

GENERAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE, 17.12.14

Present: Councillor Tudor Owen (Chair), Councillors Angela Russell and Elfed Williams

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

Also in attendance: Mr Chris O'Neil (representing the applicant). Mr Aaron Thomas (Licence Trade United – observing), Mr Michael Elderkin

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Councillor W. Tudor Owen, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The panel and the officers were introduced to everyone present. Gwenan Mai Williams was thanked for her service and her support to the Licensing Committee Sub-Committees and best wishes were expressed to her in her new post.

An apology had been received from Councillor Llywarch Bowen Jones.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following items because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12 and 13, Part 4, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. These paragraphs apply because the individuals in question are entitled to privacy and there is no overriding public interest that requires the disclosure of personal information relating to those individuals, nor their identities. Consequently, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

5. APPLICATION FOR HACKNEY/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

The Licensing Manager presented the written report on the application received from Mr A. for a hackney/private hire driver's licence. It was explained that there was a statement of convictions referring to a relevant crime, and therefore the Committee had been requested to consider the application in accordance with the record, and in accordance with the guidance on relevant crimes and convictions.

The applicant and / or his representative were invited to expand on the application. It was acknowledged that the last offence disclosed had happened over 24 years ago and there was no evidence of any problems since then. It was further explained that the applicant wished to work and that he had been offered a 15 hours per week post with a local company, through arrangements by the Jobcentre Plus.

Mr Elderkin confirmed that he would be the employer and that he was of the opinion that the applicant deserved a second chance.

The applicant and his representative withdrew from the chamber while the Sub-committee members discussed the application.

Following detailed consideration, the Sub-committee decided that it was appropriate to approve the application. The last offence disclosed had happened over 24 years ago and there was no evidence of any problems since then. Therefore, approving the licence would comply with the Council's policy.

RESOLVED to approve Mr A's application for a hackney/private hire driver's licence.

The Solicitor reported that he would aim to send out a letter notifying the applicant of the Sub-committee's decision.

The meeting commenced at 12:00pm and concluded at 12:30pm.