

LICENSING COMMITTEE

11 NOVEMBER 2021

UPDATE ON LICENSING APPEAL – MADISON’S LOUNGE BAR & BISTRO, NEWARK

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update Members on the licensing appeal lodged by Madison’s Lounge Bar & Bistro.

2.0 Background

2.1 A Licence Review Hearing was held on 23 November 2020 to consider an application from Nottinghamshire Police in relation to serious crime and disorder at premises in Newark known as Madison’s Lounge Bar & Bistro.

2.2 Having listened to the evidence provided from all parties the Panel’s decision was to revoke the premises licence.

2.3 Following receipt of the decision the legal representative for Madison’s submitted an appeal to the Magistrates Court. Once an appeal has been submitted the decision of the Hearing is suspended until such time as the appeal is heard. Therefore the premises stayed open (subject to the various coronavirus restrictions).

2.4 The Council and the Police were approached during the summer with a proposal from the licensing representative for Madison’s. They suggested that if a new licence application was submitted and conditions relating to crime and disorder could be agreed between the Council, Police and the Applicant, then consideration to withdraw the appeal and operate the premises on a new licence would be possible.

2.5 Informal discussions took place and a number of conditions were agreed, however, there were some detailed conditions relating to door staff, CCTV and the identity of the Designated Premises Supervisor that proved difficult to resolve.

2.6 These discussions were on going when intelligence was gathered indicating that a ‘special event’ night was taking place in September consisting of UK drill. This is music and road rap that originated in the South London district of Brixton from 2012 onwards. Borrowing heavily from the style of Chicago drill music, UK drill artists often rap about violent and hedonistic criminal lifestyles. This style of music is often associated with urban gangs.

2.7 Due to the nature of the event the way the venue would be managed was of concern and the DPS (Wezley Ranyard) had a number of discussions with the Police about the controls that would be in place and the plan to manage the event on the night. The Police were concerned about the potential for violence and deployed additional staff on the night in case of any incidents

2.8 The Police visited the venue on the night and were disappointed to find that many of the safeguards that the manager had agreed would be in place had not being implemented.

These included:

Less than half the number of agreed door staff
No monitoring of the numbers in the venue
No use of knife detection equipment
Underage drinking

- 2.9 Following this the Council and Police agreed that there was no benefit in continuing to try and work with Madison's to achieve a mutually beneficial outcome and the licensing representative for Madison's was informed that the Council now wished to proceed with the appeal hearing and that we would be preparing evidence and statements to support the appeal.
- 2.10 A few days later the management of Madison's announced via social media that they had closed 'due to the actions of the Council'.
- 2.11 The licensing representative has now confirmed that they have formally withdrawn their appeal application. This now means that the revocation of the licence is confirmed and that any new operator of the premises will need to submit a new application for consideration by the Council.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the report be noted.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information, please contact Alan Batty on extension 5467

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