

**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE****31 August 2005**Attendance:

Councillors:

Pines (Chairman) (P)

Nelmes (P)

Sutton (P)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Pearson

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1. **UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING, WINCHESTER**  
(Report LR131 refers)

The Sub-Committee met to consider an application by the University of Winchester Students' Union for the renewal of a public entertainment licence (PEL) for the Students' Union Building, Sparkford Road, Winchester.

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Hodgson (one of the applicants), Mr Geddes (Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University) and Mrs Smith and Mr Hedin (local residents).

The Assistant Licensing and Registration Officer explained that the renewal application was in the same terms as the existing licence and did not seek any change to the current permitted times of entertainment. She added that the existing licence would be replaced by a new premises licence by November 2005 (in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003), which would be the subject of a separate application.

In response to Members' questions, the Assistant Licensing and Registration Officer confirmed that since the current PEL was granted in March 2002, only two complaints had been received from local residents (in response to the current application) and that these related to the movement of pedestrians, rather than noise from the premises themselves. With regard to the building, it was confirmed that the applicant had undertaken significant works to reduce the level of noise that could escape from the building.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Hodgson spoke in support of the application. He stated that the Students' Union took its role within the local community seriously and had therefore organised regular meetings with local residents. These discussions had led to a number of improvements and initiatives which had significantly reduced the number of complaints from residents concerning the Students' Union. He added that relevant staff were licensed by the Security Industry Authority and that all staff ensured that the doors and windows were kept shut to reduce noise nuisance. Mr Hodgson also explained that after a calm-down period within the premises, on leaving patrons were given bottles of water, lollipops, pizzas and sweets to encourage them to walk home quietly. The Students Union was part of the town's PubWatch Scheme

and had been instrumental in promoting its SSHH Campaign (Silent Students, Happy Homes) with local residents.

In response to Members' questions, Mr Hodgson confirmed that the Students' Union was used by students of the University and its guests only.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Geddes (Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University) also spoke in support of the application. In summary, he stated that members of the University's staff had unofficially patrolled the area to assist local residents but, as this had been discouraged by the Police, he suggested that the University might become involved in the City Council's new Neighbourhood Warden Scheme. This was welcomed by Members.

In response to Members' questions, Mr Geddes confirmed that it was likely that the majority of the noise nuisance to residents was caused by a small number of students returning home from the Students' Union. However, in his closing remarks, he stated that the Union provided a safer and more controlled environment for students who would otherwise frequent commercial premises in the town centre and that would be likely to result in more, not fewer, complaints from local residents as students returned home.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mrs Smith spoke as a local resident against the application. She stated that the noise of students walking past her property in the early hours of the morning had made it difficult to sleep, that it prevented her from opening windows in the evening and that she was concerned that the value of her property might be affected.. She also commented that the Police might not have received any complaints regarding the premises because of the high tolerance level of local residents and the pleasant nature of most students when sober.

Mr Hedin spoke as a local resident against the application. In echoing the issues raised by Mrs Smith above, Mr Hedin raised concerns that the views of local residents were not taken seriously by the University.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate in camera.

In his closing remarks, the Chairman stated that in reaching its decision, the Sub-Committee had given careful consideration to all the issues raised regarding the application, including those set out in the report and matters raised during the hearing. The Sub-Committee agreed to grant the application to renew the licence as set out in the report with an additional condition for the Union to post notices at the exits requesting patrons to leave quietly.

The Chairman also reminded the applicant of their duty not to supply alcohol to drunk patrons and reminded the local residents present of their right to apply for a review of any premises licence which might be granted under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Licence be renewed on the same terms as existing, including the following 'Additional Conditions':-

(i) The hours during which the premises may be used for the purposes of this licence shall be as follows:-

Mondays	from 1100 to 0000
Tuesdays	from 1100 to 2300
Wednesdays	from 1100 to 0000
Thursdays	from 1100 to 2300
Fridays	from 1100 to 0100 (Saturdays)
Saturdays	from 1100 to 2300
Sundays	from 1200 to 2230

(ii) The maximum number of persons permitted to be in the premises whilst in use for the purposes of this Licence shall not exceed 140 in the Round Table Bar and 400 in the remainder of the premises.

(iii) All doors and windows that are capable of being opened directly to the outside of the premises shall not be kept open, wedged open, or maintained open by a mechanical or other device whilst the premises are in use for the purposes of this Licence.

(iv) The Licensee or another person nominated by him shall be on duty at all times whilst the premises are in use for the purposes of this Licence to receive and respond to any complaints of nuisance received from any person

(v) Entertainment shall only be permitted during the normal Academic Term Times (based on a 32 week year) including the Graduation period and Freshers weeks, such dates to be notified to the City Secretary and Solicitor not later than 1 July in each year for the following academic year.

(vi) The Licensees are reminded of the need to take all possible steps to reduce any nuisance to any residents or staff and users of the Royal Hampshire County Hospital.

(vii) Notices shall be displayed at the exits if the premises, advising patrons to leave the premises quietly so as not to cause nuisance to local residents.

## 2. **THE HORSE AND JOCKEY, CURDRIDGE**

(Report LR133 refers)

The Licensing and Registration Manager stated that since the publication of the above report, the applicant had met with local objectors and satisfied them regarding areas of concern about the future operation of the premises. The Sub-Committee therefore agreed that the item (which sought to vary the Premises Licence) be withdrawn and the application be determined by the City Secretary and Solicitor under delegated authority.

RESOLVED:

That the application be determined by the City Secretary and Solicitor under delegated authority.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and concluded at 7.00pm

Chairman