

Annex 3

**Stockbridge House, High Street, Stockbridge, Hampshire, SO20 6EX
Variation to Premises Licence**

Summary

We have recently received a copy of an application for a variation to the premises licence at Stokes of Stockbridge to extend hours of service of alcohol until 02.00am, excluding Sundays. The application also seeks permission to have regulated entertainment until midnight Monday to Saturday and 22.00 on Sundays, with outdoor music stopping at 9pm.

The Environmental Protection Team objects to the variation of the application as it stands, however suggestions have been made below as to how a compromise may be reached.

Observations

I have visited Stokes of Stockbridge to discuss the proposals. It is my understanding that the extension is sought to allow continued service of alcohol to customers after dining, particularly for large tables or private parties, not to have a late night opening bar for passing trade. This is somewhat reassuring in terms of prevention of public nuisance but a number of concerns remain about the potential impact.

Firstly, two of the upper rooms share a party wall with a dwelling and the potential exists for noise from music and impact on the structure to cause a disturbance late at night if the variation was granted. Secondly, it is my understanding there are no licenses for similar establishments in the area which permit service of alcohol until 2.00am. I am therefore concerned about the potential for disturbance from customers leaving the premises at that time of the morning, as well as diners and smokers being outside that much later at night.

With regard to the regulated entertainment element of the application, I am aware there is currently a condition to ensure any music is only low level background music. It is my understanding that this would not in itself be regulated entertainment and does not need a licence. It is not clear to me at this stage if the applicant is seeking to provide regulated entertainment, or would be happy to accept a similar condition on a variation. If regulated entertainment is being proposed this would need to be carefully considered in terms of timing, location and frequency. It is not likely that we would support regulated entertainment (or any music audible to neighbours) being played outdoors as a common or frequent occurrence.

With these comments in mind, The Environmental Protection Team would not support the application as it stands.

Recommendations

Consideration could be given to a variation to permit extension of hours for supply of alcohol until midnight on Friday and Saturday nights, in areas excluding the two rooms to the front of the first floor. This would permit supply of alcohol in the areas marked on the plans as FR4, FR5, FR6, FR7 and FR8 and downstairs. No customers should be permitted in the servery area or FR1 after 11pm. This time extension would be supported by the Environmental Protection Team, subject to fitting (and retaining in place) a carpet to the stairs. We would also advise a restriction on the time of use of the outdoor areas.

Given the extent to which these comments are at odds with the activities sought on the application, I would be guided by you as to whether or not the concerns could be conditioned as the application stands, but if the application was re-submitted taking the suggestions above into account and clarifying the music element, we would be happy to reconsider our comments.

Sonya Enright
Environmental Health Officer
Housing, Health and Communities Service