

**LICENSING SUBCOMMITTEE
(2003 ACT)**28 January 2008
10am – 11:35am**Present:** Councillors Dixon (Chair), Blencowe and Boyce**01/lic/01 Declarations of Interest by Subcommittee**

No Code of Conduct personal interests were declared

01/lic/02 Procedure to be followed

The procedure for hearings of the subcommittee set out on the agenda was noted.

01/lic/03 Application to vary premises licence: Dars, Regent Street**Present for this application:****For the Applicant:** Iftikhar Ahmed (Applicant)**The hearing:** The Licensing Officer presented her report and outlined the application to vary the premises licence

Mr Ahmed seeks to vary the premises licence as follows:

Sale/supply of alcohol (off premises)

Mon – Thur & Sun 08.00 to 01.00

Fri & Sat 08.00 to 02.00

(currently Mon- Sat 08.00 to 23.00, Sun 10.00 to 22.30)

Hours premises are open

Mon – Thur & Sun 08.00 to 01.00

Fri & Sat 08.00 to 02.00

(hours not currently stated)

Removal of terms, conditions or restrictionsRemoval of embedded restrictions relating to the Licensing Act 1964
(Annex 2, conditions 1 & 2).

The applicant then presented his case and responded to questions from members of the subcommittee. Mr Ahmed had been the proprietor for 4 years and while shoplifting was a big problem there had been no drink related incidents. He stated that since last years change to the Licensing Act his business had been affected and takings were down. After 8pm alcohol normally makes up around 50% of the sales but with pubs now serving later this trade had been affected. There were currently nine pubs, 15 restaurants, 9 takeaways and 3 hotels and later opening hours would enable his shop to cater for the patrons leaving these premises. A similar shop in Mill Road was given as an example.

The applicant would be willing to sign up to the CCTV Retail Code of Conduct, if this was applicable, and gave further information on the improved CCTV system that was due to be installed – including digital recording , night vision and extra lighting.

Members questioned whether the applicant was fully aware of the new Cumulative Impact Policy as adopted by the Council on 7th January 2008 and how this affected the procedure for licensing applicants. After discussion Mr Ahmed had the details explained to him by the Solicitor present.

The Divisional Licensing Officer from Cambridgeshire Police made representation opposing the application in regard to licensing objectives for Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Nuisance and Public Safety under Licensing Act 2003. He stated that the applicant had been assaulted on four separate occasions in the last 13 months (February 2007 8pm – 8.15pm, July 2007 10pm – 10.04pm, September 2007 7.52pm, and January 2008 10.22pm) and it was felt that this was alcohol related. Regent Street is in the Cumulative Impact Zone and is noted as a hotspot for disorder – therefore this application would go against all four licensing objections.

The applicant noted that all four incidents were related to aggressive shoplifters and not to alcohol. He stated that when pubs were first licensed to open later police presence in Regent Street had an impact on disorder – however the increased patrols only lasted six months and have now ceased.

The Licensing Officer again highlighted the Cumulative Impact Policy to the applicant and he stated that had he fully understood the process changes he would have been better prepared for the meeting.

The subcommittee retired at 10.55am – 11am to discuss the issue further

It was agreed by all parties that that as the application was made before the policy changes in January 2008, and the applicant did not fully understand the implications, the meeting would be adjourned. This would give the applicant the opportunity to better acquaint himself with the policy and seek legal advice if needed

The Chair, taking into account the views of all those present, scheduled a further meeting for 2pm Wednesday 6 February 2008

On 31 January this meeting was cancelled due to the applicant withdrawing his application