

London Borough of Islington

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 8 MAY 2007

Non-exempt minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Regulatory Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD, on 8 May 2007, at 2.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Joan Coupland, Fiona Dunlop (Chair) and Stefan Kasprzyk

Also present: **Councillors:** Phil Kelly, Michael O' Sullivan and Terry Stacy

Councillor Fiona Dunlop in the Chair

036 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

None received.

037 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

None.

038 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)

None.

039 GRANT OF A PERMIT FOR GAMING MACHINES BY WAY OF AMUSEMENT WITH PRIZES – LEISURE WORLD (UK) LTD – FOR PREMISES AT 456 HOLLOWAY ROAD, N7 (Item B1)

The Chair agreed that information from the Council's Building Control Service be laid round as this had been expected and was to form part of the Committee's consideration.

The Committee noted that the applicant's representative and two Company Directors were present. A number of objectors were also present, together with three Ward councillors.

In introducing the case, the Assistant Director of Environment and Regeneration (Public Protection), highlighted the fact that he had now received the observations of the Police (page 37 of the written report) on official headed paper. Referring to the information from Building Control which had been laid round, he pointed out that, if a permit was granted in this instance, it should be subject to the works required by Building Control, as well as the standard conditions.

Following presentation of the case by the applicant's representative, objectors and Ward councillors asked a number of questions relating to the application.

The Committee adjourned at approximately 5.00 pm to deliberate and resumed the meeting at 5.50 pm.

RESOLVED:

That the application from Mr A. S. Mann, of Leisure World (UK) Ltd, for a permit for the use of gaming machines on the premises at 456 Holloway Road, N7, be refused for the following reasons:

1. The London Borough of Islington is recognised as one of the ten most deprived boroughs in the country and has some of the most deprived wards.
2. The Finsbury Park Ward is recognised as the sixth most deprived in the country. It has been stated that the level of unemployment is approaching 90% in a large part of the Ward.
3. Police have stated that crime statistics for the immediate area of the premises are a hotspot for robberies, thefts, assault and anti-social crime and has been for a long time, despite the best efforts of the Police, the Council and local traders. The Police have pointed out that individuals involved in the sale of counterfeit goods at the Nags Head corner all frequent gambling premises to use the facilities as a social venue. Police intelligence has shown over 50 incidents recorded at this location for 2006 and 17 at this location to date for 2007.
4. The Committee concurs with the opinion of the Police that, if the venue was granted a licence to trade, this would add to the already busy location and fuel the social behaviour, robberies, thefts and assaults at his location.
5. The Committee has also taken into account the evidence submitted on behalf of the applicant, and set out in the Gambling Commission's Licensing Conditions and Code of Practice for Arcades 2006, relating to the protection of vulnerable people. The Committee notes that there is a homeless families unit and City and Islington's College's 3 centres, some dealing with students with learning and special needs and the Committee is not satisfied that the applicant has shown social responsibility in respect of these groups.
6. From the evidence submitted by the applicant, the Committee rejects that the applicant meets the requirements of the Gambling Commission's Code of Practice that they have satisfied the condition that operators must not make their adult only products attractive to children and young people. This is demonstrated by the photos at JP5 in the applicant's permit representations bundle.
7. The Committee cannot ignore the wider social issues which the Council is addressing through its town centre strategy, which has the support of the Mayor of London and has therefore formed the opinion that this location is inappropriate and unsuitable for the proposed purpose.

040 FEES AND CHARGES FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT PREMISES (Item B2)

The Chair stated that, although the report had not been available five clear days before the meeting, she had agreed that it be considered as a matter of urgency as the proposed fees were due to come into operation on 1 June 2007.

RESOLVED:

That the fees scale for special treatment premises, attached at Appendix A to the report by the Assistant Director of Environment and Regeneration (Public Protection), be approved, with effect from 1 June 2007.

The meeting closed at 6.00 pm.

CHAIR