

CENTRAL NORWICH CITIZENS' FORUM LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Forum's Licensing Committee met at City Hall, Norwich at 3pm on Wednesday, 17th October 2007, considered the following premises licence applications and made recommendations as follows:-

1. Stall 40/41 Norwich Market

This application applies for a licence to sell locally produced alcoholic drinks from what is essentially a farmers' market stall in Norwich market and is therefore very welcome since we endorse entirely the policy of the City Council to encourage the production and sale of locally produced products. In principle, therefore, we have no objection to this application. However we are unhappy about the hours when trading is proposed which considerably exceed the hours when surrounding stalls are normally open. We do not believe that it would be safe or desirable to allow trade to occur at these stalls when all surrounding ones are closed and shuttered. We, therefore, suggest that trade be limited to, say, 5pm when most of the other stalls have closed. If all the other surrounding stalls decided to open much later it would be entirely in order for these ones also to do so.

We are also deeply concerned about the lack of apparent attention given to the requirement to meet the four licensing objectives. To ignore these is either negligent or naive and should be rectified. The Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) must be fully trained in the responsibilities of management of such premises. Provision should be made for them also to understand the complexities of establishing proof of age of customers at a time when the Portman scheme is now defunct, the internet is awash with advertisement for apparently valid ID cards which are nothing of the sort, when many people in Norwich are carrying valid EU identity cards and driving licenses which can be identified only by someone thoroughly trained in the subject. Provision should be made for the security of products to be sold and, assuming that, on most occasions the stall will be staffed by only one person the stock needs to be secure when that person's attention is concentrated on the customer being served. It is strongly recommended that the DPS should have to attend meetings of the Norwich City Centre Licensing Forum so as to be aware of the responsibilities of managers of licensed premises.

Providing that these conditions can be met, we have no other objection to this application.

2. K.Klub, 54-58 Prince of Wales Road

This application is concerned to vary the existing licence by reducing the area of licensable activities only to No 56 and we, therefore, have no objection to it.

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3. Henry's Café/Bar, The Haymarket

This application seeks to extend the existing trading hours on New Years Eve to New Years Day so as not to have a break between the two and we can see no reason to object to this very limited extension.

4. The Booze Cruise, Unit 3, Haslip's Opening

This is an application to enable the applicants to deliver food and drink to peoples' homes in the city and to that, in principle, we have no objection though we regard the reasons given for providing such a service as specious. Similarly, we have no problem with accepting the safeguards specified and offered by the applicants in regard to their vehicles and drivers. However, we have reservations about what happens at the point of delivery and these are to do with many similar services that have been offered throughout the country which have caused large amounts of aggravation, noise nuisance and disorderly behaviour which has caused much distress to residents to which we need to draw to the attention of the Licensing Authority. In such instances orders have been taken for delivery to a single address where the house is in multiple occupancy (HMO) and the recipient has merely become the distributor for further sales to other occupants who may or may not be of legal age to purchase alcohol. Similarly, in areas where there are concentrations of student populations (such as in Norwich) the purchaser of deliveries has merely acted a distributor to many other neighbours who have caused nuisance when drinks have been distributed to others where proof of age and identity has become precarious and uncertain. Having drawn attention to this we find it very difficult to recommend satisfactory conditions that might be applied that would enable the applicant truly to be able to comply with the licensing objectives. We know, through our membership of the National Organisation of Residents' Associations, of at least 30 similar applications that, when licenses have been approved, caused huge difficulties with resident communities so we urge extreme caution when considering this application.

5. British Home Stores, 23-29 St Stephen's Street

This application seeks simply to alter the floor space and layout and does not otherwise alter any other existing conditions so we have no objections to it.

Signed
2007

Julian F Foster

18th October

CHAIRMAN