
CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE, 17.12.08

Present: Councillor W.Tudor Owen (Chairman);
Councillor E.M. Jones and Ieuan Roberts

Also present: Gareth W. Jones (Senior Administrative and Legal Manager); Sion Huws (Propriety Office); Amlyn ab Iorwerth (Licensing Manager); Heilyn Williams (Licensing Officer); and Barbara Owen (Committee Officer).

Others invited to the Meeting:

Representing the Police: Mr Ian Williams (Police Licensing Co-ordinator); Constable Richard Hughes (local constable of Bala); Sergeant Wynne Lane

Applicants: Mr & Mrs J.S.Walsh (Licence holders of The Goat); Mr Andrew Cochrane, solicitor on behalf of Mr & Mrs Walsh; Mr Nutkin (representing the brewery)

Apology: Councillor Dylan Edwards, the local member.

1. APPLICATION TO REVIEW THE LICENCE OF THE GOAT HOTEL, BALA

The report of the Licensing Manager was submitted at the request of the Police, to review the Premises Licence of the Goat Hotel, Bala as a result of several incidents of violence, drunkenness, drinking alcohol after licensing hours and anti-social behaviour in or outside the Goat Hotel.

It was reported that a letter had been received from the Local Member, Cllr. Dylan Edwards, stating that he agreed with the Police recommendations.

In considering the case, the following procedure was followed:-

- i. An opportunity was given to members of the Sub-committee to ask questions of the Police 's representative;
- ii. The licence holder and his representative were given an opportunity to respond to the observations;
- iii. An opportunity was given to members of the Sub-committee to ask questions of the licence holder and his representative;
- iv. The Applicant and licence holder and his representative were given an opportunity to summarise the case.

When submitting observations in support of the application, a list was circulated of 32 incidents recorded between September 2006 and December of this year when the Police had been called to the premises. Two of these incidents had been cases of selling alcohol to under age individuals, a number of incidents of fighting and in one case, a Police officer had been injured

when attempting to arrest a person who was causing an affray inside the property. Another problem was that of customers drinking outside the hotel and leaving glasses around which were later broken on the street because nobody collected or cleared the glasses.

The number of incidents caused concern for Police officers, especially as they had taken place over a long period of time, despite a meeting being held between the Police and Mr Walsh in November 2006 to discuss similar problems. These incidents were seen as a lack of management of their customers by the licence holders. Reference was also made to the responsibility of tenants to keep an accurate log of every anti-social incident which took place on the site, which was obviously something which was not being kept in the case of the Goat.

As the presence of the Police was required whenever an anti-social incident was recorded, it meant that there was hardly any Police presence available for other areas.

In response to the Police request, the representative of the Goat's tenant submitted the following observations:

- The incidents of anti-social behaviour usually occurred on Saturday nights/Sunday mornings and therefore why limit the hours on Friday nights?
- Because other pubs closed earlier than the Goat, customers from other pubs moved on to the Goat and caused problems because of having had too much to drink
- Considering the previous point, the tenants would be willing to consider earlier closing hours for the Goat, coinciding with other pubs in the town.
- Regarding the incident when a Tazar gun was used – the Goat was not the only pub where there had been problems that evening; it was alleged that crowds came from outside the town to cause disorder;
- The tenants would be willing to consider placing supervisors on doors between specific hours to assist with the situation;
- Should the recommendations of the Police be adhered to, there was concern that it would completely devastate the Goat's business as they relied heavily on the profit made late at night – it was suggested that the hours could be reduced to open until 01.00hours on Saturday mornings and midnight on Saturday nights.

In response, the Police Co-ordinator stated that they were willing to consider not recommending door supervisors on Friday nights, and they were pleased of the offer to arrange a co-ordinator between the brewery and the Police in an attempt to avoid problems in future.

The tenants and their representative, the Police officers and the Licensing Officers withdrew from the room whilst members of the Sub-committee discussed the application.

During the discussion, the following observations were submitted:-

- According to the list of incidents submitted by the Police, there had been some trouble on Friday nights as well as Saturday nights;
- There had been insufficient improvement in the situation, although the Police had arranged a meeting in November 2006 to discuss the problems;
- It was considered that the Police recommendation was reasonable considering the continuous problems there had been involving the property;
- Reference was made to a mistake in the current printed licence as it did not include Bank Holiday opening hours and it was confirmed that the Goat was licenced to sell alcohol on Bank Holiday weekends until 2.30am, and to be open until 3.00am.

RESOLVED to amend the licence of the Goat Hotel as follows:

- i) **Sundays to Thursdays – no change to the current licence**
- ii) **Fridays and Saturdays – supplying alcohol between the hours of 09.00 until 00.15.**

- iii) **Door supervisors registered with ADD to be on duty on Saturday nights and Bank Holidays from 22.00hours until closing time of the premises.**
- iv) **Bank Holiday weekends (Friday to Monday), Christmas Eve, Boxing Day – supplying alcohol from 09.00 until 01.00, with opening hours from 09.00 until 01.30hours.**
- v) **The brewery’s Solicitor to act as a co-ordinator between North Wales Police and the brewery.**
- vi) **The premises to implement the “Challenge 21” policy, where the publican has the right to ask anyone for an identity card if they appear to be younger than 21 years of age.**
- vii) **Every notifiable incident to be recorded in the appropriate book (Incident Log) which is to be available to the North Wales Police.**

The Senior Administrative and Legal Manger reported that a letter would be sent out to everybody within five working days, confirming the decision of the Sub-committee and he informed everybody of the right to appeal against the decision of the Sub-committee.

The meeting commenced at 11.00am and concluded at 1.00pm