

# Memo



Date: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2016  
To: Philip Bensted, Licensing and Land Charges Manager.  
Re: Premises Licence – Rokka Harbour Parade Ramsgate  
From: Amanda Berry, Environmental Health Officer

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## Background

- 1.1 Mr Pantelli discussed his proposal to extend regulated entertainment and opening hours with Environmental Health at a meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May.
- 1.2 Environmental Health advised Mr Pantelli that although we were satisfied with the control of noise at the venue since the Licence Review in 2010 and that no further noise complaints have been justified; our concern in this instance is not music outbreak but from patrons causing a public nuisance to residents in the local vicinity and Environmental Health would not support any extension that would increase the potential for public nuisance.
- 1.3 A subsequent application was received and the proposed amendments are set out in tables 1 & 2 below.
- 1.4 Ramsgate seafront has 11 licensed premises, all of which are licensed to supply alcohol after midnight (Appendix 1) contributing to a vibrant night time economy. This brings benefits to our local economy but at the same time generates additional costs for the council, police and other partners.
- 1.5 Environmental Health is mindful of the balance between the competing needs of our residents and those of our business community. However it is essential to ensure our residents are not unreasonably impacted by public nuisance and can enjoy their homes and environment. As there is little separation of commercial and residential areas in much of Ramsgate, this often means that our residents suffer the impacts of the late night economy, particularly in the radiating residential roads which take the brunt of local residents returning home from a night out. Also there are 21 residential boats residing within the harbour and benefit from very little sound insulation or separating distance.
- 1.6 Environmental Health is unable to record complaints of public nuisance because it is not possible to attribute a particular incident to a single licensed premises. Neither is it possible to suggest conditions to mitigate against public disturbance. The only effective control is through premise closure times. The Community Safety Partnership was consulted in this regard as they are able to review crime and disorder data for the local area, their report is attached Appendix 2.
- 1.7 Members may be aware that the newly licensed Wetherspoons is due to open early next year and since relevant permissions were granted, Environmental Health has had several enquiries from nearby premises about increasing their licensing hours. We are concerned that with the opening of such a significant competing venue that there will be many more requests for extensions, leading to an incremental impact on the local area. The Council has so far had enquiries from The Goose, Arch No 9 and Clique about further extensions to opening hours and/or licensable activities.
- 1.8 It is clear that residents in Ramsgate are already impacted significantly and that the Council already supports the night time economy. It is our view that no further increases to opening times or encouragement through increasing regulated entertainment should be permitted.

## Conclusion

Environmental Health would request that Members refuse any extension to current premise licence and allow responsible authorities to continue to consider each TEN application on a case by case basis. Mr Pantelli has already had 7 TEN applications granted this year and has scope to apply to a maximum 12 per calendar year. Environmental Health has to date not objected to the applications and we would suggest that this is an acceptable compromise enabling a review each time an application is received to monitor any ongoing problems as well as not allowing incremental creep of premises licence closing times which will set competitive climate with neighbouring premises and cause a cumulative impact on residents of Ramsgate.

Environmental Health request that Members refuse the application for any increases to licensed activities.

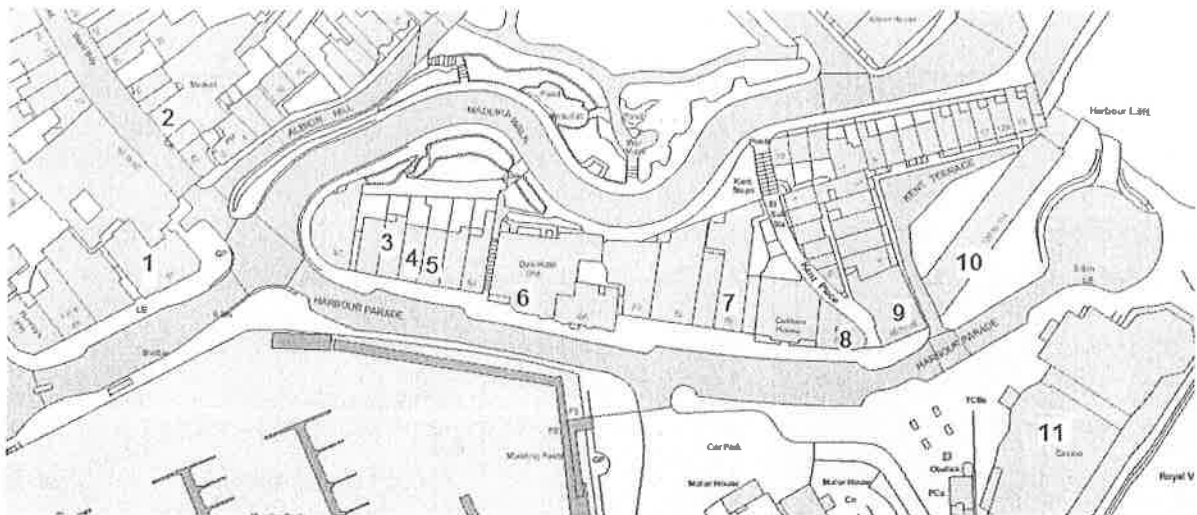
Table 1. Current Licence

	Films	Live	Recorded	Late Night Refreshment	Alcohol	Opening
Mon	03:30hrs		03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs
Tues	03:30hrs		03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs
Wed	03:30hrs		03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs
Thurs	03:30hrs		03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs
Fri	03:30hrs	00:00hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs
Sat	03:30hrs	00:00hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs
Sun	03:30hrs		03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs

Table 2. Application

	Films	Live	Recorded	Late Night Refreshment	Alcohol	Opening
Mon	03:30hrs	<b>03:00hrs</b>	03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs
Tues	03:30hrs	<b>03:00hrs</b>	03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs
Wed	03:30hrs	<b>03:00hrs</b>	03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs
Thurs	<b>04:00hrs</b>	<b>03:45hrs</b>	<b>03:45hrs</b>	<b>04:00hrs</b>	<b>03:45hrs</b>	<b>04:00hrs</b>
Fri	<b>04:00hrs</b>	<b>03:45hrs</b>	<b>03:45hrs</b>	<b>04:00hrs</b>	<b>03:45hrs</b>	<b>04:00hrs</b>
Sat	<b>04:00hrs</b>	<b>03:45hrs</b>	<b>03:45hrs</b>	<b>04:00hrs</b>	<b>03:45hrs</b>	<b>04:00hrs</b>
Sun	03:30hrs	<b>03:00hrs</b>	03:00hrs	03:30hrs	03:00hrs	03:30hrs

## Closing times



- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. The Royal       | 4:30am daily                                   |
| 2. The Goose       | Sun-Wed 12:30am Thurs – Sat 2:30am             |
| 3. Miles Café      | Sun – Wed 2am                                  |
| 4. Clique Bar      | Mon -Wed 1:30am, Thurs-Sat 3:30am & Sun 1:30am |
| 5. Enoteca         | 2:30am daily                                   |
| 6. Oak Hotel       | 1:30am daily                                   |
| 7. Queens Head     | Mon – Sat 1:30am & Sun 12:30am                 |
| 8. The Belgium Bar | Sun-Thurs 2:30am; Fri – Sat 3am                |
| 9. The Waterfront  | Sun-Wed 2am, Thurs 3am & Fri / Sat 4am         |
| 10. Bench Wine Bar | Sun-Thurs Midnight, Fri / Sat 2am              |
| 11. Wetherspoons   | Sun – Wed 12:30am                              |



## Objection to the application for a premises license

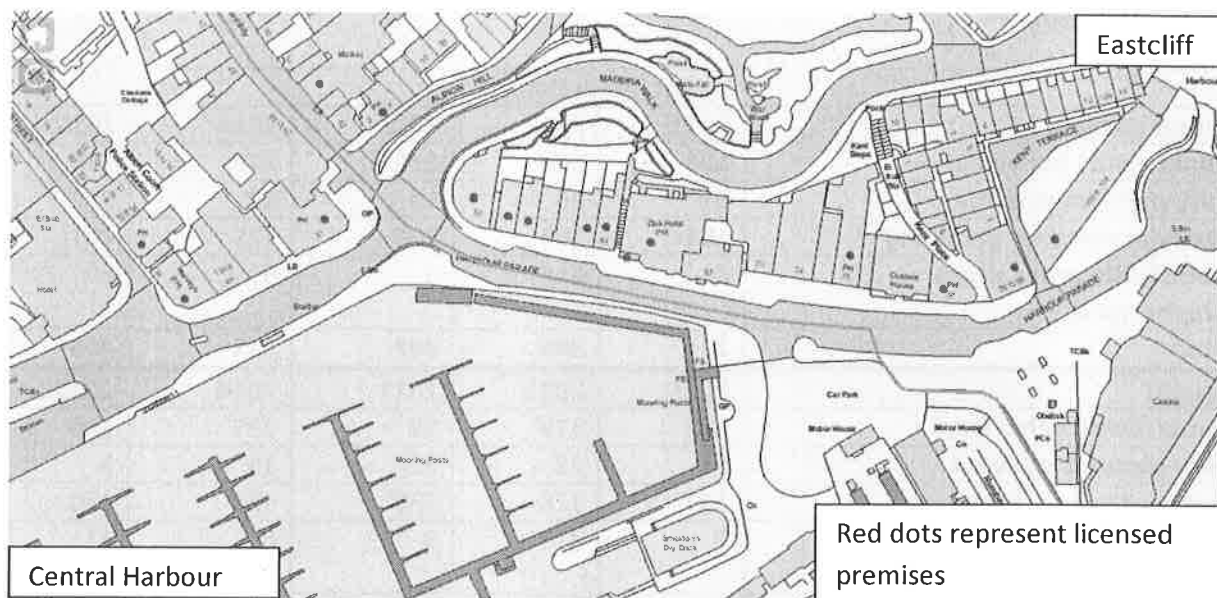
(Licensing Act 2003)

Application ref:

### **Context:**

An application has been made by 'Rokka' licensed premises (64 Harbour Parade, Ramsgate) to request that the licensing committee consider extending their current opening hours to 4:00am. Their application also requests to extend their ability to play amplified and live music and sell alcohol until 3:45am on a Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Their current closing time is 3:30am and the sale of alcohol and music currently ceases at 3:00am. It is the view of the Community Safety Unit that to further extend this license will set a precedent for other premises and have a negative impact upon residents of Ramsgate.

The below map depicts the two wards and close proximity of licensed premises within the Central Harbour and Eastcliff wards that form the Ramsgate Night Time Economy.



### **Summary:**

Following consultation with other council departments and Kent Police, it is felt that this extension is contrary to licensing objectives, as set out in Section 4(2)(a)-(c) Licensing Act 2003, namely the:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance

Whilst it is recognised that the wider impact on residents cannot directly be attributed to one premise, but endemic of having a busy Night Time Economy. What can be demonstrated is the cumulative impact of a number of licensed premises extending their opening hours, duration of alcohol consumption and the considerable impact this will have, which we feel members will need to consider when making an informed decision.

This report is submitted on consideration of anticipated outcomes. Officers and members have a duty to consider the perception and impact on Thanet residents when making binding decisions such as these.

## Perceived impacts:

### 1. Increased violent crime and Anti Social Behaviour

The wards of Central Harbour and Eastcliff suffer from high crime and anti social behaviour. The ward of Eastcliff, which this premise is situated is the third highest ward for violent crime<sup>1</sup>. This ward is also the third highest ward for Anti Social Behaviour and nuisance<sup>2</sup>, and of these high levels of nuisance, a high percentage is drunk rowdy behaviour.

- **Concern: Extending the hours the economy operates, will also increase the potential for an increase in alcohol related disorder and violent crime**

During the weekend, from 6pm Friday to 6am Monday, across England and Wales, 70% of violent crimes are alcohol related and alcohol related crimes are more likely to be incidents between strangers (64%)<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, as the night progresses the proportion of violence related incidents increases from 23% before 6pm to 84% after midnight<sup>4</sup>.

<b>Kent Police Data<sup>5</sup></b>					
<b>Central Harbour</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Drunk/rowdy behaviour</b>	106	108	135	220	190
<b>Noisy party/rave/event</b>	31	26	13	18	7
<b>Rowdy or nuisance gathering</b>	154	204	216	125	201
<b>Rubbish/discarded drugs paraphernalia</b>	4	6	3	9	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>344</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>372</b>	<b>406</b>
<b>Eastcliff</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
<b>Drunk/rowdy behaviour</b>	122	118	96	135	156
<b>Noisy party/rave/event</b>	23	22	25	15	8
<b>Rowdy or nuisance gathering</b>	184	178	139	132	130
<b>Rubbish/discarded drugs paraphernalia</b>	7	3	3	8	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>336</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>Overall total</b>	<b>631</b>	<b>665</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>662</b>	<b>711</b>

The table above shows all calls to Police to the Central Harbour and Eastcliff ward over the past 5 years. Whilst it is recognised that the majority of the pubs and clubs in Ramsgate are in close vicinity and the source of the nuisance cannot be directly identified, it can be demonstrated that as the night time economy has grown, the amount of nuisance occurring has grown with it.

<sup>1</sup> Kent Connect, 'Thanet crime data' (<https://portals.kentconnects.gov.uk>, November 2015)  
<[https://portals.kentconnects.gov.uk/acl\\_users/credentials\\_cookie\\_auth/require\\_login?came\\_from=https%3A//portals.kentconnects.gov.uk/](https://portals.kentconnects.gov.uk/acl_users/credentials_cookie_auth/require_login?came_from=https%3A//portals.kentconnects.gov.uk/)> accessed 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2016

<sup>2</sup> IBID

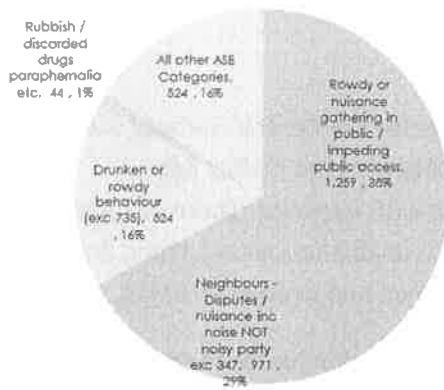
<sup>3</sup> Internet memory foundation, '5 Facts About Alcohol Related Violence' ([Nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime-and-sexual-offences--2013-14/sty-facts-about-alcohol-related-violence.html), 12th February 2015)  
<<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160105160709/http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/crime-stats/crime-statistics/focus-on-violent-crime-and-sexual-offences--2013-14/sty-facts-about-alcohol-related-violence.html>> accessed 1 July 2016

<sup>4</sup> IBID

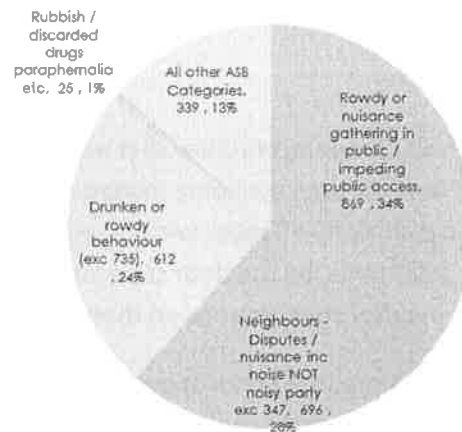
<sup>5</sup> Statistics produced by the Kent Police Central analytical Team and are to be regarded as an indicator of the issues under review and may be subject to change.

Drunk and rowdy behaviour and rowdy or nuisance groups also make up two of the biggest proportions of police calls for the two wards:

Central Harbour



Eastcliff



And the two wards also have a disproportionate amount of calls with regards to drunk and rowdy behaviour and rowdy groups when compared to other wards:

Drunken or Rowdy Behaviour and Rowdy or nuisance gathering

Ward	Ward Population	ASB rate per 1000 for 2011		Visual Indicator
		ASB Total	2015	
Birchington North	3,860	69	18	●
Kingsgate	2,220	60	27	●
Cliffsend and Pegwell	4,800	142	30	●
Garlinge	4,880	209	43	●
Cliftonville East	6,270	282	45	●
Beacon Road	4,880	234	48	●
Nethercourt	4,830	235	49	●
Thanet Villages	7,010	349	50	●
Birchington South	6,310	363	58	●
St.Peters	7,130	445	62	●
Viking	7,270	474	65	●
Sir Moses Montefiore	5,150	400	78	●
Newington	5,270	470	89	●
Salmestone	5,720	523	91	●
Northwood	6,570	673	102	●
Bradstowe	4,200	463	110	●
Westgate-on-Sea	7,210	801	111	●
Westbrook	4,310	485	113	●
Dane Valley	7,950	946	119	●
Eastcliff	8,400	1565	186	●
Central Harbour	8,450	2230	264	●
Cliftonville West	9,960	2657	267	●
Margate Central	5,800	3089	533	●

- **Concern:** Extending the operating hours will further stretch already limited public services, at peak times.

Consideration needs to be given to whether resources such as Police, Ambulance and Waste and Recycling have the capacity to support an increase to Night time Economy operating hours.

## 2. Increased nuisance and Drunk and Rowdy Behaviour

Reports of drunk and rowdy behaviour in Central Harbour and Eastcliff, have more than doubled between 2011 and 2014, which could be attributed to the increase in bar and clubs. At the same time, Police resources have **not** seen similar increases. Friday and Saturday evenings / early hours are peak times for people requesting Police attendance.

### CCTV Evidence

Incidents recorded by CCTV operators show that out of 237 recorded incidents for the Central Harbour ward, 116 of those related to night time economy related disturbances. These disturbances are mainly fights, assaults or drunk and disorderly offences with the majority having to be dealt with by police. These incidents are called in, on a regular basis, by the door supervision staff showing they are unable to manage crime and disorder, and do not monitor their patrons on their route home through the town and residential areas.

Whilst provision has been made for door supervision on Friday, Saturdays, no provision has been made for Thursday when requests have also been made to extend opening hours.

- **Concern: No provision door supervision on Thursday evenings**
- **Concern: Increasing the Night Time Economy hours will increase the impact of nuisance to residential areas as patrons make their journey home without supervision, which may in turn place additional burdens on Police and Ambulance resources.**

## 3. Timings

Currently the closing times of premises in the Ramsgate Night Time Economy is staggered, meaning that people exit these premises which are in a close proximity, at different times. Research suggest that staggering closing times is an effective means to deal with the potential for alcohol related disorder, particularly when there are limited resources including Policing<sup>6</sup> and also features in a number of Home Office good practice guidance publications<sup>7</sup>.

Currently Rokka closes at 3:30am and from CCTV records, the latest disturbance recorded with regards to the night time economy was at 4am as the patron was on their journey home. If opening hours were to be extended to 4am, that would push these last disturbances back to 4:30am, meaning the disturbances become closer to the time that some residents will be getting up and starting their journeys to work, especially commuters.

- **Concern: Increasing closing times and not keeping the current exit stagger, could impact on already limited resources and their ability to deal with nuisance and disorder.**

## 4. Increased rubbish, litter, bodily fluids and waste (and associated clearance costs)

Ramsgate Harbour is a high profile area for Thanet. It also has a disproportionate amount (per resident) of operational services, which directly respond to the Night Time Economy. Functions such as bin emptying,

<sup>6</sup> Regulating the Night: Metropolitan Police, Wilkinson 2000

<sup>7</sup> Good Practice in Managing the evening and Late Night Economy: A Literature Review from an Environmental Perspective, Accessed 02 July 2016: <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20120919132719/www.communities.gov.uk/documents/communities/pdf/131197.pdf>



waste removal, broken glass removal, street cleansing of bodily fluids , (eg. vomit, blood, urine and excrement) are undertaken after each weekend.

An increase in opening hours with the intention of increasing trade in the area means more foot fall. More foot fall requires more resource from street cleansing teams, including litter picking, use of mechanical sweepers, emptying bins more frequently, all of which have a resource and cost implication for operational services and specialist contractors (for example those who have to be contracted and paid to remove bodily fluids).

- **Concern:** It can be attributed that this is due to the night time economy and by extending the hours the economy operates, so will the cost and resource demand, for increased operational services.

## **5. Resident perception**

Community Safety attend regular meetings with residents and hold a public consultation on residents perception. Litter, rubbish, groups, alcohol related nuisance are topics that are regularly raised.

- Can attract scavenging animals including rats and seagulls.
  - Food litter can make an area appear rundown and neglected.
  - Local people deserve to live in a clean and safe environment.
  - Visitors are less likely to want to return to Ramsgate if it is littered and dirty.
- **Concern:** Increase in Night Time Economy could have a negative impact on perceptions of Ramsgate, visitors and tourism.

