

Licensing Sub Committee

17 April 2024

New premises licence application for Manor Park Convenience Store, 82 Mellstock Avenue, Dorchester

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr L Beddow, Culture and Communities

Local Councillor(s): Cllrs Jones and Rennie

Executive Director: Jan Britton, Executive Lead of Place

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary: An application has been made for a new premises licence for Manor Park Convenience Stores, 83 Mellstock Avenue, Dorchester for the sale of alcohol, off the premises. The application has been out to public consultation and has attracted a relevant representation. A Licensing Sub Committee must consider the application and representations at a public hearing.

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee determines the application in the light of written and oral evidence and resolves to take such steps as it considers appropriate and proportionate for the promotion of the licensing objectives of;

- a) The prevention of crime and disorder
- b) The prevention of public nuisance
- c) Public safety
- d) The protection of children from harm

The steps that the Sub-Committee may take are:

- a) to grant the licence subject to such conditions as the authority considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, and the mandatory conditions;

- b) to exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities to which the application relates;
- c) to refuse to specify a person in the licence as the designated premises supervisor;
- d) to reject the application.

Reason for Recommendation: The Sub-Committee must consider the oral representations and information given at the hearing before reaching a decision.

1. **Background**

1.1 Section 4 of the Licensing Act 2003 sets out the duties of the Licensing Authority, it sets out that a Council's licensing functions must be carried out with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives of:

- (a) the prevention of crime and disorder;
- (b) public safety;
- (c) the prevention of public nuisance; and
- (d) the protection of children from harm.

1.2 All applications and decisions are made with due regard to the [Licensing Act 2003](#) (the Act), the [Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003](#) (the Guidance) and the [Dorset Council Statement of Licensing Policy](#) (the Policy).

2. **Details of the application**

2.1 An application has been made for a new premises licence for Manor Park Convenience Store, 83 Mellstock Avenue, Dorchester, and has been submitted to the Licensing Authority by Srinikasri Limited. The application and floor plan can be found at Appendix 1.

2.2 The description of the premises within the application form is:

“The premises is a convenience store serving those locally and from further afield”.

2.3 The application is to permit:

Supply of alcohol (off the premises)
Monday to Sunday 0600-2300 hours

- 2.4 The operating schedule contains the steps which the applicant will take to promote the licensing objectives. These would need to be converted into enforceable conditions on a licence if it is granted and would include:

A suitable and sufficient CCTV system with recording facilities will be in place at site and will operate at all times the premises is open for licensable activities. Images will be retained for a period of no less than 31 days. Access to the equipment and recordings will be provided to the Police or other relevant officers of a responsible authority within 24 hours of the being made.

Staff will be trained with regard to their responsibilities in the retail sale of alcohol and regular refresher training will also be undertaken (minimum of every 6 months). Written training records can be made available for inspection upon reasonable request by the Police or other relevant officers of a responsible authority.

A refusals log will be operated and maintained and will be produced to a relevant officer of the Police or other relevant officers of a responsible authority upon reasonable request. The log will be checked, signed and dated on a regular basis.

An incident log will be operated and maintained and will be produced to a relevant officer of the Police or other relevant officers of a responsible authority upon reasonable request. The log will be checked, signed and dated on a regular basis.

A Challenge 25 policy will be operated at the premises. Acceptable forms of identification are a passport, photo-card driving licence and PASS accredited identification card.

Spirits (with the exception of spirit mixers and premixed spirit drinks) will be located behind the counter.

3 Responsible Authorities

- 3.1 Section 13 of the Licensing Act contains the list of Responsible Authorities who must be consulted on each application. Dorset Police, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire Service, Public Health Dorset, the Immigration Authority, Dorset Council Trading Standards, Dorset Council Children's Services, Dorset Council Planning, Dorset Council Licensing, Dorset Council Environmental Protection and Dorset Council Health and Safety have all been consulted.

- 3.2 There were no representations received from any of the Responsible Authorities.

4 Representations from other persons

- 4.1 There were five relevant representations received from members of the public relating to the licensing objectives of the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, and the Prevention of Public Nuisance.

An e-mail was sent by Licensing on behalf of the applicant to the interested parties, which stated the Applicant, was prepared to reduce the trading hours to 0800-2200 hours, Monday to Sunday. This offer was made on the basis that all objections were withdrawn. If the objections were not withdrawn, then the matter would be heard at a Licensing Sub Committee where the hours will go back to 0600-2300 hours, Monday to Sunday. This e-mail can be found at Appendix 2

None of the interested parties wanted to withdraw their representation following this e-mail. The concerns raised related to an increase in anti-social behaviour and noise. These e-mails can be found at Appendix 3.

- 4.2 The Licensing Act 2003 Section 182 Guidance (the Guidance) sets out at 8.13 the role of “other persons”:

“As well as responsible authorities, any other person can play a role in a number of licensing processes under the 2003 Act. This includes any individual, body or business entitled to make representations to licensing authorities in relation to applications for the grant, variation, minor variation or review of premises licences and club premises certificates, regardless of their geographic proximity to the premises. In addition, these persons may themselves seek a review of a premises licence. Any representations made by these persons must be ‘relevant’, in that the representation relates to one or more of the licensing objectives. It must also not be considered by the licensing authority to be frivolous or vexatious. In the case of applications for reviews, there is an additional requirement that the grounds for the review should not be considered by the licensing authority to be repetitious. Chapter 9 of this guidance (paragraphs 9.4 to 9.10) provides more detail on the definition of relevant, frivolous and vexatious representations.

4.5 The Guidance states at paragraph 9.4 what a “relevant” representation is;

“A representation is “relevant” if it relates to the likely effect of the grant of the licence on the promotion of at least one of the licensing objectives. For example, a representation from a local businessperson about the commercial damage caused by competition from new licensed premises would not be relevant. On the other hand, a representation by a businessperson that nuisance caused by new premises would deter customers from entering the local area, and the steps proposed by the applicant to prevent that nuisance were inadequate, would be relevant. In other words, representations should relate to the impact of licensable activities carried on from premises on the objectives.”

5. Considerations

5.1 Paragraphs 9.42 to 9.44 of the Section 182 Guidance sets how the Licensing Authority should decide what actions are appropriate.

“9.42 Licensing authorities are best placed to determine what actions are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in their areas. All licensing determinations should be considered on a case by-case basis. They should take into account any representations or objections that have been received from responsible authorities or other persons, and representations made by the applicant or premises user as the case may be.

9.43 The authority’s determination should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve.

9.44 Determination of whether an action or step is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives requires an assessment of what action or step would be suitable to achieve that end. While this does not therefore require a licensing authority to decide that no lesser step will achieve the aim, the authority should aim to consider the potential burden that the condition would impose on the premises licence holder (such as the financial burden due to restrictions on licensable activities) as well as the potential benefit in terms of the promotion of the licensing objectives. However, it is imperative that the authority ensures that the factors which form the basis of its determination are limited to consideration of the promotion of the objectives and nothing outside those parameters. As with the consideration of licence variations, the licensing

authority should consider wider issues such as other conditions already in place to mitigate potential negative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives and the track record of the business. Further advice on determining what is appropriate when imposing conditions on a licence or certificate is provided in Chapter 10. The licensing authority is expected to come to its determination based on an assessment of the evidence on both the risks and benefits either for or against making the determination.”

6 Financial Implications

Any decision of the Sub Committee could lead to an appeal by any of the parties involved that could incur costs.

7 Environment, Climate & Ecology Implications

None.

8 Well-being and Health Implications

None.

9 Other Implications

None.

10 Risk Assessment

10.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

11 Equalities Impact Assessment

Not applicable

12 Appendices

Appendix 1 – premises licence application and plan

Appendix 2 – response from Applicant to interested parties

Appendix 3 – representations from interested parties

Appendix 4 – responses from representations to licensing

13 Background Papers

[Licensing Act 2003](#)

[Home Office Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003](#)

[Dorset Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2021](#)