

Record of a Hearing of the Bradford Licensing Panel held on Monday 21 January and Thursday 24 January 2013 in Committee Room 1 and the Ernest Saville Room, City Hall, Bradford

Procedural Items

DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

Hearing

- 1. Application for a Premises Licence for B & M Stores, Kings Road, Bradford (Document "1")**



RECORD OF A HEARING FOR A PREMISES LICENCE FOR B & M STORES, KINGS ROAD, BRADFORD (DOCUMENT "I").

Commenced:1600	}	21/1/13
Adjourned: 1600	}	
Reconvened: 1610	}	
Adjourned: 1622	}	24/1/2013
Reconvened:1630	}	
Concluded: 1631	}	

Present:

Members of the Panel:

Bradford Licensing Panel: Councillors Ruding (Chair), Dredge and Ellis.

Parties to the Hearing:

Representing the Applicant:

Mr Green – Store Manager
Mr Williams – Solicitor
Observer: Councillor Middleton

Representations:

The hearing commenced on 21 January 2013 and was immediately adjourned for safety reasons due to adverse weather conditions.

Upon resumption on 24 January 2013, the Chair thanked all those present for their forbearance and stressed that the adjournment had been necessary for safety reasons.

The Licensing Officer in attendance then summarised the background to the application and valid representations as set out in **Document "I"**.

The Solicitor representing B & M Retail Ltd spoke in support of the application, stressing that this store was part of a much larger chain with an extremely good history in respect of licensed sales. The store manager was also in attendance as it was intended that he become the designated premises supervisor in due course.

Members were advised that the bays holding alcohol would form only a small part of the overall footprint of the store and reminded that there was a Tesco Store nearby which had a 24 hour licence. They were also informed that this application was for hours until 2200 only to give flexibility for later sales at Christmas.

The Solicitor addressed the issues raised in the letter of objection, stating that concerns about drinking in the street were not relevant to this store as its clientele would buy alcohol to drink at home. The concern about underage drinking would also not be borne out as the store already had a Challenge-21 policy for other age restricted sales as well as a training manual and "refuse" register. It would be a simple matter to extend those good working practices to include the sale of alcohol. On the issue of possible anti-social behaviour, he noted that there had been no concerns raised by the Police.

He also advised the Panel that there was a member of staff on litter patrol and a plain clothes security officer to prevent pilfering.

Members questioned the solicitor and store manager on several issues, including:-

- the usual store opening hours
- the Company's licensing history in other areas
- whether they would be agreeable to the Challenge-25 scheme that was widely in operation in Bradford
- how many customers visited on foot

In response, they were informed that:-

- the store usually opened from 0900-2000 on Monday to Friday and 0900-1800 on Saturday. The hours being applied for were to give flexibility in case longer hours of opening were needed at Christmas
- the company had an extremely good licensing history
- the Challenge-25 policy was perfectly acceptable
- very few customers visited on foot as most custom was from car-users

Decision –

That, having considered all valid representations made by the parties to the hearing; valid written representations received during the statutory period, the published statement of licensing policy and relevant statutory guidance; the panel grants the application subject to the following condition:

- (1) That an appropriate proof of age policy, incorporating measures to ensure that any patron wishing to purchase alcohol who may reasonably appear to be under 25 years of age are asked to prove they are at least 18 years old by displaying evidence of their identity and age in the form of a valid UK passport or new style driving licence displaying their photograph or PASS identification.**

Reason: It is considered that the above condition is necessary to ensure the proper management and monitoring of the premises in order to ensure alcohol is not purchased or supplied to those underage – protection of children from harm and prevention of crime and disorder licensing objectives.

Chair

Note: This record is subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Licensing Committee.

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