

14th May 2014

Mrs. Gemma Potter,
Licensing Team Leader,
Flintshire County Council,
County Hall,
Mold.
CH7 6NF

Dear Mrs.Potter,

**APPLICATION TO VARY PREMISES LICENCE –
ALBION HOTEL, CHURCH HILL, CHURCH STREET, CONNAHS QUAY CH5 4UW**

I write with reference to the above application which has been discussed with Inspector CeriHawe, the officer responsible for this area.

On Thursday 8th May, 2014 Ann Williams, North Wales Police Eastern Licensing Officer and Lorraine Baxendale, Flintshire County Council Licensing officer met with the applicant Mr. Lee Owen at the Albion Hotel. Also in attendance were Mr Paul Winskill who introduced himself as a Property Developer and a Mr. Richard Platt.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the application in further detail and to ascertain how the premises intended to operate.

A lengthy discussion took place with concerns outlined regarding the display and advertisement of the application. Reference was made to concerns raised by local residents and North Wales Police, following history of serious incidents of crime and disorder and underage at the premises, which had resulted in a review of the premises licence in December, 2010.

Mr. Lee confirmed that he was not aware of the history of the premises and fully understood reasons for the concerns/objections to the application and did not wish to upset any of the neighbours.

Although initially not wishing to share their long term plan for the premises, publicly, Mr. Winskill suggested that it would be beneficial to inform local residents and responsible authorities of their intentions at this stage of the process. He believed this may allay fears of noise disturbance, incidents of crime and disorder and underage.

Mr. Lee explained that it was not their intention to operate a premise opening every day, they did not wish to hold 18th Birthday parties, school leaver parties or anything of that nature, which would attract a younger clientele. The variation had been submitted with a view to holding 'band nights' twice a month with bands such as tribute bands, scooter which they believed would attract a mixed clientele, particularly the older clientele.

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It was explained that it was their intention to develop the premises into accommodation, but in the interim they wished to continue with a licensed premises opening twice a month on either a Friday or Saturday until 0200 hours and also wished to have the flexibility to hold events on a Bank Holiday. It was confirmed that although not included in the operating schedule, Security Industry Authority registered doorstaff would be employed.

Mr. Lee was informed of our disappointment that as an experienced member of the licensing trade he had not seen fit to discuss the variation application with the Local Authority or North Wales Police prior to its submission. It was believed that if he had done so, other options would have been discussed and this may have prevented the concerns raised. Mr. Lee apologised and explained that in Merseyside, where he has other licensed premises, the process differs slightly. The times and conditions of the current Premises Licence for the Albion Hotel were discussed.

Concern was also raised that Mr. Lee was named as Designated Premises Supervisor at the Albion Hotel and following enquiries with Merseyside Police, Mr. Lee was named as Designated Premises Supervisor at two other licensed premises in Birkenhead. When asked how he intended to manage these premises, he explained that a new Designated Premises Supervisor would be appointed at the Albion, but at this time he could not offer a name as he did not know who this person would be. He was advised to inform North Wales Police as soon as possible of the new DPS.

Mr. Lee was informed that following our meeting North Wales Police would make representations to Local Authority. These representations were outlined to him, to which he verbally agreed and can be seen below. It was explained that a copy of the representation letter would be forwarded to him and further contact would then be made with him by Lorraine Baxendale.

In respect of this application, North Wales Police wish to make the following representations under the licensing objective of Prevention of Crime and Disorder:-

- **Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday – premises to remain closed**
- **Friday and Saturday – Sale of Alcohol and Recorded Music – 1200 hours – 0200 hours**
- **Friday and Saturday – All other licensable activities applied for in this application to end at midnight**

Under the licensing objective of Prevention of Crime and Disorder, it is submitted that the following conditions are placed on the premises licence:-

- **All Door Supervisors to be Security Industry Authority registered (SIA). Door Supervisors must wear high visibility jackets/armbands and must sign in and out in a register provided using their full 16 digit licence number.**

- **Door Supervisors will commence duty at 2100 hours on a Friday, Saturday and any Bank Holiday and remain on duty until the closure of the premises. At any time an event is held during the daytime, SIA registered doorstaff must be employed throughout the event.**
- **There will be a “lock-out” policy imposed on a Friday, Saturday and any Bank Holiday with no customers to be admitted to the premises after midnight.**

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- **The Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor shall ensure that appropriate measures are implemented to prevent the removal of bottles or glasses from the licensed premises.**

Following a review hearing a condition for CCTV was imposed on the current premises licence:-

- That a colour digital CCTV system be installed at the premises and maintained in good working order. Recordings to be kept for 28 days and made readily available for inspection by North Wales Police and the Local Authority.

It is requested that an additional CCTV condition be included on the premises licence:-

- **There must be a minimum of two members of staff trained in the use of the system and available to download footage at the request of the Police or Local Authority.**

Should the applicant be in agreement with the above representations, they or their representatives are requested to confirm this to the relevant Council Licensing Department as soon as possible. This MAY avoid the need for a hearing before Committee, dependant upon any other representations received from other responsible authorities or interested parties.

Should the applicant not be in agreement with the representations, a Licensing Sub-Committee hearing will take place.

Yours faithfully,

Ann Williams
Eastern Licensing Officer

cc

Lorraine Baxendale, Flintshire County Council Licensing Officer
Inspector CeriHawe, North Wales Police, Flintshire North
Police Sergeant 203 Paul Williams, North Wales Police, Flintshire North
Lee Owen e mail – lee@1jma.biz