

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 'A'
4 JULY 2011

SUBMITTED TO THE LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE MEETING
28 JULY 2011

(To be read in conjunction with the Agenda for the Meeting)

- * Cllr Gillian Beel
- * Cllr Elizabeth Cable
- * Cllr Brett Vorley

* Present

Cllr Simon Inchbald was also in attendance as an observer

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (Agenda Item 1)

Cllr Elizabeth Cable was elected Chairman for this meeting of Sub-Committee A.

2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS (Agenda Item 2)

No interests were declared under this heading.

PART I – RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

There were no matters falling within this category.

PARTS II AND III – MATTERS OF REPORT

Background Papers

The background papers relating to the following report in Parts II and III are as specified in the Agenda for the meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee 'A'.

PART II – Matters reported in detail for the information of the Committee

3. LICENSING ACT 2003 - APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE – CO-OP, 47-51 FARNBOROUGH ROAD, FARNHAM, GU9 9AJ (Agenda Item 3; Appendix A)
 - 3.1 The Licensing Manager introduced the application and outlined the matter that the Sub-Committee was being asked to decide. The Licensing Manager told the Sub-Committee that there had been one written objection to the application but the person making the representation was unable to attend the hearing.
 - 3.2 The Chairman then advised the meeting that Surrey Police had discussed conditions with the applicant but it would be the decision of the Sub-Committee to apply any conditions to the licence if granted.

- 3.3 The applicant's representative then addressed the Sub-Committee and gave background information regarding the business operation of Southern Co-Op Ltd. It was part of the main Co-Operative Group but operated as a separate company and was therefore able to establish its own policies and ways of working.
- 3.4 Referring to the objector's letter in which it had been stated that the notice of application had not been displayed correctly, the applicant's representative explained that the notice had been removed every day by the company vacating the premises, but replaced immediately by Southern Co-Op Ltd. Parking was another issue raised by the objector, but the applicant's representative considered this issue was not one to which the Sub-Committee should give weight as it was not relevant to the promotion of the Licensing Objectives.
- 3.5 The applicant's representative then gave a detailed account of the policies Southern Co-Op Ltd operated in order to meet the Licensing Objectives, including a robust Challenge 25 policy with a strict monitoring system and audit trail. Staff training on the sale of alcohol was also undertaken on a regular basis with records kept at Head Office followed by induction periods on the tills to make sure staff were fully aware of the processes to be undertaken for the sale of alcohol, particularly to younger adults.
- 3.6 The applicant's representative drew attention to the plan tabled for the Sub-Committee that showed the layout of the store. Spirits would only be available from behind the tills, and beer and wine displayed on shelves away from the entrance door. The floor plan indicated that some displays at the end of the aisles facing the entrance could display alcohol. However, the applicant's representative said that his client would accept a condition preventing the display of alcohol near the entrance door.
- 3.7 It was the policy of Southern Co-Op Ltd to work with local police to look at ways of combating theft and to work with the public to make them aware of the Challenge 25 policy and the need to carry evidence of age when purchasing alcohol.
- 3.8 The Sub-Committee then asked questions of the applicant's representative regarding the sale of high-strength and cheap alcohol, and noise from delivery vehicles. The applicant's representative said that it was not the policy of Southern Co-Op Ltd to sell heavily discounted alcohol and that as it was not only alcohol being delivered to the store there could be no grounds for restricting the hours of delivery.
- 3.9 There were no closing statements and the Sub-Committee withdrew at 10.38 a.m.
- 3.10 Following the Sub-Committee's deliberation the meeting resumed at 11.15 a.m.

During the deliberations the Head of Democratic & Legal Services was asked to advise the Sub-Committee on suitable wording for a condition.

In conclusion, the Sub-Committee did not consider that the application conflicted with the Licensing Objectives relating to

- Prevention of Crime & Disorder (LO1)
- Public Safety (LO2)
- Prevention of Nuisance (LO3)
- Protection of Children from Harm (LO4)

The Sub-Committee RESOLVED to grant the licence with the conditions proposed by Surrey Police, as at page 16 of the agenda papers, and accepted by the applicant, with the following amendment and addition:

Amendment to the first Condition regarding CCTV to state that the system is to be installed before the store opened; and, a new condition that no alcohol to be on display in the shop at the end of the aisles adjacent to the entrance door.

The concerns raised by the objector had been taken into account and the Sub-Committee asked the officers to remind the objector that should there be any cause for concern in the future, legislation allowed for members of the community and responsible authorities to contact their licensing authority with any complaints over the operation of the premises, leading to a possible review of the licence.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 11.20 am.

Chairman