



## **Licensing Act Sub-Committee - Record of Hearing held on Tuesday 27 November 2007 at 6.00pm**

**MEMBERS:** Councillor Mrs MORRIS (Chairman); Councillors Mrs GOODALL and HARRIS.

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### **1 Declarations of Interest.**

None were received.

### **2 Application for New Premises Licence for Ocklynge Junior School, Victoria Drive.**

The Chairman introduced members and officers present and detailed the procedure to be followed at the meeting. The Licensing Manager outlined the report detailing the application from Mr M Trott for a new premises licence in respect of Ocklynge Junior School, Victoria Drive. The application had been previously adjourned.

Representations in support of the application were made by the applicant, Mr M Trott. He stated that the application sought to cover existing school activities and that no additional activities or changes to the usual operation of the school were planned. The type of activities included PTA meetings, schools discos, plays and film evenings. The use of amplified music outside the premises would cease at 9.00pm.

Written representations had been received from a number of local residents as detailed in the report.

Mr P Cobby addressed the Sub-Committee and raised concerns that the application would permit activities everyday of the week. The need for a licence was acknowledged but residents already experienced noise and disturbance from people making their way home after events and residents regularly had difficulty parking and gaining vehicular access to their properties. Security on and off the site should also be considered. He requested that events should cease at 9.00pm and that no activities should be permitted on a Sunday.

Mr G Davey referred to the additional outdoor activities held at the school at weekends which had caused disturbance to residents. The times sought for weekdays and weekends were considered unacceptable in this predominately quiet residential area. He considered that the licence should be restricted to weekdays only until 4.00pm.

Mrs G Maley requested that a limit be placed on the number of occasions the school were permitted to hold outside activities.

Mr J Watson supported the objections raised and that the terminal hour of 11.00pm was too late. Parking was already a concern and created a hazard when cars were parked on both sides of the road. He also raised concerns regarding security and queried what measures were in place to prevent people taking alcohol onto the premises.

Mr Trott acknowledged that parking was a problem, particularly during big events and letters were sent regularly to parents requesting them to park responsibly. During the summer it may be possible to use the field for overspill parking. Community Police Support Officers monitored parking in the area and other measures, including encouraging children to walk to school and investigating the provision of additional cycle lanes, in consultation with the Borough Council were ongoing. The school car park had 50 spaces and Mr Trott indicated that the car park sign could be made clearer to indicate that it was available to non-staff outside school hours.

Mr Trott advised the Committee of the regular lettings to local groups and that it was a condition of the hire agreement that alcohol was not permitted. The school employed two caretakers who lived on the premises and worked between the hours of 6.00am and 10.00pm.

The Sub-Committee then retired to consider and determine the application having regard to the representations submitted and the further evidence presented at the meeting, the four licensing objectives and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Sub-Committee also acknowledged and took into account those letters of representation submitted from interested parties not present at the hearing.

When the Sub-Committee reconvened the Solicitor to the Council indicated that he had been called in to provide advice regarding the relevant considerations under the Licensing Act, Section 182 Guidance and in respect of the relevance or otherwise of the representations submitted.

Having taken into account all the relevant considerations the Sub-Committee reconvened and announced the decision as follows.

**RESOLVED:** That the application for a new premises licence in respect of Ocklynge Junior School be granted as set out in the attached appendix.

The meeting closed at 7.55p.m.

**Mrs S Morris**  
**Chairman**