

Tranquil Bar Limited, 1 Bear Hill, Alvechurch, Birmingham West Midlands B48 4DG

West Mercia Police Report.

West Mercia Police are a responsible authority under the Licensing Act 2003 and review all new Premises licences as determined by the Act.

As part of our due diligence West Mercia Police review and consider a number of factors before making an independent decision of whether we support or object to the granting of the licence; these are:-

- The licensing objectives set out in the Licensing Act 2003.

The licensing objectives are:

The prevention of crime and disorder;

Public safety;

The prevention of public nuisance; and

The protection of children from harm.

- Guidance issued under section 182 of the Act
- The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.
- The application itself.
- Review of licenced premises and local crime figures.
- A site visit of the premise.
- Other impact factors including the cumulative impact of granting a premise licence although I acknowledge this is not in a cumulative impact zone.
- Negotiation with the applicant when required to do so.

Application of Tranquil Bar Limited, 1 Bear Hill, Alvechurch, Birmingham West Midlands B48 4DG

Police Sergeant (PS) Richard Paul FIELD of West Mercia Police reviewed the proposed application for Tranquil bar limited. Upon receipt of the application acknowledged that the licencing hours were quite long so conducted a site visit. On the 23rd June 2020 PS FIELD attended the site and observed that the premise was in the heart of Alvechurch Village and near to residential properties who had single glazed windows.

PS FIELD was concerned that the application based on the current operating hours and proposed conditions could have a negative impact to the community. PS FIELD's main concerns were:-

- The licencing hours were long and not in keeping with nearby premises. This could make this a late night venue and result crime and disorder within or outside the venue. The application did not appear to mitigate against these risks for a venue opening until 1 AM at the weekend.
- The applicant sought to open on New Year Eve until New Year day i.e 24 hours a day.
- The smoking area backed onto a residential area and PS FIELD was concerned over the impact of noise and from experience smoking areas tend to attract crime and disorder later into the night.

Partnership Working with the Applicant.

PS FIELD emailed Mr. Rob Edge of Licence Leader Ltd acting for the applicant and outlined the above concerns and some proposed changes to application. Mr. Edge called and emailed PS FIELD on the 24th June to confirm that his client was happy with the recommendations proposed by West Mercia Police. Mr Edge outlined that his client wished to work with the police and looked forward to being part of this community. From this conversation it was clear that Mr. Edge client was cooperative, socially responsible and understood the requirements of the Licencing Act of 2003. PS FIELD sought confidence that the applicant would do everything he can to promote the four objectives and work with the local community.

From this conversation the following amendments were agreed:-

1. Opening hours. Reduced to 2300 hrs. Sunday to Thursday & Midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. This is in line with other venues in the area.
2. Non Standard Times –New Year Eve to be changed to 01.00 hrs finish and other bank holidays to be allowed an extra hour as per the original application.
3. Smoking area – As this area backs onto housing, a condition within the Public Nuisance section has been added that all customers will not be allowed to use the outdoor smoking area from 2200 hours every night.

Public Objections

PS FIELD has read and is aware of a number of public objections to this application. Having had receipt of these objection letters made the following observations:-

- A number of the objectors outline concern over crime and disorder / public nuisance by having a bar open until 1AM. These have now been addressed by the applicant by reducing the hours in keeping with other venues locally.
- Noise / Music in the smoking area or by the venue. This again has been addressed by the applicant by preventing access in the smoking area by 22.00 hrs daily which goes above the 23.00 hrs recommendation in the council's policy under section 6.28.
- Lack of parking / Vehicular traffic noise – I do not see that this falls any of the four objectives under the Act. In addition, this premise was previously a post office and would suggest that vehicular traffic and parking will be similar.
- No public transport – I cannot see this that this falls within the four objectives of the Act.
- The premise has no planning or change of use – this is a matter outside the objectives of the Licensing Act.

Conclusion

Therefore, based on the information contained above and reviewing the application in line with the four licencing objections West Mercia Police **supports** the granting of this premise licence. In doing so has considered all available facts, information, conducted site visit and negotiated extra conditions and a reduction of hours on the licence. I would like to remind members that the licensing authority will normally look to the police as the main source of advice on crime and disorder. The applicant has sought advice from West Mercia Police in relation to what steps they can take to promote the prevention of crime and disorder which is why the application is being supported.

PS Richard FIELD is aware that there have been a number of residential objections to this licence and is happy to attend or dial into any Licensing sub-committee meeting to answer any questions that are posed to West Mercia Police.

Author – PS Richard Field