrinsic to our core values that we provide a beautiful and attractive space for the local community, as well as attracting visitors to the area to boost the local economy, which is the backbone to any community.

Community

14. Indeed, being part of the community is really important to us. I am therefore of course upset to hear that we have caused distress to some in the local community. This really would never be our intention – we want to be a valued and positive part of the area. I hope that during the course of the hearing we can explain our proposals and the reasons behind our application fully in order to provide comfort to those who have made objections.
15. However, I am also truly heartened by the positive comments we have received. I am pleased that we are described as a ‘positive addition to the village economy and community’, amongst many other things. This is exactly what we strive to be.
16. Under the management of Dominic Gotellier, who is a local resident of Prestbury himself, having lived there for 30 years, I believe that the premises has gone from strength to strength. He has brought a wealth of experience in the service industry to ensure that The Bridge is a prosperous and welcoming location and a true community asset. We are proud of our investment in the local community, our employment of local people and making the premises a true destination in the local area.
17. Since taking over the premises, we have regularly attended Parish Council meetings, previously in person and more recently online. We have contributed to the village financially in many ways, from Christmas fairs and Christmas lights; the upcoming installation of poppies in the village; and the development of the car park on Bridge

Green. This is a testament to our devotion to the village and our desire to have a positive relationship with local residents.

18. Another proud period for me has been our response to the Covid-19 crisis. This year has been immensely difficult for all in the hospitality industry, but also for our community as a whole. I believe that we contributed to making things just a little bit better in our local area. We provided care packages and a full takeaway service to the local community and delivered this within the village of Prestbury and beyond. This had great success and has allowed us to forge new relationships with members of the community. It also allowed us to continue using our local produce suppliers during worrying times for them.
19. We also opened our hotel rooms to NHS staff throughout lockdown to aid in the fight against Covid-19. We offered accommodation and a full menu, and in doing so we met the strict safety guidelines set by the health service to minimise the spread of the virus. These policies remain in place today and allow us to provide a safe space for customers and staff alike.

External Area

20. In terms of business, as I have said, Covid-19 has had a catastrophic effect on all hospitality businesses, and as such we have had to adapt our business to give ourselves the best chance of a future in Prestbury. We have invested in thermal imaging fever detection devices and a track and trace information gathering system. We also have a wireless access door that can be opened from customers' phones without the use of keys.
21. In line with recommendations, regulations and guidelines around outdoor spaces, we are providing a safe and secure social gathering space outdoors on our riverside terrace. This means that households that have been in lockdown for many months can socialise with their loved ones in a safe and secure way. We have been really keen to create a versatile and accessible outdoor space to safely cater for all.
22. We have offered music in the external area because we consider that it offers something different and some valuable additional ambience. We have had excellent feedback from customers who have enjoyed a meal or a few drinks in the external

area accompanied by some quality music from local bands and artists. Indeed, many of the supportive representations talk about what a welcome addition the music has been. Indeed, people have been unable to enjoy things like drinks and live music for some months, and we really do feel that we are offering something that most in the local area consider to be welcome and the sort of thing that has been missed for many months of this year.

23. However, we absolutely would not wish to carry this out in a way that causes concern or disturbance to other local residents. We absolutely apologise if this has been the case previously. I hope that the Committee can understand that we have been trying to diversify our business in response to a really difficult year and have been trying new things.
24. We are not, in this application, seeking to do anything in terms of music that is different to what we are currently permitted to do, as will be detailed during the course of the hearing. However, what we will do is offer clear and enforceable conditions and restrictions on our entertainment going forward to ensure that we operate it without causing a nuisance.
25. I have absolutely no doubt that our team will achieve this. It is absolutely in our interests to do so. We want to continue to provide the food, drinks, entertainment, atmosphere and venue that our customers, both local and further afield know and love, whilst ensuring that we operate in harmony with our neighbours and the community as a whole.

This page is intentionally left blank