

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

FROM: Head of Legal and Administrative Services

REPORT NUMBER **E76**

TO: LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

DATE OF MEETING 9 August 2005

LICENSING ACT 2003 – HEARING REPORT

1. SUMMARY

To determine an application under the 2003 Licensing Act made by:

Punch Taverns PLC

in respect of:

The George PH, George Street, Hintlesham, IPSWICH IP8 3NH

The hearing is to determine the variation element of this application only. The conversion element of the application (Part A of the form) is not subject to any hearing or consideration by the sub-committee as the Police have made no objection to the conversion during the statutory period. All existing conditions and restrictions under the Licensing Act 1964, and other enactments specified by the Secretary of State, therefore carry across with the conversion automatically as conditions on the new premises licence, unless the variation seeks to amend or remove these.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The sub-committee must, having regard to the representations made, take such of the steps below (if any) as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives:

- To grant the licence subject to conditions which are consistent with the operating schedule submitted by the applicant;
- To exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities that have been applied for;
- To refuse to specify a person in the licence as the premises supervisor;
- To reject the application.

Members of the sub-committee should note that they may where it is deemed necessary and proportionate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, alter, omit or add new conditions within the applicants operating schedule.

The sub-committee is able to determine this application.

3. THIS APPLICATION

- 3.1 This application is made by Punch Taverns PLC in respect of the George PH, George Street, Hintlesham, IPSWICH IP8 3NH. The named premises supervisor for the premises is Mrs Davina Natasha Foxlow.

The premises is a large public house with a large dining area. The premises currently hold a Public Entertainments Licence and the entertainments and external functions are a major attraction to the premises. There is also a large car park and beer garden. The premises have one AWP gaming machine and one cigarette vending machine.

The application is to simultaneously vary a conversion licence (justices' liquor licence and Public Entertainments Licence) and seeks to extend hours during which licensable activities, existing and new, will take place on the premises.

The existing permitted hours for the premises are as follows:

Justices' licence 'permitted hours:

Monday to Saturday	(10:00hrs until 23:00hrs)
Sunday/Good Friday	(12:00noon until 22:30hrs)
Christmas Day	(12:00noon until 15:00hrs and 19:00hrs until 22:30hrs)
New Years Eve	Extension allowed from end of permitted hours until start of permitted hours on New Years Day

Public Entertainments Licence

Monday to Friday	(10:00hrs until 00:00midnight)
Saturday	(10:00hrs until 22:30hrs)
Sunday/Good Friday	Not Authorised
Christmas Day	Not Authorised

The hours and activities being proposed by the variation application are:

(a) 'Live music' (Box E - indoors)

Live music both amplified and acoustic

Hours applied for:	10:00hrs until 23:00hrs (Monday to Thursday)
	10:00hrs until 00:00hrs (Friday & Saturday)
	10:00hrs until 23:00hrs (Sunday)

(b) 'Recorded music' (Box F - indoors)

Amplified recorded music to match hours for sale of alcohol

Hours applied for:	10:00hrs until 00:00hrs (Monday to Thursday)
	10:00hrs until 01:00hrs (Friday & Saturday)
	10:00hrs until 00:30hrs (Sunday)

(c) 'Provision of facilities for dancing' (Box J - indoors)

Dance floor within dining area

Hours applied for:	10:00hrs until 00:00hrs (Monday to Thursday)
	10:00hrs until 01:00hrs (Friday & Saturday)
	10:00hrs until 00:30hrs (Sunday)

(d) 'Provision of facilities for entertainment similar to music or dancing' (Box K - indoors)

Hours applied for: 10:00hrs until 00:00hrs (Monday to Thursday)
10:00hrs until 01:00hrs (Friday & Saturday)
10:00hrs until 00:30hrs (Sunday)

(e) 'Late night refreshment' (Box L - indoors)

Providing hot food or hot drink to the public after 23:00hrs

Hours applied for: 23:00hrs until 00:00hrs (Monday to Thursday)
23:00hrs until 01:00hrs (Friday & Saturday)
23:00hrs until 00:30hrs (Sunday)

(f) 'Supply of alcohol' (Box M - both on and off the premises)

Hours applied for: 10:00hrs until 00:00hrs (Monday to Thursday)
10:00hrs until 01:00hrs (Friday & Saturday)
10:00hrs until 00:30hrs (Sunday)

The proposed opening hours are looking to close the premises 30 minutes after the cessation of supply of alcohol, thus allowing for half an hour for appropriate dispersal of patrons and 'drinking-up time'. The opening hours proposed in box O are:

- Monday to Thursday (10:00hrs until 00:30hrs)
- Friday & Saturday (10:00hrs until 01:30hrs)
- Sunday (10:00hrs until 01:00hrs)

Seasonal and non-standard variation of hours

In addition to the above proposals the applicants are seeking:

- An extra hour beyond the above hours for Fridays/Saturdays/Sundays and Mondays for May, Spring/Whitsun/and August bank holidays. Therefore on such Fridays and Saturdays the premises would cease activities at 02:00hrs and close at 02:30hrs, Sundays would cease activities at 01:30hrs and close at 02:00hrs and Mondays cease activities at 01:00hrs and close at 01:30hrs.
- In addition to the above bank holiday requests, add the Thursday before Good Friday to cease activities at 01:00hrs and close at 01:30hrs.
- Also as above for Christmas Eve and Boxing Day - an additional hour beyond the proposals for standard-timings.

Under "grandfather rights" during transition the applicant will automatically get extended opening hours for New Year's Eve following the making of the Regulatory Reform (Special Occasion Licensing) Order 2002. This allows the premises to stay open from the end of permitted hours on New Years Eve until the end of permitted hours on New Years Day.

The applicants have proposed various steps that they intend to take to promote the four licensing objectives, detailed in section Q of the application form. The measures proposed include:

- a) that all live music will terminate one hour before the sale of alcohol ceases
- b) illumination to areas of the premises
- c) membership of Pubwatch
- d) that escape routes are unimpeded and unobstructed
- e) managed customer departure

Some of the steps proposed may require further clarification by the applicant at the hearing, or could duplicate other legislation or already be covered by offences in the Licensing Act 2003.

Please refer to the copy of the complete application attached as Appendix 1.

- 3.2 The application is attached as Appendix 1. The advertisements required under the Act were published on 24 June 2005 and displayed on the premises for 28 days. The applicant has confirmed that the following consultees, as Responsible Authorities, have received notice of the application.

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY	RESPONSE
1. Chief Officer of Police	
2. Local Fire Authority	
3. Health and Safety Executive/Local Authority for Health and Safety at Work Act	Yes - 04.07.2005
4. Environmental Health	Yes - 04.07.2005
5. Local Planning Authority	
6. Area Child Protection Committee	
7. Any other Licensing Authority	
8. Trading Standards	
9. Environmental Agency/British Waterways Boards/Maritime and Coastguard Agency	

A copy of any representations are attached as Appendix 2.

- 3.3 No representations have been received during the statutory period from local residents or local businesses ('interested parties').

4. GUIDANCE AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The sub-committee is referred to section 6 – 'Hours of Trading' and section 7 – 'Conditions Attached to Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates', and also Annexes D to H, of Central Government Guidance in respect of this application.

4.2 The sub-committee is referred to sections 1, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 14 of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy in respect of this application.

5. THE ISSUE(S)

5.1 The Licensing Act 2003 introduced a new licensing regime. The four underlying objectives of the regime are:

- Prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- Prevention of public nuisance
- Protection of children from harm

These are the only grounds upon which an application may be refused, or if deemed necessary, conditions may be attached to a licence.

5.2 Members will note that the main issues here are:

- Balancing the interests of owners, employees, customers and neighbours of licensable premises.
- The steps proposed by the applicants in their operating schedule to promote the four licensing objectives.

6. PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT HEARING

6.1 A copy of the 'Procedure for Hearing of Application under the Licensing Act 2003 where a Representation/Objection is received' is attached to the Agenda.

7. APPENDICES REFERRED TO

- (a) Appendix 1 – Part B – Application
- (b) Appendix 2 – Representations
- (c) Appendix 3 – Site Plan showing location of premises.

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