

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 12 April 2017	Meeting Name: Licensing sub-committee
Report title:		Licensing Act 2003: White Hart, 20-22 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0UG	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Cathedrals	
From:		Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the licensing sub-committee considers an application made by Fuller, Smith & Turner Plc for a premises licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the premises known as White Hart, 20-22 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0UG.
2. Notes:
 - a) This application forms a new application for a premises licence, submitted under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003. The application is subject to representations from responsible authorities and other persons and is therefore referred to the sub-committee for determination.
 - b) Paragraphs 8 to 16 of this report provide a summary of the application under consideration by the sub-committee. Copies of the full application and the current premises licence are attached as Appendices A and B.
 - c) Paragraphs 17 to 24 of this report deal with the representations received regarding the premises licence application. Copies of the representations from the responsible authorities, and other persons are attached as Appendices C, D and E.
 - d) Paragraph 26 deals with licensed premises within a 100 metre radius of the premises. A map of the area is attached as Appendix F.
 - e) A copy of the council's approved procedure for hearings of the sub-committee in relation to an application made under the Licensing Act 2003, along with a copy of the hearing regulations, has been circulated to all parties to the meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Licensing Act 2003

3. The Licensing Act 2003 provides a regime for:
 - The sale of and supply of alcohol
 - The provision of regulated entertainment
 - The provision of late night refreshment.
4. Within Southwark, the licensing responsibility is wholly administered by this council.

5. The Act requires the licensing authority to carry out its functions under the Act with a view to promoting the four stated licensing objectives. These are:
 - The prevention of crime and disorder
 - The promotion of public safety
 - The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.
6. In carrying out its licensing functions, a licensing authority must also have regard to
 - The Act itself
 - The guidance to the act issued under Section 182 of the Act
 - Secondary regulations issued under the Act
 - The licensing authority's own statement of licensing policy
 - The application, including the operating schedule submitted as part of the application
 - Relevant representations.
7. The premises licence application process involves the provision of all relevant information required under the Act to the licensing authority with copies provided by the applicant to the relevant responsible bodies under the Act. The application must also be advertised at the premises and in the local press. The responsible authorities and other persons within the local community may make representations on any part of the application where relevant to the four licensing objectives.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Premises history

8. The premises has an existing licence number 851746. A licence was first issued to Punch Taverns on 10 September 2005. The premises licence was transferred to Fuller, Smith and Turner on 13 July 2013. Another application was made to vary the licence to include a new premises designated supervisor (DPS) on 31 March 2016.

The current licence

9. The current licence in respect of the premises known as White Hart, 22 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0UG was issued on 31 March 2016. The licence permits the following licensable activities:
 - Live Music (indoors)
Monday to Wednesday from 11:00 to 23:00
Thursday to Saturday from 11:00 to 00:00
Sunday from 12:00 to 22:30
 - Recorded Music (indoors)
Monday to Wednesday from 11:00 to 23:00
Thursday to Saturday from 11:00 to 00:00
Sunday from 12:00 to 22:30
 - Supply of alcohol (on and off the premises)
Monday to Wednesday from 11:00 to 23:00
Thursday to Saturday from 11:00 to 00:00

Sunday from 12:00 to 22:30

- Operating hours
Monday to Wednesday from 11:00 to 23:30
Thursday and Saturday from 11:00 to 00:30
Sunday from 12:00 to 23:00.

10. The designated premises supervisor of the premises is Alexander James Stupple who holds a personal licence issued by Richmond Council.
11. The current premises licence is attached as Appendix B to the report.

The premises licence application

12. On 13 February 2017, Fuller, Smith & Turner Plc applied to this council for the grant of a new premises licence in respect of the premises known as White Hart, 20-22 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 0UG.
13. The purpose of the application is to propose an extensive refurbishment and redevelopment of these premises. The adjacent building (number 20) has been purchased and there will be a “knock through”, thus creating a larger public house.
14. The application has been amended by removing the roof terrace on the second floor and is summarised as follows:
 - Late night refreshment (indoors and outdoors)
Monday to Thursday from 23:00 to 23:30
Friday and Sat from 23:00 to 00:30
 - The supply of alcohol (for consumption on and off the premises)
Monday Thurs from 10:00 to 23:00
Friday and Saturday from 10:00 to 00:00
Sunday from 10:00 to 22:30
 - Operating hours
Monday to Thursday from 08:00 to 23:30
Friday and Saturday from 08:00 to 00:30
Sunday from 08:00 to 23:00
 - Non standard hours:
New Year’s Eve - from the end of permitted hours on New Year’s Eve to the start of permitted hours on New Year’s Day.
15. The premises licence application form provides the applicant operating schedule. Parts I, J, K, L, and M set out the proposed operating hours and operating controls in full, with reference to the four licensing objectives as stated in the Licensing Act 2003. Should a premises licence be issued in respect of the application the information provided in part M of the operating schedule will form the basis of conditions that will be attached to the licence. A copy of the application is attached to this report as Appendix A.

Designated premises supervisor

16. The proposed designated premises supervisor of the premises is Alexander James Stupple who holds a personal licence issued by Richmond Council.

Representations from responsible authorities

17. Representations were submitted by the Metropolitan Police Service, the environmental protection team (EPT), licensing (as a responsible authority) and public health.
18. The Metropolitan Police Service welcome the control measures offered in the schedule but would like to see minor adjustments to the conditions and wording to avoid ambiguity. They have offered suggested conditions which if agreed will form part of the licence should it be granted.
19. The EPT do not have any major objections to the increase in internal space. However have serious noise concerns over the use of the roof terrace for eating and drinking by patrons. The plans also show a bar/servery space included on the western part of the roof terrace. No noise information has been provided with regards to the impact of this roof terrace on adjoining properties, nor any conditions proposed to mitigate the impact. They object outright to the use of the roof terrace by patrons and do not consider this space useable, even by way of agreeing conditions.
20. The licensing representation is based on the Southwark statement of licensing policy 2016 – 2020 and relates to the licensing objectives for the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance. They state that the premises is situated in the Borough and Bankside district town centre area and also falls within the Borough and Bankside cumulative impact policy (CIP) area. Therefore there is a rebuttable presumption that applications for new premises licences that are likely to add to the existing cumulative impact will normally be refused or subject to certain limitations. The applicant has not addressed the presumption to refuse this application within the operating schedule.
21. The public health representation state that the premises is located within the Borough and Bankside cumulative impact policy area and in their opinion the applicant has not rebutted the presumption that the additional capacity will add to the cumulative impact of alcohol related harms in the local area.
22. The representations are attached as Appendix C.

Representations from other persons

23. Eight representations were submitted by other persons. They state that the premises is sited on a small plaza surrounded by buildings which create a canyon-effect regarding noise. Sounds at street level echo loudly up to the flats which surround the pub on all sides. The plaza is a generally quiet place but loud conversations by pub patrons drinking outside are frequently audible inside our flat even with all of our windows shut. The current increase in morning opening hours, the plan to open at weekends and the increase in the licensable area will create additional noise and disturbance for the residents.
24. Copies of the representations are attached as Appendix D.

Conciliation

25. The applicant was forwarded the representations received and has responded by amending the application to removing the proposed roof terrace area from the second floor. The conciliatory email is attached as Appendix E. The licensing committee shall be updated at the hearing on 12 April 2017.

The local area

26. A map of the area is attached to this report as Appendix F. The premises is identified at the centre of the map. For purposes of scale-only the circle on the map has a 100 metre radius. There are several licensed premises within this 100 metre radius.
- White Hart, 22 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 (Monday to Wednesday until 23:30, Thursday to Saturday until 00:30 and Sunday until 23:00)
 - Sainsburys, 18 Great Suffolk Street, London SE1. (24 hours, alcohol until 23:00)
 - Tesco, Unit 1, 15 Great Suffolk Street, SE1 (Monday to Sunday until 23:00)
 - Premier Inn, 15a Great Suffolk Street, London SE1 (Monday to Sunday until 01:00)
 - Macellaio Roberto Costa, 229 Arch 24, Old Union Yard Arches Union Street, London SE1 (Monday to Sunday until 23:30)

Deregulation of entertainment

27. On 6 April 2015 entertainment became deregulated and as a result:
- Live unamplified music is deregulated between 08:00 and 23:00 on any premises.
 - Live amplified music is deregulated between 08:00 and 23:00 provided the audience does not exceed 500 people.
28. However, live music can become licensable in on-licensed premises if the licensing authority removes the effect of the deregulation following a licence review ('licence review mechanism').

Borough and Bankside cumulative impact zone

29. Council assembly approved the introduction of a special policy for Borough and Bankside on the cumulative impact of a concentration of licensed premises (saturation/cumulative impact policy) on 5 November 2008, and extended the area in April 2011. This application falls within the policy area.
30. The decision to introduce saturation policy was taken with regard to the committee's concern over rising trends of late night alcohol related violence against the person and late night disorder and rowdiness associated with late night licensed premises in the area.
31. The effect of this special policy is to create a presumption that applications for new premises licences or variations that are likely to add to the existing cumulative impact will normally be refused, following relevant representations, unless the applicant can demonstrate in their operating schedule that there will be no negative cumulative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives.

32. The applicant has been advised to address the committees concerns around cumulative impact at the meeting.

Southwark statement of licensing policy

33. This premises is situated within the Borough and Bankside and London Bridge strategic cultural area and there are no restrictions of opening hours for residents of the hotel under the Southwark statement of licensing policy 2016 – 2020.
34. Council assembly approved Southwark's statement of licensing policy 2016-20 on 25 November 2015. Sections of the statement that are considered to be of particular relevance to the sub-committee's consideration are:
- Section 3 - Purpose and scope of the policy. This reinforces the four licensing objectives and the fundamental principles upon which this authority relies in determining licence applications.
 - Section 5 - Determining applications for premises licences and club premises certificates. This explains how the policy works and considers issues such as location; high standards of management; and the principles behind condition setting.
 - Section 6 - Local cumulative impact policies. This sets out this authority's approach to cumulative impact and defines the boundaries of the current special policy areas and the classifications of premises to which they apply. To be read in conjunction with Appendix B to the policy.
 - Section 7 - Hours of operation. This provides a guide to the hours of licensed operation that this authority might consider appropriate by type of premises and (planning) area classification.
 - Section 8 - The prevention of crime and disorder. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the first licensing objective.
 - Section 9 - Public safety. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the second licensing objective.
 - Section 10 - The prevention of nuisance. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the third licensing objective.
 - Section 11 - The protection of children from harm. This provides general guidance on the promotion of the fourth licensing objective.
35. The purpose of Southwark's statement of licensing policy is to make clear to applicants what considerations will be taken into account when determining applications and should act as a guide to the sub-committee when considering the applications. However, the sub-committee must always consider each application on its own merits and allow exceptions to the normal policy where these are justified by the circumstances of the application.
36. Within the Southwark statement of licensing policy 2016 - 2020 the following closing times are recommended as appropriate within this area for this categories of premises as follows:

- Closing time for Restaurants and Cafes: Sunday to Thursday is 00:00 hours and for Friday and Saturday is 01:00 hours
- Closing time for Public Houses Wine bars or other drinking establishments: Sunday to Thursday is 23:00 hours and for Friday and Saturday 00:00 hours.

Resource implications

37. A fee of £315 has been paid by the applicant company in respect of this application being the statutory fee payable for premises within non-domestic rateable value band C.

Consultation

38. Consultation has been carried out on this application in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003. A public notice was published in a local newspaper and a similar notice exhibited outside of the premises for a period of 28 consecutive days.

Community impact statement

39. Each application is required by law to be considered upon its own individual merits with all relevant matters taken into account.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

40. The sub-committee is asked to determine the application for a premises licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003.
41. The principles which sub-committee members must apply are set out below.

Principles for making the determination

42. The general principle is that applications for premises licence applications must be granted unless relevant representations are received. This is subject to the proviso that the applicant has complied with regulations in advertising and submitting the application.
43. Relevant representations are those which:
- Are about the likely effect of the granting of the application on the promotion of the licensing objectives
 - Are made by an interested party or responsible authority
 - Have not been withdrawn
 - Are not, in the opinion of the relevant licensing authority, frivolous or vexatious
44. If relevant representations are received then the sub-committee must have regard to them, in determining whether it is necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives to:
- To grant the licence subject to:

- The conditions mentioned in section 18 (2)(a) modified to such extent as the licensing authority considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives
- Any condition which must under section 19, 20 or 21 be included in the licence
- To exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities to which the application relates
- To refuse to specify a person in the licence as the premises supervisor
- To reject the application.

Conditions

45. The sub-committee's discretion is thus limited. It can only modify the conditions put forward by the applicant, or refuse the application, if it is necessary to do so. Conditions must be necessary and proportionate for the promotion of one of the four licensing objectives, and not for any other reason. Conditions must also be within the control of the licensee, and should be worded in a way which is clear, certain, consistent and enforceable.
46. The four licensing objectives are:
- The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - The prevention of nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm.
47. Members should note that each objective is of equal importance. There are no other licensing objectives, and the four objectives are paramount considerations at all times.
48. Conditions will not be necessary if they duplicate a statutory position. Conditions relating to night café and take away aspect of the license must relate to the night time operation of the premises and must not be used to impose conditions which could not be imposed on day time operators.
49. Members are also referred to the Home Office revised guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 on conditions, specifically section 10.

Reasons

50. If the sub-committee determines that it is necessary to modify the conditions, or to refuse the application for a premises licence application, it must give reasons for its decision.

Hearing procedures

51. Subject to the licensing hearing regulations, the licensing committee may determine its own procedures. Key elements of the regulations are that:
- The hearing shall take the form of a discussion led by the authority. Cross examination shall not be permitted unless the authority considered that it is required for it to consider the representations.

- Members of the authority are free to ask any question of any party or other person appearing at the hearing.
 - The committee must allow the parties an equal maximum period of time in which to exercise their rights to:
 - Address the authority
 - If given permission by the committee, question any other party.
 - In response to a point which the authority has given notice it will require clarification, give further information in support of their application.
 - The committee shall disregard any information given by a party which is not relevant to the particular application before the committee and the licensing objectives.
 - The hearing shall be in public, although the committee may exclude the public from all or part of a hearing where it considers that the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing, taking place in private.
 - In considering any representations or notice made by a party the authority may take into account documentary or other information produced by a party in support of their application, representations or notice (as applicable) either before the hearing or, with the consent of all the other parties, at the hearing.
52. This matter relates to the determination of an application for a premises licence under section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003. Regulation 26(1) (a) requires the sub-committee to make its determination at the conclusion of the hearing.

Council's multiple roles and the role of the licensing sub-committee

53. Sub-committee members will note that, in relation to this application, the council has multiple roles. Council officers from various departments have been asked to consider the application from the perspective of the council as authority responsible respectively for environmental health, trading standards, health and safety and as the planning authority.
54. Members should note that the licensing sub-committee is meeting on this occasion solely to perform the role of licensing authority. The sub-committee sits in quasi-judicial capacity, and must act impartially. It must offer a fair and unbiased hearing of the application. In this case, members should disregard the council's broader policy objectives and role as statutory authority in other contexts. Members must direct themselves to making a determination solely based upon the licensing law, guidance and the council's statement of licensing policy.
55. As a quasi-judicial body the licensing sub-committee is required to consider the application on its merits. The sub-committee must take into account only relevant factors, and ignore irrelevant factors. The decision must be based on evidence, that is to say material, which tends logically to show the existence or non-existence of relevant facts, or the likelihood or unlikelihood of the occurrence of some future event, the occurrence of which would be relevant. The licensing sub-committee must give fair consideration to the contentions of all persons entitled to make representations to them.

56. The licensing sub-committee is entitled to consider events outside of the premises if they are relevant, i.e. are properly attributable to the premises being open. The proprietors do not have to be personally responsible for the incidents for the same to be relevant. However, if such events are not properly attributable to the premises being open, then the evidence is not relevant and should be excluded. Guidance is that the licensing authority will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of the public, living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned.
57. Members will be aware of the council's code of conduct which requires them to declare personal and prejudicial interests. The code applies to members when considering licensing applications. In addition, as a quasi-judicial body, members are required to avoid both actual bias, and the appearance of bias.
58. The sub-committee can only consider matters within the application that have been raised through representations from other persons and responsible authorities. Other persons must live in the vicinity of the premises. This will be decided on a case to case basis.
59. Under the Human Rights Act 1998. The sub-committee needs to consider the balance between the rights of the applicant and those making representations to the application when making their decision. The sub-committee has a duty under section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 when making its decision to do all it can to prevent crime and disorder in the borough.
60. Other persons, responsible authorities and the applicant have the right to appeal the decision of the sub-committee to the magistrates' court within a period of 21 days beginning with the day on which the applicant was notified by the licensing authority of the decision to be appealed against.

Guidance

61. Members are required to have regard to the Home Office revised guidance in carrying out the functions of licensing authority. However, guidance does not cover every possible situation, so long as the guidance has been properly and carefully understood, members may depart from it if they have reason to do so. Full reasons must be given if this is the case.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Licensing Act 2003 Home Office revised guidance to the Act Secondary Regulations Southwark statement of licensing Policy Case file	Southwark Licensing, C/O Community Safety & Enforcement, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Kirty Read Tel: 020 7525 5748

APPENDICES

Name	Title
Appendix A	Application for a premises licence
Appendix B	Current licence
Appendix C	Representations from responsible authorities
Appendix D	Representations from other persons
Appendix E	Conciliatory email
Appendix F	Map of the local area

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Deborah Collins, Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	
Report Author	Dorcas Mills, Principal Licensing Officer	
Version	Final	
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Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law & Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
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