

Royal Borough of Greenwich

Licensing Sub Committee Decision Notice

Wednesday 9 July 2014

In reaching its decision the Sub Committee considered the Council's statement of Licensing Policy, the Licensing Act 2003, the Regulations made there under and the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under S.182 of that Act. In discharging its functions the Sub Committee did so with a view to promoting the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

Having considered all the evidence put before it the Sub-Committee decided to refuse the Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the

G & E African Foods Limited, 15 Vincent Road, Woolwich, SE18 6RF

The Sub Committee's decision was based on issues raised concerning the licensing objectives of prevention of crime and disorder and prevention of public nuisance.

In reaching their decision the Sub-Committee heard from the Applicant who confirmed that they wished to amend the hours for the supply of alcohol to 10.00 hours – 23.00 hours.

The Applicant confirmed that they had applied for a premises licence in order to meet the needs of their customers and become a one stop shop for all African groceries. The Applicant identified that there would be a shelf behind the serving counter and a chiller cabinet opposite the counter but neither had been purchased.

The Applicant explained that their customers were responsible working class people who did not create a nuisance. If there was an issue with crime and disorder or anti-social behaviour in the premises the Applicant would assert their right to refuse a sale of alcohol.

The Applicant confirmed that she had applied for a personal licence but it had not yet been granted. The Applicant confirmed that she would be undertaking training to become the Designated Premises Supervisor and should a premises licence be granted she would not sell alcohol until she had received her personal licence.

The Sub-Committee heard from Councillor Harpinder Singh who opposed the application on the basis of the prevention of public nuisance and prevention of crime and disorder. Councillor Singh explained that the area suffered from anti-social behaviour and the premises would exacerbate the problem.

The Sub-Committee also heard from Matthew Lauezzari, Environmental Health Officer who confirmed that he objected to the application on the basis that the applicant had not demonstrated how the premises would not add to the noise in the area.

The Sub-Committee then heard from PC Jason Coombes, Police Licensing Officer who explained that his representation was primarily based upon the premises being located in the Woolwich Town Centre Saturation Zone. He highlighted that there were 27 licensed premises in close proximity and over 60 in the Saturation Zone. PC Coombes stated that the Applicant had not demonstrated how the premises was not going to impact upon the Saturation Zone and was an inexperienced operator, not having received her personal licence. He identified that Vincent Road suffered particularly from anti-social behaviour.

The Sub-Committee took into account that the Applicant was inexperienced and had not yet received a personal licence and had not shown an understanding of the Saturation Policy or the impact that a further licensed premise would have in the Woolwich Town Centre Saturation Zone. The Applicant had not adequately addressed questions put to her concerning the licensing objectives of prevention of public nuisance and prevention of crime and disorder and had therefore not shown that the premise would not add to the cumulative impact in Woolwich Town Centre. The Sub-Committee resolved to refuse the application.

If the applicant or those making representations are aggrieved by the Council's decision, they have the right to appeal to the Magistrates Court. Such an appeal must be submitted to the Magistrates Court within 21 days of receipt of the Notice of Decision.

You will be deemed to have received the Decision Notice, four days after the date on the accompanying letter, which will be posted by 2nd class mail.