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Licensing Policy

- Paragraph 17.1.2.4 – Licensing hours
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17.0 LICENSING HOURS

17.1 General

Longer licensing hours can help to avoid the concentration of customers leaving premises at the same time, leading to friction at late night food outlets, taxi ranks and other sources of transport. It is also recognised that licensing hours should not restrict the development of safe evening and night-time entertainments that are important for investment and employment locally. However, providing consumers with greater choice and flexibility must always be balanced carefully against the rights of local residents to peace and quiet.

There is no general presumption in Spelthorne in favour of lengthening licensing hours: the overriding principle will be the promotion of the four licensing objectives.

Stricter measures for controlling noise are likely to be sought for late licences, particularly in residential areas and/or where there has been a history of noise complaints. Please also see measures outlined under the “Public Nuisance” heading below.

Consideration will always be given to the individual merits of any application.

17.2 Shops, stores and supermarkets

Shops, stores and supermarkets will generally be permitted to sell alcohol during the normal hours they are open for shopping. However, there may be very good reasons for restricting those hours. For example, a limitation on the hours that alcohol can be sold may be appropriate, following police representations, for shops known to be the focus of disorder and disturbance, or where youths gather and behave anti-socially.

17.4 Non-standard hours

It is recognised that businesses may wish to apply for non-standard hours for Bank Holidays, Christmas Eve or Saints days. However, any additional days should be clearly identified in their licence operating schedules with dates and times so that proper consideration can be made of their impact on the licensing objectives and so that the licence is clear and unambiguous in this respect.

25.0 CRIME AND DISORDER

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Staines Town Centre is no longer considered a hotspot for alcohol-related crime and disorder. However it has the strongest night-time economy in the Borough with a mixture of restaurants, bars, pubs, late night takeaways and a cinema.

What applicants include on their operating schedules will depend on the type of premises, the location, and the proposed activities.

Premises that are mainly concerned with the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises (pubs, bars, proprietary clubs) will need to address the risks to crime and disorder with measures in their operating schedules to:

- Prevent disorder on the premises
- Prevent drunkenness
- Prevent under age sales of alcohol
- Ensure customers enter and leave in an orderly manner
- Exclude illegal drugs
- Exclude offensive weapons

Examples include:-

- Active membership of pubwatch schemes
- Use of licensed door supervisors
- Physical security features e.g. use of shatterproof drinking glasses
- Information on amount of seating to be provided
- Training given to staff in crime prevention measures
- Use of town centre radios (Staines Town Centre) to enable licensed premises to communicate to each other and police
- Search procedures
- Measures to prevent the use or supply of illegal drugs
- Details of CCTV video cameras

This list is not exhaustive and will not suit all applications. Applicants should seek advice from Surrey Police before preparing their operating schedules in relation to the prevention of crime and disorder.

It is recognised that late night takeaways can be the focus of anti-social behaviour, and in Staines Town Centre the use of CCTV, licensed door supervisors at peak times, and signing up to the town centre radio may be considered necessary to address this.

Shops and off licences applying to sell alcohol will need to address the risks to crime and disorder with measures in their operating schedules.

Examples include:-

- That there will be regular staff training (whether or not staff are paid) in relation to sale of alcohol to under age people and that training records shall be kept.
- All refusals to be recorded. in a refusals book. Refusals books shall consist of a bound book with consecutively numbered pages, and shall be held at the premises and available for inspection on demand at all times by the

responsible authorities. Records shall include the reason for the refused sale, whether because the customer looked under 25 and could not provide ID, or the customer appeared to be intoxicated, or whether the sales assistant suspected that the sales may be made on behalf of someone who may be underage or intoxicated (known as proxy sales).

- Use of Electronic Point of Sale (EPOS) system to remind staff via a suitable visual prompt or audible warning. Alternatively stickers can be used over certain products to remind cashiers to check the customer's age.
- That there is CCTV coverage of the licensed premises and the immediate vicinity outside in accordance with Surrey Police's Operational Guidelines in the use of CCTV in licensed shops.
- That a personal licence holder may be required to be on duty at high risk times such as outside school hours and during the evenings, for example where a business has been prosecuted for underage sales and/or is a source of youth disorder.
- That staff shall not sell alcohol to any person they have reason to suspect may be buying the alcohol for a child and that there shall be signage to warn adults that it is an offence to buy alcohol on behalf of a child. This is known as "proxy sales". Where there is evidence of such sales taking place, consideration should be given to ensuring CCTV coverage outside the shop.
- In areas with problems with alcohol related youth crime and disorder, that licence holders shall participate in "Bottlewatch" schemes, if requested to do so by responsible authorities.
- In areas where there is an Offwatch scheme, that licence holders sign up to such a scheme.

This list is not exhaustive and applicants should seek advice from Surrey Trading Standards or Surrey Police before preparing their operating schedules.

25.1 Reviews

A review of the licence may be sought by Responsible Authorities or any other person, where:

- A serious crime has occurred at, or can be linked to a particular premises
- There have been prosecutions or penalty notices served for underage sales
- There have been incidents which raise concerns that the premises are not being properly managed
- There have been breaches of the terms or conditions of the licence
- There have been repeated complaints from the public.

25.2. Working with other agencies to prevent crime and disorder

Current arrangements for partnership working and exchange of information between the relevant enforcement agencies will continue. In particular, the Licensing Authority shall work closely with Police and Trading Standards Officers with regard to prevention of the sale of alcohol to under age people. The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 inserts Section 147A into the Licensing Act 2003. Section 147A creates an offence of selling alcohol to a child three

times or more during a consecutive three month period. The new penalties created by this offence are:

- The magistrates' court may order the premises licence to be suspended for maximum 3 months
- Trading standards or police may order a temporary (48hours) premises closure notice prohibiting sale of alcohol
- maximum £10,000 fine Selling alcohol to under 18s can also result in
- £80 fixed Penalty Notice, or
- Prosecution with a fine of up to £5,000
- Revocation of a premises licence
- Revocation of a personal licence

25.3 NEW MANDATORY CONDITIONS

The Licensing Act 2003 (Mandatory Licensing Conditions) Order 2010

The Licensing Act 2003 (Mandatory Licensing Conditions) Order 2010 came into force on 6th April 2010 (with the exception of paragraphs 4 & 5 of the Schedule which came into force on 1st October 2010) 25

All paragraphs will apply to premises licences that permit the sale of alcohol on the premises ("on-licences").

Paragraph 4 only will apply to premises licences that permit the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises ("offlicences")

(1) The responsible person shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.

(2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities, or substantially similar activities, carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises in a manner which carries a significant risk of leading or contributing to crime and disorder, prejudice to public safety, public nuisance, or harm to children—

(a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to— (i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply alcohol), or (ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise); (b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic (other than any promotion or discount available to an individual in respect of alcohol for consumption at a table meal, as defined in section 159 of the Act); (c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less; (d) provision of free or discounted alcohol in relation to the viewing on the premises of a sporting event, where that provision is dependent on— (i) the outcome of a race, competition or other event or process, or (ii) the likelihood

of anything occurring or not occurring; (e) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner.

2. The responsible person shall ensure that no alcohol is dispensed directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of a disability).

3. The responsible person shall ensure that free tap water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.

4.

(1) The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder shall ensure that an age verification policy applies to the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.

(2) The policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request, before being served alcohol, identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and a holographic mark.

5. The responsible person shall ensure that– (a) where any of the following alcoholic drinks is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) it is available to customers in the following measures– (i) beer or cider: ½ pint; (ii) gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25 ml or 35 ml; and (iii) still wine in a glass: 125 ml; and (b) customers are made aware of the availability of these measures.

These conditions override any conditions already included in a premises licence or club premises certificate, so far as they are identical to the existing conditions or inconsistent with, and more onerous than, the existing conditions. The new conditions will apply to every licence and certificate authorising the sale and supply of alcohol from the point they come into force. As the new conditions are mandatory licensing conditions, any breaches will be treated in the same way as breaches of existing conditions. Failure to comply with any conditions attached to a licence or certificate is a criminal offence, which on conviction would be punishable by a fine of up to £20,000 or up to six months imprisonment or both. In most cases, we would expect there to be a review of those premises. This licensing authority takes any breach that impacts on the licensing objectives seriously.

25.4 IRRESPONSIBLE DRINKS PROMOTIONS Licence holders are urged to follow the advice contained in the Home Office document “Selling Alcohol Responsibly: the New Mandatory Conditions” published in April 2010. If in any doubt, you should discuss your proposals with your local Licensing Authority and/or police before running the promotion and heed any advice given. Failure to heed such advice may lead to criminal proceedings and/or a review of the licence.

25.7 PUBLIC NUISANCE

Licensed premises can have a significant impact on communities from noise, litter, light, odour and anti-social behaviour.

25.7.1 Noise

It is recommended that operating schedules contain sufficient information for officers to form a view as to whether noise from licensable activities is likely to cause a problem to people living nearby. Applicants should provide details of proposed noise control measures, particularly if premises are in residential areas where regulated entertainment is being applied for late at night, or where there is a history of noise complaints. The licensing authority will normally apply stricter conditions in these circumstances where relevant representations have been received. Whilst each application will be considered on its individual merits it should be noted that restricting the hours of regulated entertainment may be necessary to prevent public nuisance.

Measures could include:

- A simple requirement to keep doors and windows at the premises closed when music is being played
- Limiting amplified music to a particular area of the building
- Moving speakers away from external walls or walls that abut private premises, or adjusting the direction of the speakers
- Installation of acoustic curtains, seals to doorways, rubber speaker mounts
- Fitting self-closing devices on doors so that they do not stay open.
- Monitoring noise levels at the perimeter of premises and taking action to reduce the volume if it is likely to disturb nearby neighbours, e.g. it could be too loud if the words of the song are clearly audible
- Noise limiters on amplification equipment (if proportionate to the premises – noise limiters are expensive and are likely to be a burden for smaller premises)
- Prominent clear and legible notices displayed at all exits requesting the public to respect the needs of local residents and to leave the premises and the area quietly
- The placing of bottles and cans into bins outside the premises to take place at times that will minimise disturbance to nearby premises

25.7.2 Smokefree

Since 1 July 2007 it became illegal to smoke in enclosed public buildings and workplaces in England. Customers who want to smoke will therefore have to do so outside licensed premises. Applicants will need to address the potential for public nuisance from this activity, e.g. noise and litter such as cigarette ends. Advice should be sought from the appropriate authorities to ensure that crime and disorder and public safety issues are adequately addressed. For example, it may be necessary to prevent customers from taking alcohol

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outside when they go out to smoke, or to designate smoking areas that are away from neighbouring residential properties, where necessary. Operating schedules should detail how noise nuisance and disorder in light of this will be dealt with.

25.7.3 Odours

Conditions may be necessary to ensure that licensed premises are properly vented to prevent odours causing a nuisance to people who live or work nearby.

25.7.4 Litter

Late night takeaways are encouraged to include on their operating schedules reasonable assurances that the area in and around their business will be kept clear of litter associated with that business.

25.7.5 Reviews in connection with Public Nuisance An application for review by responsible authorities or any other person may be applied for where:

- Complaints have been received that have been substantiated by investigating officers; and/or
- Breaches of licence conditions in respect of public nuisance have been identified; and/or
- Action is being considered under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Noise Act 1996 or section 40 of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003; and/or
- Evidence of noise, litter, odours etc from the premises has caused a public nuisance over a period of time, and other approaches have failed.