

Minutes of the **Licensing Sub-Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Andover
on Monday 27th February 2006 at 9.30 a.m.

Attendance:

Councillor A. Hope	(P)
Councillor Mrs J. Msonthi	(P)
Councillor P. Lashbrook	(P)

Also in attendance:

Councillor Mrs P. Mutton
Sergeant I. Whyton, Hampshire Constabulary
Ms E. Davies, Solicitor for Martins
Mr P. Cook, Martins
Mr A. Dyer, Martins

1

Appointment of Chairman

Resolved:

That Councillor Hope be appointed Chairman for the duration of the meeting.

2

Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2006 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

3

Review of Licence - Martins of Andover, 50 London Street, Andover

The Sub-Committee was requested to consider an application for a Review of a Premises Licence for Martins of Andover. The application was requested in accordance with the provisions of Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The Licensing Manager informed the Sub-Committee that the application to review the Licence had been made by the Hampshire Constabulary, and a copy of the application form was tabled.

Sergeant Whyton of the Hampshire Constabulary was invited to state the grounds for the review. These related to ongoing problems in the Vigo Recreation Park and the Town Centre, where under-age drinking and public disturbance was taking place. Martins was one of a number of premises which was alleged to have sold alcohol to the perpetrators and evidence of this had been obtained by Trading Standards by a test purchase undertaken on 16th December 2005. Sergeant Whyton informed the Sub-Committee that he had held a constructive meeting with the premises owners, who had agreed to put in place a number of measures to prevent a recurrence of the problem.

Ms Davies, the Solicitor representing Martins, addressed the Sub-Committee. She confirmed that her client was a responsible retailer who accepted that more effective management of the premises was required. The measures agreed with the police included the introduction of a Challenge 25 Policy and an increase in the number of personal licence holders working at the premises. This would ensure that a personal licence holder was always present on the premises when alcohol was sold. She outlined a number of additional measures that her client had offered to make:

- To provide distinctive carrier bags.
- To employ additional staff (a minimum of 2 staff present at all times).
- To continue to use a refusals book, but with greater detail recorded.
- Clearer signage regarding the policy for the sale of alcohol.
- To hand out information on the Portman card scheme, particularly to those refused the sale of alcohol.
- A review of the CCTV system in operation, at some time in the future.
- To consider a change of layout to the store, at some time in the future.

The Sub-Committee was given the opportunity to question the parties on their respective representations.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting to enable the Sub-Committee to consider the matter.

Upon return, the Chairman informed the meeting that the Sub-Committee, in reaching its determination upon the matter, had regard to the National Licensing Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, Test Valley Borough Council's own Licensing Policy, together with the representations made by the parties at the hearing.

Decision:

Resolved:

That the conditions of the Premises Licence be modified by the addition of the following condition:

At least one personal licence holder shall be present on the premises at any time when the premises are open for the sale of alcohol.

(The meeting ended at 10.45 a.m.)