

*5 October 2021*

*Dorset Police to Licensing and Notice Giver*

I write further to a Temporary Event Notice, received by Mr Long of NEON, Bridport, for an event which is due to take place on the Halloween weekend this year. On behalf of the Chief Officer of Police I wish to make a representation against this notice to extend the permitted hours of operation from 0200hrs to 0400hrs on the grounds that this extension to the operating hours may undermine the licensing objective of preventing crime and disorder.

I remain concerned that there is a risk of increased violence and demand on public services and this is supported both by my knowledge of an incident of serious violence which was attributed to the premises but also indications of public disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour contained within videos that have been passed to me for my consideration by the Dorset Council Environmental Health team.

Furthermore, I am in the process of requesting that Mr Long consider applying for a variation to his existing licence to ensure that any such extensions of hours are made within the parameters of the Premises Licence and not using TEN's. I believe that the benefits gained of inviting a consultation of all Responsible Authorities, the public, businesses and other key community stakeholders will ensure that any future extensions are effectively agreed and managed with appropriate conditions to the satisfaction of all those that are affected by this extra provision. The Licensing Act 2003 restricts scrutiny of Temporary Event Notices to the Police and Environmental Health and the continued use of Temporary Event Notices during these particularly unsocial hours, without conditions attached, risks having a detrimental impact on the wider community.

I will further elaborate on my concerns during the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing.

*5 October*

*Neon Response to Police*

We are disappointed with your objection as we feel that the concerns raised were spoken about at the sub committee meeting for our application for August bank holiday and this granted application was for a longer extension (over 3 days) whereas Halloween is just 1 night.

We have had 1 incident where we needed police assistance since the last TEN and this was a female who was refused entry and proceeded to assault a doorman and attack our property. Since been charged.

Numerous videos of public order and anti social behaviour have not been brought to our attention from either the Police, licensing or EHT so I am afraid at this moment in time I have no idea what you are referring to and can not comment further.

At this stage the only way to extend our hours on an ad hoc basis is by means of a TEN. I appreciate that yourself do not like this being the case/process but it is how it has been for a number of years and is government set so this is the procedure we have followed for the years I have been in the trade across the country.

With regards to multi agency get together please note that WE requested this with John Bean Dorset police and WDDC Licensing. It was all set to happen before Bridport Town Councils input made the meeting get cancelled.

The relevant parties get to comment on a TEN application, I am sure we would all agree if everyone got to comment then they would never happen.

As stated at the last sub committee meeting we are more than happy to discuss this matter with the hope of reaching a solution without the need for people's valuable time at a sub committee hearing, let us know if we can alleviate your concerns in any way. We are more than happy to discuss conditions etc. that work for all.

Pub problems can and do happen at any time of the day. We firmly believe that if you feel we can not keep control between 2am and 4am then this should be the same for the rest of our opening hours. Also we would be expecting a licence review if we are deemed to be in breach of licensing objectives.

Finally please note that we have had 7 4ams and for us it is a lot quieter and easier to manage people leaving rather than kicking them all out at 2 and there being 100plus people on East Street.

We are left wondering now if any future TEN is going to get the same response from Dorset Police.

I think this has covered all your points, please let us know if we can alleviate a hearing, if not I will see you there.