

Medway Council
LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

16 AUGUST 2002

2.30pm to 5.10pm

RECORD OF THE MEETING

PRESENT:

Committee members: Councillors Richard Andrews, Mrs Diane Chambers (chairman), Mrs Haydock and Luckhurst.

Substitutes: Councillor Booth for Councillor Madhu Ruparel;
Councillor John Shaw for Councillor Davis.

4568 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davis, Harriott and Madhu Ruparel.

4569 RECORD OF THE MEETING

The record of the meeting held on 2 August 2002 was signed by the chairman as correct with the addition of (v) to the decision at minute 4563 (Appeal against refusal to grant a Private Hire Drivers Licence Mr C) to read:-

"Having regard to the gravity of the offence committed by the appellant, the Committee decided that the appeal must be dismissed."

4570 APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF HOURS ON EXISTING PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE - CASINO ROOMS, BLUE BOAR LANE, ROCHESTER

Discussion:

The Committee was requested to determine an application for a variation of hours for the existing public entertainment licence in respect of the Casino Rooms, Blue Boar Lane, Rochester. The variation sought to extend the operating hours on Fridays and Saturdays from 2am to 3am the following day.

Seven letters of objection had been received which referred mainly to the potential for a further late night disturbance and anti-social behaviour should any extension of hours be granted.

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The police had suggested that a temporary licence be granted to facilitate an experiment of "chill out" between the hours of 2am and 3am which had proved successful in Canterbury.

Discussion took place regarding the monitoring of the experiment by officers of the Council and the police. The appellant would be required to co-operate with all monitoring officers at all times and it was to be agreed that an extension, if granted, would not set a precedent for other premises in the locality.

Decision:

- (a) A temporary extension to the public entertainment licence in respect of the Casino Rooms, Blue Boar Lane, Rochester, is granted until 3am on Fridays and Saturdays to facilitate an experiment of 'chill out' between the hours of 2am and 3am.
- (b) The extension would be granted for a fixed period to expire on 15 February 2003.
- (c) The temporary licence is granted subject to:
 - (i) a process of close monitoring by the police, the Council's environmental health officer and licensing enforcement officer with monthly written monitoring reports being presented to the Committee;
 - (ii) the appellant co-operating with the police and Council officers at all times
 - (iii) a written agreement to co-operate fully in the experiment being received from the appellant and the withdrawal of the outstanding appeal before the magistrates' court on the basis that both sides should bear their own legal costs to date.

Reasons:

The decision was made on the basis of evidence put forward by the police and is limited to the specific site of the Casino Rooms.

The decision was based upon the desire to explore the impact of staggering hours in relation to disturbances in the vicinity of licensed premises and therefore must not be regarded as a precedent.

Chairman

Date