

**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HEARINGS
4 JUNE 2010**

Present :- Councillor Barrie Cook (Chairman)
Councillors Nick Cope and Christopher Garnett

1. Appointment of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Cook be appointed Chairman.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2010 were approved as a correct record.

4. Applications under the Licensing Act 2003

The Head of Environmental and Protective Services submitted a report in relation to the following application for determination by the Sub-Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.

a) Route Nightclub, 20-28 Queen Street, Colchester

The Sub-Committee considered an application for the variation of a premises licence in respect of Route Nightclub to permit -

- Extension of hours for the provision of films, live music, recorded music, performance of dance, facilities for dancing, facilities for making music, facilities for entertainment of a similar description
- Extension of hours for the supply of alcohol on the premises
- Extension of opening hours

In Attendance

Applicant's Representative: Mr Roy Gray (Designated Premises Supervisor)
Officers: Mr Essex, Lawyer; Mr Harvey, Licensing Manager; Mrs White, Committee Services Officer (Licensing) and Ms Tuthill, Committee Services

Assistant (Licensing)

Ms Tuthill, Committee Services Assistant (Licensing), briefly introduced the application advising that representations had been received from the Colchester Civic Society and a local resident.

Mr Gray presented the application to the Licensing Sub-Committee and explained the reasons for the application which included helping to sustain the business and improve its income. Mr Gray explained that because of longer opening hours elsewhere in the town centre patrons were not making their way to the Queen Street, St Botolph's area until after midnight. Several bars in the area, which were Route's main competitors, had been granted premises licences until 03.00 and potential customers were choosing to go to the premises with longer opening hours.

Mr Gray explained that he did not think that this application would generate further crime and disorder or public nuisance in the area and explained that over the past year the Club had been working very closely with the Police to reduce the number of incidents that had taken place at or in the vicinity of the club and had implemented all its recommendations. As a result, the number of reported incidents had significantly declined in the past year. The Designated Premises Supervisor also reported that the Club's door staff had assisted the Police with incidents in the street in the past and that in the event that the application was granted the door staff would be present in the area and therefore able to assist the Police for a longer period. Mr Gray then explained that he had been in discussion with the Police about the possibility of the door staff at Route joining the Police Accreditation Scheme which would give them additional powers to assist the Police further in dealing with potential incidents in the street. The Sub-Committee were informed that the Police had not lodged a representation in respect of the application.

In response to questioning, Mr Gray commented that he did not think that the application would result in more people migrating to the Stress Area but that the extension in hours would simply attract more of those already in Queen Street into Route. In his experience customers could not be enticed into a venue by any offer if they had already determined to go home. He considered that the entertainment needs of the people in the area were better met by Route than by other late night bars in the area which he considered did not have the checks in place to control entry to the premises or noise and anti-social behaviour from patrons using the premises.

The Chairman mentioned that two letters of representation had been received opposing the application and referring to incidents of anti-social behaviour. Mr Essex confirmed that the two objections received were not from the same person.

The Decision

RESOLVED that having regard to the relevant parts of the Section 182 Guidance, the Council's Licensing Policy, the contents of the report and the submissions made at the Hearing the Sub-Committee resolved to vary the licence to permit the following –

- Supply of alcohol on the premises, film exhibitions, provision of live music, recorded music, performances of dance, provision of facilities for making music and provision of facilities for dancing and provision of facilities for entertainment of a similar description, indoors, for the following hours -

11.00 to 02.30 Thursdays to Saturdays inclusive.

- The premises to be open to the public for the following hours -

11.00 to 03.00 Thursdays to Saturdays inclusive.

Reasons for the Determination

The Sub-Committee had given careful consideration to all the representations and evidence, and considered that the concerns of the interested parties could be successfully addressed by reducing the hours applied for by half an hour.

This is done to manage the potential for crime and disorder and anti-social behaviour in the Stress Area by ensuring that the closing times of the premises in Queen Street/St Botolph's Street are varied and therefore the influx into the street from the different establishments does not take place at the same time.

5. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 11.45.