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LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2024 at 9.30 am in Council Chamber, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent.

Present: Councillor Alan Currie (Chair); Councillors Huxley

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies from Councillors.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

Councillor Huxley proposed and the Chair seconded:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting on agenda item 4 as it contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. **LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE REPORT - S.53A**

Alison Stocker, Senior Licensing Officer introduced the report and made mention of the application for Expedited Review, that was made submitted in line with legislation. The actual investigation of the incident was still being investigated.

The Chair opened up discussion amongst officers, and representatives from both parties.

Following the discussion, the representatives from both parties; as well as Licensing Officers and other TDC officers were asked to leave the room whilst the Sub Committee deliberated.

Once the Sub Committee came to a decision, the representatives from both parties; as well as Licensing Officers and other TDC officers were invited back into the meeting room and Mr Hodkinson, Interim Senior Litigation Lawyer addressed the meeting and read out the Sub Committee decision, that:

The Sub Committee has considered the evidence from the Police, the Local Authority Licensing officer and the Solicitor from Dreamland and from Dreamland directly.

The Sub Committee have considered the Home Office Summary Review Guidance and have considered in particular the certificate and evidence from the Police.

The Sub Committee has noted, that there is no dispute about the events that prompted the action by the Police.

The Sub Committee finds therefore that these events happened as outlined in the evidence from the Police.

Taking these facts into account, the Sub Committee considers that Interim Steps are necessary.

The Sub Committee has considered the steps outlined at paragraph 3.4 of the Guidance referred to above.

In that context the Sub Committee does not consider that it is necessary to take any steps at this stage other than the modification of the conditions of the premises licence. The Sub Committee has considered it appropriate to impose the Interim Steps suggested by the Police as conditions on the premises licence.

The Sub Committee note the proviso that Condition 5 of those suggested by the Police, will apply only to High risk Events and that there is a mutual understanding between the Police and Dreamland as to how this term should be applied.

Meeting concluded: 11.30 am



Notice of Review of Premises Licence
LICENSING ACT 2003

Take notice that **Temporary Superintendent 10447 on behalf of the Chief of Police**, being a responsible authority within the meaning of the Licensing Act 2003, made an application to **Thanet District Council**, the Licensing Authority for the district of Thanet, for a Full Review of the premises licence, following interim steps imposed at an expedited review hearing on **9th July 2024**, for:

Dreamland Events and Amusement Buildings and Park
Marine Terrace, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XJ

Grounds for review:

Full review of the premises licence following expedited review.

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- The prevention of crime and disorder. public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

Any person wishing to view details of this application can contact the licensing team at licensing@thanet.gov.uk

Any person wanting to make representations regarding the review should do so in writing sent to the Licensing Department, PO 9 Cecil Square, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ
licensing@thanet.gov.uk

Between the following dates:

12th July 2024 - 19th July 2024

Notice to be displayed for 7 consecutive days from 12/07/24 to 19/07/24.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5000.

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

9TH JULY 2024

CONSIDERATION OF A SUMMARY REVIEW APPLICATION PURSUANT TO s53 A LICENSING ACT 2003

The Committee have considered the evidence from the Police, the Local Authority Licensing officer and the Solicitor from Dreamland and from Dreamland directly.

The Committee have considered the Home Office Summary Review Guidance and have considered in particular the certificate and evidence from the Police.

The Committee have noted, that there is no dispute about the events that prompted the action by the Police.

The Committee find therefore that these events happened as outlined in the evidence from the Police.

Taking these facts into account, the Committee consider that Interim Steps are necessary.

The Committee have considered the steps outlined at paragraph 3.4 of the Guidance referred to above.

In that context the Committee do not consider that it is necessary to take any steps at this stage other than the modification of the conditions of the premises licence. The Committee have considered it appropriate to impose the Interim Steps suggested by the Police as conditions on the premises licence.

The Committee note the proviso that Condition 5 of those suggested by the Police, will apply only to High risk Events and that there is a mutual understanding between the Police and Dreamland as to how this term should be applied.

Licensing sub-committee 9th July 2024.

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FORM FOR APPLYING FOR A SUMMARY LICENCE REVIEW

[Insert name and address of relevant licensing authority and its reference number (optional)]

Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate, CT9 1AY

Application for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003 (premises associated with serious crime or disorder)

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing the form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. **Use additional sheets if necessary.**

I T/Supt 10447 [redacted] [on behalf of] the chief officer of police for the East Division police area apply for the review of a premises licence under section 53A of the Licensing Act 2003.

1. Premises details:

Postal address of premises, or if none or not known, ordnance survey map reference or description:

Dreamland, Events and Amusements Building and Park, Marrine Terrace, Margate.

Post town: Margate

Post code (if known): **CT9 1XJ**

2. Premises licence details:

Name of premises licence holder (if known): Sands Heritage Ltd

Number of premises licence holder (if known): LN/202300093

3. Certificate under section 53A(1)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 [Please read guidance note 1]:

I confirm that a certificate has been given by a senior member of the police force for the police area above that in his opinion the above premises are associated with serious crime or disorder or both, and the certificate accompanies this application.

(Please tick the box to confirm)

4. Details of association of the above premises with serious crime, serious disorder or both:

[Please read guidance note 2]

On Saturday 29th June 2024 Dreamland held an event called Worried about Henry.

During this event Kent Police were notified by QEQM hospital that a 17-year-old female had been declared deceased following a suspected MDMA overdose. It was confirmed that the female had been in attendance at the venue.

Kent Police have been informed of an additional 21 patients who were admitted to hospital suffering with similar symptoms relating to a drugs overdose, all of whom had also been at the Dreamland event. Kent Police declared a major incident.

All except one person have been discharged, with the remaining victim (at the time of writing) remaining in hospital in a medically induced coma.

Circumstances

On Saturday 29th June, Dreamland held an event named Worried about Henry. This event was a 'drum and bass' music event advertised as a 16+ year old event.

There were around 6300 tickets sold in advance and 700 tickets on the door.

The event started at 13:00 hours.

In the early afternoon Kent Police became aware of several ejections from the venue through intoxication (possibly drug related) and that 3 persons have been taken to hospital from the venue believed to be suffering the ill effects of a drugs overdose.

At 17:00 hours, a male was found to be in possession of [REDACTED] suspected to be illegal drugs. He was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply. (Further arrests were made at the event and the investigation is ongoing).

Just prior to 18:00 hours, officers deployed to Dreamland came across a 17-year-old male on the Hall by the Sea Road who was unwell and suffering with the side effects of drug use. First aid was administered, and an Ambulance called.

Shortly after this a call was made to Kent Police by NHS staff to advise that a 17-year-old female, who was one of the three transported to hospital earlier from the event, had now been declared deceased following a suspected MDMA overdose.

Due to the circumstance around the death of the child, a tactical discussion was held with key partners around closing Dreamland and holding it as a crime scene. It was decided that this would likely have caused a large-scale public order incident and that allowing the event to continue would assist in

the identification/support of any further casualties who could be treated accordingly. This was a challenging decision but allowed mitigating factors to be implemented to minimise the risk towards already vulnerable children at the event.

At 19:01 hours, Kent Police declared this a Major Incident and a full JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles) command structure was implemented. (JESIP is implemented to allow for joint understanding of risk and situational awareness on emergency services). At this time Kent Police were aware of 11 persons hospitalised due to drug use and potential overdose's, all of whom were under the age of 18 with the youngest being 15.

Several meetings have been conducted both internally and externally to understand the challenges faced by all key strategic partners.

An all partners debrief was held on 4th July. All key agencies involved and affected were represented within the meeting which highlighted areas of improvement for key partners which will be taken forward.

Police had previously made representations around a future event on the 27th July which is believed to be of a similar nature and customer base to that which was held on the 29th June. During the meeting it was welcomed to hear that Dreamland have now taken on board the concerns raised and have cancelled this from taking place. We believe this is a proportionate measure to take by the venue in order to address and issues and concerns moving forward.

Kent Police believe that in general the premises has been well run and well suited to what we would deem to be lower risk events. The partnership between the venue and Kent Police has been well developed over the years and have always worked well to achieve joint aims.

The management of events specifically targeted at over 16's and particular music genre's are historically faced with challenges. The venue has had issues with similar previous events in 23/24, where there were some wider issues raised with crime and disorder in the local area which in turn put pressure on strategic partners and in turn damaged public confidence and have undermined all licensing objectives.

I am cognisant of the licensing objectives:-

1. To protect children from harm.
2. To ensuring public safety.
3. The prevention of public nuisance.
4. The prevention of crime and disorder.

The events on 29th June 2024 are tragic and I wish for them never to be repeated. The venue and strategic partners are all really well engaged in ensuring that all efforts are made to minimise this risk in the future. I am of the opinion that this and other events have breached the licensing objectives in a number of forms and therefore it is right and proper that a review is completed of the venues license in order to achieve the above and ensure public confidence in all agencies moving forward.

Kent Police respectfully request that interim measures are officially put in place to uphold the licensing objectives. At this stage we are not seeking a

full revocation of the licence as Kent Police are confident in working with Dreamland prior to any review hearing.

Kent Police recommend the following interim measures:

Formal cancellation of all Drum and Bass events and those deemed to be a higher risk association with class A and B drug use by those under 18 years of age.

Removal of promotion/ticket sales immediately related to such event's.

Increase of ratio of SIA security/staff. Ratio 1 SIA per 100 Patrons- for 'higher risk' events such as Trance/Garage/Grime events.

Zero tolerance signage regarding drug use and possession throughout the venue

All under 18's to be accompanied by an adult defined as 25 years and over and suitable measures in place to manage this such as a wristband system

As the senior officer for Kent Police East division, I am of the opinion that the premises in question has been associated with serious crime and serious disorder - which is detailed above.

Signature of applicant: T/Supt 10447 [REDACTED]

Date: 05/07/2024

Capacity: Superintendent - East Division

Contact details for matters concerning this application:

Address: [REDACTED] - East Kent Police Licensing Officer
Nackington Police Station
Merton Lane
Canterbury
CT4 7BP

Telephone number(s):

Email: [REDACTED]

Notes for guidance:

1. A certificate of the kind mentioned in the form must accompany the application in order for it to be valid under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003. The certificate must explicitly state the senior officer's opinion that the premises in question are associated with serious crime, serious disorder or both.

Serious crime is defined by reference to section 81 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. In summary, it means:

- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences for which a person who has attained the age of eighteen and has no previous convictions could reasonably be expected to be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of three years or more; or
- conduct that amounts to one or more criminal offences and involves the use of violence, results in substantial financial gain or is conduct by a large number of persons in pursuit of a common purpose.

Serious disorder is not defined in legislation, and so bears its ordinary English meaning.

2. Briefly describe the circumstances giving rise to the opinion that the above premises are associated with serious crime, serious disorder, or both.

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