

APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE AT STAPLE STORES, 19 ST MILDREDS WALK, WESTGATE ON SEA KENT

Meeting	10th March 2022
Report Author	Alison Brock, Technical Support Team Manager
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Saunders
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted

Executive Summary:

To consider this application for a new premises licence in respect of Staple Stores, 19 St Mildreds Walk, Westgate on Sea Kent

Recommendation:

The instructions of the Sub-Committee are requested.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

Costs associated with processing the application are taken from licensing fee income.

The applicant or any other person (objector) may appeal the Committee's decision to Magistrates' Court within 21 days. Should this decision be appealed the Council will incur costs defending the appeal. Should the appeal be successful it could result in costs being awarded against the Council. Therefore all decisions should ensure that they are in line with the objectives of the Licensing Act 2003

Legal

Under the Licensing Act 2003 the Licensing Authority has a duty to exercise licensing control of relevant premises.

The Licensing Sub-Committee is obliged to determine applications with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives.

Any decision the Licensing Sub-Committee make should be made with regard to the Secretary of State's guidance made under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (revised in April 2017) as well as Thanet District Councils adopted Licensing Policy.

Where any decision parts from either the Guidance or the Policy clear and cogent reasons must be given. Members should be aware that if such a departure is made the risk of appeal/challenge is increased. Similarly the risk of appeal/challenge is increased if any decision made is not evidence based and proportionate.

The Licensing Sub-Committee must pay proper attention to the applicant's rights under the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998, which gives further effect in the United Kingdom to the fundamental rights and freedoms contained in the European Conventions on Human Rights. The Licensing Sub-Committee must have proper regard to the rights of the individual applicant when making decisions that affect them. However, it also has to have regard to the safety and protection of the public and therefore to ensure that the right balance is found and think hard about how it can cause the least possible harm to individuals, bearing in mind its duty to ensure the protection of the public.

The effective regulation of licensable activities and of premises at which licensable activities take place can assist in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 states: "Without prejudice to any other obligation imposed on it, it shall be the duty of each authority to which this section applies to exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those function on, and the need to do all that is reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area"

In considering this application the Licensing Sub-Committee will balance the competing Human Rights of the various parties including the right to respect for private and family life, the protection of property and the right to a fair hearing.

There is a right of appeal to a Magistrates' Court within 21 days of the date of the decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee with regard to the grant/refusal of a licence or any of the conditions attached to it.

Corporate

Corporate Priorities should be taken into account when determining the outcome of any application.

Priority 1: Growth

Priority2: Environment

Priority 3: Communities

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

In considering this application it is appropriate to consider the rights of both the applicant and other parties, such as “responsible authorities” and/or “other persons” (objectors). The procedure for determining licences has a prescribed format to ensure fair representation of the relevant facts by all parties.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Environment*
- *Communities*

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 An application for a premises licence at Staple Stores 19 St Mildreds Walk Westgate on Sea has been made by Mr Stephen Gadd.

1.2 The application is attached at Annex 1

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 Applicants for a premises licence are required, as part of the licensing procedure, to display a public notice which provides information to the public regarding the manner in which representations may be made. Similarly, public notice of the application should be published in a local newspaper circulating in the vicinity of the premises. These requirements appear to have been complied with.

The licence was originally applied for in June 21 but due to some planning issues was put on hold. At that time the hours applied for were until 22:30pm but as you can see from the attached application the hours are only now until 18:30pm for alcohol and 19:00pm close. Planning hours allow opening until 19:00pm only.

These hours cannot be extended for licensing purposes unless planning permission is changed as planning takes precedence over licensing.

2.2 Seven representations were received for this current application and these are attached at Annex 2.

You will note that the representations state the address of the premises as 82 St Mildreds Walk. This is incorrect. The premises was originally 82 St Mildreds Road as it was at the rear of 78/80 St Mildreds Road but was informally known as 82 St Mildreds Walk. It was renumbered 19 St Mildreds Walk in October 2021 to reflect the fact the entrance is in St Mildreds Walk and not St Mildreds Road. This was confirmed by the Street Naming and Numbering Officer.

2.3 The police and other responsible authorities have no objections to the application.

2.4 The police have agreed a number of conditions for the premises these are attached at Annex 3

- 2.5 Copies of the representations were sent to the applicant and a copy of his reply is attached at Annex 4
- 2.6 The Licensing Sub-Committee will be aware that it must carry out its functions under the 2003 Licensing Act to take steps which are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The Licensing objectives are: - the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance, and the protection of children from harm. In carrying out its licensing functions, the Licensing Sub Committee must also have regard to its statement of licensing policy and the Guidance issued under the Act.
- 2.7 The four licensing objectives are the matters the Licensing Sub-Committee must address when considering whether to grant or refuse the application. Each application should be considered on its merits. Reasons must be given for any decision made by the Sub-Committee.
- 3.0 Options**
- 3.1 To approve the application
- 3.2 To refuse the application
- 3.3 To approve the application with any other conditions the Sub-Committee may feel are suitable.

Contact Officer: Alison Brock Technical Support Team Manager
Reporting to: Penny Button, Director of Neighbourhoods

Annex List

Annex 1 – application
Annex 2 – Representations
Annex 3 – Police conditions
Annex 4 – Applicants response to the representations

Background Papers

Licensing Act 2003 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/17/contents>

DCMS Guidance documents issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended)-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003>

Thanet District Council Statement of Licensing Policy-

<https://www.thanet.gov.uk/media/3168621/licensing-document-2016.pdf>