

Bristol City Council
Minutes of the Licensing (Hearings) Sub-Committee
22nd April 2016 at 12.30pm



Members Present:-

Councillors Abraham, Budd and Davies

Officers in Attendance:-

Ashley Clark – Legal Adviser, Abigail Holman – Licensing Policy Advisor, Jeremy Livitt – Democratic Services.

1. Election of Chair

Resolved – that Councillor Abraham be elected Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

The Chair welcomed all parties to the hearing and requested that all parties introduce themselves.

3. Apologies for Absence

None received.

4. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

5. Public Forum

None were received.

6. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Application For The Renewal of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence made by Nightlife Clubs Limited in respect of a premises trading as Urban Tiger, 4 Broad Quay, Bristol BS1 4DA.

Comments from each of the objectors were noted (1 to 16). The following objectors were in attendance and addressed the Sub-Committee:

- Objector 3 – A Representative of the Bristol Fawcett Society
- Objector 4 – A Representative of Bristol Women's Voice
- Objector 7 – A Resident of Central Bristol
- Objector 13 – Dr Helen Mott



It was reported that the Sub-Committee had visited the site that morning and had questions for the applicant arising from that visit. These were made as follows:-

Can the CCTV in the supervision area at the front of the premises be zoomed into any point?
Is the TV in the lounge area promotional or purely for watching TV (ie Match of the Day)?
How do customers get drinks at the bar?
Is the private dance area at the back on the ground floor for 1 person per booth?
Is payment made by hand and by cash or by credit card at Reception (with chips for customers to give to the dancers)?
Are any free booths available for use by customers? Please can the width and numbers sitting there be clarified?
Is there a waitress service in the Lounge area on the 1st Floor?
Do the VIP areas not allow dancers?
Are the toilets on the 1st Floor for Dancers Only?
Is the Smoking Area on the 1st Floor for dancers only?
Where are the toilets for non-dancers?
What would the total number of dancers be in the changing area at its busiest? It was confirmed that this would be between 15 and 20.
Was the door code kept secure?
Why were there no chairs in the additional changing area upstairs?
Why are some of the CCTV cameras in black and white and some in colour?
Were the images clear enough to be able to identify individuals?
Could the CCTV cameras be positioned differently to allow identification?

In response to a Sub-Committee member's question, it was confirmed that there were also toilets on the ground floor for female customers.

The following representatives of the applicant were in attendance:

Bob Hale – Officer, Nightlife Limited
Carrie Hale – Officer, Nightlife Limited
Tracey Hall – Officer, Nightlife Limited
David Jones – Manager, Urban Tiger
James Treherne – Manager, Urban Tiger
Matthew Jones – Manager, Urban Tiger
John Morse – Solicitor Representing Urban Tiger
Philip Kolvin QC – Barrister Representing Urban Tiger

The Licensing Officer confirmed that all representations made by objectors to the renewal application had been served on the applicant on Monday 11th April 2016.

The Chair asked the applicant's legal representative to address the Sub-Committee and he made the following points:-

- Urban Tiger had been operating for six years
- This was the third renewal of the licence
- There had been no statutory objection to the renewal of the licence



- The business had been bought by the Hale family and was operated by Central Chambers through Reedbed. The individuals were known to Bristol City Council through previous applications as suitable owners for lap dancing clubs
- This was a busy operation with approximately 100 customers and a maximum of 3 managers. There were also 4 security industry staff employed at the club and who were licenced (1 at the door, 1 downstairs, 1 upstairs and 1 roving throughout the establishment)
- All managers and security staff were connected by radios. There was a high degree of surveillance and control
- There is a waitress service which operated separately to the dancers
- Upon entry, a staff member would explain to a customer the rules of the establishment which are also repeated on the walls and also set out on the Menu
- Customers could pay cash or could use a credit card, including for the purchase of chips to give to the dancers
- Any customer who wished to go out of the building to smoke had their hand-stamped. However, they would not come into contact with dancers who were not in the reception or smoking area for customers. There were on average and at most 6 people in this area. In response to a Sub-Committee member's question, it was confirmed that there were never large groups of people smoking outside the club
- The establishment operated under 2 existing CCTV conditions. Firstly, both parties must be identifiable from captured images. Whilst the owner was satisfied that this was the case, there were regular inspections by Council officers to ensure that this was the case. In addition, if the light level dropped below a certain lumens value, the image automatically turned from colour to black and white. However, the concerns arising from the Site Visit were noted and Licensing Officers were invited to look at the cameras and their quality
- Recent repositioning of the CCTV cameras prevented customers from seeing any of the images. There had been recent modernisation of the CCTV system in November 2013
- The Licensing Act requires that CCTV cameras are kept in good working order and that any extension for a replacement CCTV system is carried out in consultation with the Police
- The layout had been improved so that the old booths which were too narrow to allow adequate surveillance had been increased to ensure a higher standard;
- The back of house was not currently to the same standard as the front of the house but the new owners were intending to improve these. The views of the dancers will be taken into account during the refurbishment process – including the need for chairs in the additional changing area as referred to in the questions
- The code on the door is secure and was known only to the dancers and managers. In addition, it could be changed every 6 months as an additional security measure
- The club opened at 10pm during week days and at 9pm during the week. There were 4 security staff in operation at weekends and 2 in operation during the week when the club was much quieter. As an example, there may only be between 5 to 15 people attending the club on any particular night during the week

Members expressed particular concern over two posters referred to in the paperwork. However, it was noted that these were both posters which had never been widely distributed and which were used under the previous ownership. It was agreed that



these were both offensive and the existing owners gave an assurance that such promotional methods would never be used by them.

There were no further questions so all parties withdrew for the Sub-Committee to deliberate.

Resolved:- that the renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Licence for Temptations T3 be granted for 12 months from the expiry of the last licence in September 2015 and be subject to a requirement for officers to inspect the CCTV at the establishment to ensure it complied with the necessary conditions in the licence.

Note: The Sub-Committee noted the assurances that had been received from the applicant concerning the two posters referred to above and that they would be modernising the changing room facilities for the dancers.

The meeting finished at 2.10pm.

CHAIR _____

