

## TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Licensing Sub-Committee  
Date: 25 March 2020  
Report for: Decision: Determination of Application  
Report of: Head of Regulatory Services

### Report Title

**APPLICATION TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE UNDER S34 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 AT SILVER BLADES ICE RINK, STATION SITE, OAKFIELD ROAD/MOSS LANE, ALTRINCHAM, CHESHIRE WA14 1BA**

### Summary

Under S35 of the Licensing Act 2003, Members are requested to determine an application for a full variation to a premises licence in respect of Silver Blades Ice Rink, Station Site, Oakfield Road/Moss Lane, Altrincham, WA14 1BA having regard to the representations received and the requirement to promote the four licensing objectives.

### Recommendation(s)

Having regard to the representations, the Licensing Sub-Committee may take such steps (if any) as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

The steps are;

- (i) to modify the conditions of the licence;
- (ii) to reject the whole or part of the application;

For this purpose the conditions of the licence are modified if any condition is altered or omitted, or any new condition is added.

### Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Keiran Hinchliffe, Senior Licensing Officer  
Extension: 2593

Background Papers: None.

Appendices: A) Licence Application and Supporting Documentation  
B) Photograph of Blue Notice and Newspaper Advert  
C) Current Premises Licence  
D) Amendment to Application  
E) Representations

## 1.0 **APPLICATION**

1.1 A premises licence is required in respect of any premises where it is intended to conduct one or more of the four licensable activities, these being:

- The sale of alcohol
- The supply of alcohol (in respect of a club)
- Regulated entertainment
- The provision of late night refreshment

This application was submitted by Vernon Neil on behalf of Silver Blades Ice rink company (Altrincham) Limited.

1.2 The variation applied for is as follows:

Films (Indoors)  
Friday 06:00 - 00:00

Indoor Sporting Events  
Friday 06:00 – 00:00

Boxing or Wrestling Entertainments (Indoors)  
Friday 06:00 – 00:00

Live Music (Indoors)  
Friday 06:00 – 00:00

Recorded Music (Indoors)  
Friday 06:00 – 00:00

Performance of Dance (Indoors)  
Friday 06:00 – 00:00

Anything of a similar description (Indoors)  
Friday 06:00 – 00:00

Late Night Refreshment (Indoors)  
Friday 23:00 – 23:30

Supply of Alcohol (On & Off)  
Friday – 10:00 – 23:30

Opening Hours  
Friday 06:00 - 00:30

1.3 The application has been properly made and all procedures correctly followed. The application and supporting documents are attached as **Appendix A**.

Documentation includes a Noise Compliance Report from the last Boxing Event held at the premises. Photograph of the blue notice in situation and newspaper advert are attached as **Appendix B**.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF PREMISES**

**2.1** The premises has been licenced since 23 February 2007 with no changes to the licence holder.

The premises licence holder applied on 24 May 2019 for a restricted variation to the licensable hours for a boxing event on 19 July 2019 and to permanently add the licensable activity of boxing to the authorisations of the premises licence until 23:00hrs. The premises licence holder applied for a variation in November 2019 and was granted as a restricted licence for one boxing event in December 2019. This existing licence is attached as **Appendix C**.

**2.2** The current premises licence authorises the following:

Films (Indoors)  
Monday – Sunday 06:00 – 23:00

Indoor Sporting Events  
Monday - Sunday 06:00 – 23:00

Boxing or Wrestling Entertainments (Indoors)  
Monday - Sunday 06:00 – 23:00

Live Music (Indoors)  
Monday - Sunday 06:00 – 23:00

Recorded Music (Indoors)  
Monday - Sunday 06:00 – 23:00

Performance of Dance (Indoors)  
Monday - Sunday 06:00 – 23:00

Anything of a similar description (Indoors)  
Monday - Sunday 06:00 – 23:00

Supply of Alcohol (On & Off)  
Monday - Sunday – 10:00 – 23:00

Opening Hours  
Monday - Sunday 06:00 - 00:30

## **3.0 OPERATING SCHEDULE**

**3.1** The operating schedule is completed by the applicant and contains additional measures to illustrate how they propose to promote the four licensing objectives as required by provision of the Licensing Act 2003.

The measures proposed in the application match the existing licence conditions from the last two full variation applications. The current Premises Licence is attached as **Appendix C**.

**3.2** Following a Multi-Agency Meeting held at the Ice Rink on 10 March 2020, the applicant has submitted additional measures to the Licensing Authority which amends the application. This is attached as **Appendix D** and further detailed below:

- Limit the number of events that run to midnight to 4 times per year - we feel this is a much fairer proposal for the long term, considering the wider neighbours.
- Noise / environmental -
  - Noise from music and associated sources must not be audible to such an extent that it constitutes a nuisance at any noise sensitive properties, our consultant last time recommended that we shield the smoking area on the residents side and we plan on following his recommendation.
  - Acoustic consultants will be employed for the first 4 events to monitor noise relating to the event and associated activities to comply with the above conditions, after these events we will continue to self-monitor the noise levels.
  - All external doors and windows shall be kept closed when regulated entertainment is being provided unless in an emergency
  - We will have notices and security places at all exits when customers leave the building to leave the premises quietly. This will also be shown on the big screens in regular intervals through-out the evening.
- Letter Drop - We will be conducting a letter drop in the area to let all the local neighbours know about the event. On this we will now include a dedicated hotline and have someone man the phone throughout the event. This will be for neighbours to have direct contact with the organisers for any issues / concerns they have. So that we can communicate our plans and/or react to solve them.
- Police Communication - We would also like to add the following measure that we need to inform the police as soon as possible of the date of an event.

#### **4.0 STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

**4.1** The following extracts from the Council's statement of licensing policy are brought to the general attention of members:

**4.2** (1.8) Every application considered by the Council under this policy will be considered on its merits, and regard will be given to the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 and any supporting regulations..

**4.3** (1.9) Nothing in the policy will undermine the right of any person to make representations on an application or seek a review of a licence or certificate where provision has been made for them to do so in the Act. Appropriate weight will be

given to all relevant representations. This will not include those that are frivolous, vexatious or repetitious.

**4.4** (1.12) The licensing process can only seek to control those measures within the control of the licensee, and 'in the vicinity' of a premises. The conditions attached to various authorisations will, therefore, be consistent with operating schedules and will mainly focus on:

- Matters within the control of individual licensees and others who are granted any relevant authorisations;
- The premises and places being used for licensable activities and their vicinity; and
- The direct impact of the activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of the public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned.

**4.5** (5.6) When considering applications for later closing times in respect of premises licences, where relevant representations have been made, the Council will take the following into consideration in accordance with Government Guidance:

- Whether the premises is located in a predominately commercial area
- The nature of the proposed activities to be provided at the premises
- Whether there are any arrangements to ensure adequate availability of taxis and private hire vehicles and appropriate places for picking up and setting down passengers
- Whether there is an appropriate amount of car parking, readily accessible to the premises, and in places where the parking and use of vehicles will not cause demonstrable adverse impact to local residents
- Whether operating schedule indicates that the applicant is taking appropriate steps to comply with the licensing objective of preventing public nuisance
- Whether the licensed activity, particularly if located in areas of the highest levels of recorded crime, may result in a reduction or increase in crime and anti-social behaviour
- Whether the licensed activities are likely to cause adverse impact especially on local residents, and whether, if there is a potential to cause adverse impact, appropriate measures will be put in place to prevent it
- Whether there will be any increase in the cumulative adverse impact from these or similar activities, on an adjacent residential area
- Any representations from a responsible authority or interested party that identify the premises as a focus for disorder and disturbance.

**4.6** (5.8) As far as premises in residential areas are concerned, these may be subject to stricter controls with regard to opening hours to ensure that disturbance to local residents is minimised. The Council considers that it is self-evident that the risk of disturbance to local residents is greater when licensable activities continue late at night and into the early hours of the morning. For example the risk of residents' sleep being disturbed by patrons leaving licensed premises is obviously greater at 2 a.m. than at 11 p.m. It is, therefore, the policy of the Council to strike a fair balance between the benefits to a community of a licensed venue and the risk of disturbance to local residents. In predominantly residential areas, therefore, it may not be appropriate to allow closing times later than midnight. It may be acceptable to open later on a limited number of occasions, for example up to 15 times a year. This would allow licensees to extend opening beyond midnight for special occasions such as New Year.

However, every application will be determined on its merits, and applicants wishing to operate beyond midnight will need to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Council, in their operating schedule, that there will be no significant disturbance to members of the public living, working or otherwise engaged in normal activity around the premises concerned. This policy is aimed at the fulfilment of the licensing objective of “prevention of public nuisance”.

**4.7** (6.4) Applicants will be expected to demonstrate in their operating schedule that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained with the intention of preventing crime and disorder. Such measures may include:

- The capability of the person who is in charge of the premises during trading hours or when Regulated Entertainment is provided to effectively and responsibly manage and supervise the premises, including associated open areas
- The steps taken or to be taken to ensure that appropriate instruction, training and supervision is given to those employed or engaged in the premises to prevent incidents of crime and disorder, and where appropriate any relevant qualifications.
- The measures taken or to be taken to raise staff awareness and discourage and prevent the use or supply of illegal drugs on the premises
- The features currently in place or planned for physical security at the premises, such as lighting outside the premises
- Policies adopted to meet appropriate best practice in accordance with existing guidance (e.g. Home Office: Selling Alcohol Responsibly, Safer Clubbing, the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Toolkit and other recognised codes of practice, e.g. British Beer and Pub Association Partnerships Initiative.
- Any appropriate additional measures taken or to be taken for the prevention of violence or public disorder.

**4.8** (6.7) Where additional measures have been identified as likely to have an impact on the prevention of crime and disorder at any premises, the Council would expect applicants to detail such measures to be taken in their operating schedules. Such measures may include:

- Provision of effective CCTV with recording facilities both within and outside certain premises
- Crime prevention design, including adequate lighting and supervision of car parks
- Metal detection and search facilities
- Procedures for risk assessing promotions and events such as ‘happy hours’ for the potential to cause crime and disorder, and plans for minimising such risks
- Measures to prevent the use or supply of illegal drugs
- Employment of Security Industry Authority licensed door supervisors and other appropriately trained staff
- Participation in an appropriate Pubwatch Scheme or other similar scheme
- Promotion of safe drinking

- The control of glass and the provision of plastic containers or toughened glass
- Use of radio net system (where available)
- Provisions for dealing with prostitution or indecency
- Provisions for discouraging drinking in public places in the vicinity of the premises
- Policies on dress and music
- Appropriate additional staff training.

**4.9** (6.8) All premises applying for licensing beyond 00:00hrs must demonstrate that its customers will be capable of leaving the area without causing a disruption to local residents or impact upon crime and disorder. For example, where appropriate and relevant an assessment of the availability of late night transport, and the likely flow of pedestrian traffic away from the premises, could be included in the operating schedule.

**4.10** (6.10) Where either prescribed and/or premises-related conditions have not been adhered to in the past, the Council will expect applicants to have considered and taken action to rectify those issues. Applications are likely to be refused where there are significant outstanding issues.

**4.11** (7.5) In considering applications, the Council will expect to see evidence that the applicant has identified matters that impact on the likelihood of public nuisance and that these matters have been addressed in the operating schedule. Such measures may include:

- Measures taken or proposed to be taken to prevent noise and vibration escaping from the premises or in the immediate vicinity of the premises and including any outside areas (including smoking areas) bearing in mind the location of premises and proximity to residential and other noise sensitive premises (e.g. hospitals, hospices and places of worship); This would include music, ventilation equipment noise and human voices, whether or not amplified;
- Measures taken or proposed for management and supervision of the premises and associated open areas to minimise unreasonable disturbance by customers and staff arriving or departing from the premises and delivery of goods and services.
- Control of opening hours for all or part (e.g. garden areas) of the premises
- Measures taken to control light to ensure that it does not stray outside the boundary of the premises such as to give rise to problems to residents in the vicinity
- Steps taken to lessen the impact of parking in the local vicinity
- Measures taken to prevent someone who has consumed excess alcohol from entering the premises and to manage individuals on the premises who have consumed excess alcohol
- Management arrangements for collection and disposal of litter and refuse, and the control of pests
- Arrangements for ensuring that adequate and suitably maintained sanitary provision and washing facilities are provided for the number of people expected to attend any premises or events
- A 'wind down time' after the last service of alcohol, during which time the venue may offer for sale non-alcohol beverages

- A 'last admission time' policy
  - Management arrangements for any proposed use of bonfires, fireworks and other pyrotechnics.
- 4.12** (11.7) Standardised conditions will be avoided, although 'pools of conditions' will be used from which necessary and proportionate conditions may be drawn in particular circumstances.
- 4.13** (11.8) Conditions attached to licenses and certificates will be tailored as appropriate to reflect the individual style and characteristics of the premises and events concerned.
- 4.14** (11.9) Conditions will not be imposed which are beyond the responsibility or control of the licence holder.
- 4.15** (14.1) "Cumulative impact" means the potential impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives of a significant number of licensed premises concentrated in one area. For example, the potential impact on crime and disorder or public nuisance on a Town Centre of a large concentration of licensed premises in that part of the local authority licensing area. In certain circumstances the number, type and density of premises selling alcohol for consumption on the premises may be such that there are serious problems of nuisance and disorder arising or beginning to arise outside or some distance from licensed premises. It is possible that the impact on surrounding areas of the behavior of the customers of all premises taken together is greater in these circumstances than the usual impact from customers of individual premises.
- 4.16** (14.4) When such a special saturation policy is adopted, each application will still be considered properly and on their own individual merit, and licences and certificates that are unlikely to add to the cumulative impact on the licensing objectives will be granted. Following receipt of representations in respect of a new application for or a variation of a licence or certificate, the Council will consider whether it would be justified in departing from the special policy in the light of the individual circumstances of the case. The impact can be expected to be different for premises with different styles and characteristics. It will be for the Council to show that the grant of the application would undermine the promotion of one of the licensing objectives and if it would, that necessary conditions would be ineffective in preventing the problems involved.
- 4.17** (14.5) In considering such applications the Committee will have particular regard to:
- The occupancy figure for the proposed premises.
  - The proximity of the premises to others in the Area licensed for similar activities and the occupancy figures for those other premises.
  - Whether the proposed premises will act as a replacement for others in the Area that no longer have a licence.
  - The proposed methods of management outlined in the applicant's operational plan.
  - The proposed hours of operation.
  - Transport provision for the Area.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1** The responsible authorities included in consultation are; Licensing, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue, Environmental Health & Pollution Control, Building Control, Health and Safety Team, Home Office Immigration Enforcement, Planning Department, Safeguarding Children Team, Trading Standards and Public Health.
- 5.2** Of those consultees identified in paragraph 6.1, one representation was received from the Environmental Health Pollution Control Authority, see **Appendix D**.
- 5.3** 11 representations have been submitted by Other Persons. These representations are concerned with crime and disorder and public nuisance. See **Appendix E**.
- 5.4** A copy of the report and all representations received have been sent to the applicant.
- 5.5** Those that have made representations have been informed of the time and date of the Licensing Sub-Committee meeting and have been informed of their right to attend.

## **6.0 LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1** Conditions may only be attached to a Premises Licence where they are deemed appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. They must be proportionate and not duplicate any existing provisions contained in other legislation. The justification behind a refusal or the attachment of conditions must be given to the applicant.
- 6.2** The Sub-Committee is advised that any findings on any issues of fact should be on the balance of probabilities and any decision should be based on the individual merits of the application.
- 6.3** The Sub-Committee, in arriving at its decision; must have regard to relevant provisions of national guidance and its own statement of licensing policy and reasons should be given for any departure.
- 6.4** There is a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court within 21 days from the date the Applicant is notified of the decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee.