
CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 14.07.14

Present: Cllr Tudor Owen, Cllr Huw Edwards, Cllr Elfed Williams

Also present: Geraint Brython Edwards (Solicitor), Gwenan M Williams (Public Protection Manager (Health and Safety and Licensing)) and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

1. WELCOME

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman, Cllr Tudor Owen. The panel and the officers were introduced to everyone present.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Nothing to note

3. URGENT ITEMS

Nothing to note

4. APPLICATION FOR A BETTING PREMISES LICENCE (OTHER THAN TRACK) WILLIAM HILL ORGANISATION LIMITED, 25 GAOL STREET, PWLLHELI.

On behalf of the premises: Mr Richard Taylor (Solicitor) and Mr Andrew Ashton (Area Manager)

Apologies: W Bryn Williams, Objector

The report and recommendation of the Licensing Section

Submitted – the report of the Licensing Manager detailing the application for a new premises licence for 25 Gaol St, Pwllheli, LL53 5DB by William Hill Organisation Limited, Greenside House, 50 Station Rd, Wood Green, London N22 7TP.

Everyone was reminded of the three licensing objectives of the Gambling Act 2005 to be considered, namely;

- Preventing gambling from being the source of crime and disorder; being associated with crime and disorder; or be used to support crime
- Ensuring that gambling is conducted in a fair and open way
- Protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or from being exploited by gambling.

A list was also given of the measures recommended by the applicant to promote the licensing objectives drawing particular attention to the Self-exclusion policy, where it was possible for a customer who acknowledged the possibility that he/she was addicted to gambling to ban himself / herself from betting activities at the premises for a period of 12 months.

Following an appropriate consultation period, one objection to the application had been received from a local resident of Pwllheli. The responder was a Minister who was stating his objection on behalf of the members of his pastorate noting that he encountered situations where the lives of families and vulnerable individuals had been affected due to gambling problems.

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

- Members of the Sub-committee and the applicant were given an opportunity to ask questions of the Licensing Manager.
- The applicant was invited to expand on the application.
- Consultees were given an opportunity to support their observations.

- The licensee, or his representative, was invited to respond to the observations.
- Members of the Sub-committee were given an opportunity to ask questions of the licensee.
- Members of the Sub-committee were given an opportunity to ask questions of the consultees.

In response to a question regarding submitting a petition, the Public Protection Manager (Health and Safety and Licensing) noted that no petition had been submitted by local residents.

Mr Richard Taylor, William Hill representative was given an opportunity to expand on the application.

He provided background information on the company highlighting the set standards they had in place to secure the licensing objectives. He referred to a comprehensive training programme for the company's staff, their response to the 'Think 21' policy and also their certificate of social responsibilities.

The representative was thanked for the clear information he submitted.

In response to a question, Mr Richard Taylor noted that William Hill took the relevant actions to protect the public by ensuring that shop employees were trained to deal with potentially difficult situations. The tendency was for staff to remain with the company for a long time and therefore they got to know working patterns and developed a good relationship with local customers and residents. In terms of implementing the Self-Exclusion policy, it was noted that as soon as staff identified an individual who had gambling problems, the individual would be referred.

It was noted that CCTV would be installed in the shop which would also protect staff and customers. It was unlikely that the site would cause public nuisance as the shop would close at 10.00pm. No music would be played in the shop and the sound from the television would not be too high.

(Public nuisance was not one of the objectives for betting shops).

It was acknowledged that a letter had been received from W Bryn Williams, a Minister in Pwllheli.

In response to the objector's concern, and given that a betting shop already existed in Pwllheli, it had to be accepted that there was a need for people with gambling problems to recognise for themselves that they needed help.

Establishing the business in Pwllheli would offer customers a choice and offer better facilities.

An observation from the Licence Enforcement Officer noting that there were no compliance problems with the William Hill shops in Bangor and Caernarfon was acknowledged. With more than 22,390 shops in the United Kingdom (which represented 26% of the market) the company was large and did its best to maintain standards.

The relevant parties left the meeting.

The Sub-committee was of the opinion that the application should be approved.

**RESOLVED
TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION ON THE BASIS OF THE WRITTEN AND ORAL
REPRESENTATIONS.
THE APPLICATION ACCORDS WITH THE LICENSING OBJECTIVES.**

In accordance with Section 164 of the Gambling Act 2005, the local authority shall notify the applicant and interested parties of the decision and shall provide details of the right to appeal. The Licensing Unit shall implement this when the licence is issued.

The meeting commenced at 3.30pm and concluded at 4.20pm