

Licensing & Regulatory Panel

Minutes of the Licensing & Regulatory Panel held on Monday 4 February 2019, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 2.00pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs Cain, Davies and Mrs Knight

Also Present: Mrs Gutteridge (Council's Solicitor), Ms Wells (Council Solicitor – observing), Mrs Tuckwell (Committee Services Officer) and Mrs Dudgeon (Licensing Enforcement Officer).

1. **Appointment of Chairman**

Resolved that Councillor Mrs Knight be appointed as Chairman for the hearing.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Davies declared an interest because he had seen the event on social media and "liked" the event. However, at that time, Councillor Davies had not received the papers for the meeting and wished to consider all the facts and representations at the meeting before taking a decision on the application.

3. **Application for a premises licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 for Pub in the Park, St Nicholas, Warwick**

The Panel considered a report from Health and Community Protection which sought a decision on an application for a premises licence for Pub in the Park, St Nicholas Park, Warwick.

The Chairman asked the members of the Panel and the officers present to introduce themselves. The other parties then introduced themselves as:

- Mr Neil Levene, Director of Operations, Brand Events TM Ltd;
- Mr Patrick Toland, Operations Manager, Brand Events TM Ltd; and
- Ms Katie Caines, Operations Manager, Brand Events TM Ltd.

The Council's Solicitor explained the procedure for the hearing.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer outlined the report and asked the Panel to consider all the information contained within it in order to determine if the application for a premises licence should be approved and, if so, whether the licence should be subject to any conditions.

Brand Events TM Ltd applied for a premises licence for Pub in the Park, St Nicholas Park, Warwick, on 18 December 2018. The licence was for an annual event to be held at St Nicholas Park, called Pub in the Park. The event would be held in a fenced off area of the park for three days and the licence was being applied for solely for the use of this event. The licensable activities being applied for were set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

An operating schedule, which had been submitted by the applicant and would form part of any licence issued, had been supplied and detailed in Section 3.2 of

the report. The Licensing Department had received a representation from a local resident which was attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

No representations had been received from:

- Warwickshire Police
- Environmental Health
- Fire Authority
- Trading Standards
- Environmental Health
- Enforcement Agency for Health and Safety
- The Licensing Authority
- Authority Responsible for Planning
- Authority Responsible for the Protection of Children
- National Health Service/Public Health

A map and photograph of the area were attached as Appendix 3 to the report.

A number of additional documents were circulated to all parties prior to the meeting, including an Event Plan, Crowd Management Plan, Traffic Management Plan, Noise Management Strategy and Exhibitor Alcohol Manual.

Mr Levene explained that Brand Events was one of UK's largest event organisers and had been planning events worldwide for over 20 years, including Taste of London, Car Fest and taking the Top Gear team around the UK and around the world. Brand Events had been running Pub in the Park since 2007. Based on the previous success of Pub in the Park in Marlow, three additional events had been organised in Bath, Tunbridge Wells and Cheshire. All events were very well received by both public and local authorities. In 2019, Brand Events were planning to run eight events, adding four to the four which already existed, one of them being an event in Warwick.

Mr Levene emphasised that the event was very upmarket and quite pricey, at £30 for an afternoon session and £45 for the evening sessions. The reason for the high price was the very high quality of the event, with some of the best pubs around the country attending, as well as celebrity chefs. Halfway through the session, there was normally a music act for about 20 minutes, then a break followed by another performance for another 20 minutes. After a second break, there would be a final session of about 45 minutes of live music. It was expected to have about one to one hour and 30 minutes turnover time.

Mr Levene also clarified that there was headroom in the capacity number, and that the number of staff members was also included in the total capacity number, and it was therefore a lot of lieu room for them there.

Regarding the objection, Mr Levene explained that since they had been running the event, they never experienced a problem with children and drunk people. The staff team were very much in control of the alcohol distribution. Wine would only be distributed in glass receptacles within a designated, contained area, and not across the entire venue. Brand Events had employed a very reputable security company and any concerns would be addressed straightaway.

In terms of car parking arrangements, Mr Levene explained that although arrangements were in place and the event was expected to sell out, due to the

type of this event, it was customary for attendees to walk, travel by taxi or public transport.

Mr Levene also mentioned that Brand Events put together an Event Safety document which had not been included with the paperwork for the meeting because it was about 150 pages long. However, this document had been agreed with all the responsible parties and feedback relating to the protection of tree roots, for example, had already been taken on board. At their previous events, they never experienced an issue with complaints from other local authorities. There had been a lot of interest in the Warwick event, with over 8,500 signed up in advance for tickets.

In response to questions from Panel Members, Mr Levene advised that:

- Different Operations Managers would be running the different events around the country, such as Bath, Tunbridge Wells etc. The contractors coming on the site would also be made aware of the site rules and getting the fence in place really quickly would be a priority.
- Music was planned to stop at 10.30pm on Friday and Saturday, and 10pm on Sunday.
- About 24 security members of staff were expected to be on the premises at any given time.
- It was forecasted that most of the evening sessions tickets would be sold in advance, but if there were any left, some tickets would be sold at the door. However, due to the high ticket prices, there were not many people purchasing tickets at the door.
- The event would take place the first weekend in July.
- Brand Events were looking at other options to replace the plastic cups with more sustainable options. These were discussed with the suppliers and sponsors. One of the examples given was a reusable pint glass. There was, however, an issue in terms of the necessary products not being available in a reusable form, such as cocktail glasses.
- The waste disposal plan was also agreed and details of this were included in the report. A number of conditions were set out in the report by Brand Events, and these conditions would satisfy the Local Authority. Or else, they would be requesting to modify these conditions.
- In terms of noise, the four / four and a half hour sessions were aimed to help in this respect. Music would not be continuously played, and a noise management plan had been submitted prior to the meeting.
- In the event that an attendee would become intoxicated or causing disturbance, the staff team would try to contact the family or group of friends the individual was part of, making every effort to ensure the individual would get home safely. If a criminal offence occurred, the security on site would involve the Police or responsible authorities. It was highlighted that this had never happened at previous events.
- The event was very much child friendly, especially the afternoon sessions, where a number of activities were organised for families with children.
- The concerns raised about parking were totally understandable. Mr Levene emphasised the fact that, even before the Council requested a plan for parking, Brand Events had already submitted one to the Council.
- Representatives of Brand Events had been meeting with Green Space officers, and the feedback regarding protecting the trees, not placing anything under the trees or in proximity of tree roots had all been taken on board.

At 2.36pm, the Chairman asked all parties other than the Panel, the Council's Solicitors and the Committee Services Officer to leave the room, in order to enable the Panel to deliberate in private and reach its decision.

Resolved that

Having considered the application carefully in the light of the licensing objectives, the statutory guidance and the Council's Licensing Policy, the Panel have decided to grant the licence. The representation raised concerns about the protection of children from harm and the possibility of public nuisance being caused. The Panel have noted that there have been no representations by any of the Responsible Authorities and, when making their decision, have taken into account the applicants' history of holding this type of event and their comprehensive and thorough proposals for managing the event and its impact on the local area. The Panel are of the view that in granting the licence they will not impact on the licensing objectives.

At 2.53pm, all parties were invited back into the room and the Chairman invited the Council's Solicitor to read out the Panel's decision.

(The meeting ended at 2.54pm)

CHAIR