

Further Information

The applicant Jamie Head is heavily involved in the day to day running and management of HQ Sports Bar. Bedfordshire Police have several concerns about these planned events. The majority of the concerns are described in the objection letters, however we are also worried about the lack of planning, preparation, the organisational / management abilities of the applicant to manage such an event and the competence of the staff who will be serving alcohol to customers on the day.

Firstly, to date, and to our knowledge, there has been no Risk Assessment submitted to any of the relevant authorities for these events. We would consider the development and submission of a risk assessment, one of the first things to be completed as this would form the 'route map' as what threat / harm / risk there would be to those attending, staff, security and even those who live nearby or are simply attending the area on other business. An event of this nature would almost certainly be discussed at a Safety Advisory Group level and this has not been done and a SAG event notification form has not been completed. The applicant did suggest that the same level of security would be used to manage these events as that has been used to manage the screening of the games inside the HQ Sports Bar, however the applicant has again shown no detail as to why he thinks the management of these events will be identical to those inside a premise that carries the protections of numerous conditions that a premise licence affords. Recent posts on the Facebook page of HQ Sports Bar show the type of noise levels and behaviour that could easily be expected at these events.

There have been a couple of incidents in the past few months which have also brought into question the applicants organisational and planning skills:

- On Saturday 7th April 2018 police had cause to attend The Dunstable Conference Centre following a call regarding some minor disorder. Upon our arrival we noted that a 'White Collar Boxing' event was being hosted. We spoke to Jamie Head, the applicant as it transpired he was heading the event and selling alcohol in the location. The Dunstable Conference Centre has no premises licence and both boxing and the sale of alcohol by retail are both licensable activities that required a TEN. Mr Head assured us he had applied for a TEN. Upon checking our records we found that the event had taken place without a TEN in place. Mr Head stated that he had applied for a TEN and sent it in an email to 'Pat' at Central Bedfordshire Council. When he was asked if he had had any reply to the application he stated he had not, but he still continued to hold an event without first carrying out the due diligence as to whether he was licensed to or not. Mr Head was sent a warning letter by Bedfordshire Police licensing team (see document 1 Appendix B).
- On Tuesday 22nd May 2018 there was meeting that took place at HQ Sports Bar between various partner agencies and those who had a direct interest in HQ Sports Bars' screening of the World Cup. A brief description of some of the issues spoken about at the meeting were made by Karen Few (see document 2 Appendix B). During this meeting Mr Head gave assurances that there would be no screening of the games outside of the premises. He also stated that he was concerned and unsure on

how he was going to manage the queues outside his door, again bringing in to question his ability to run an event of this magnitude.

On Friday 23rd March 2018, Bedfordshire Police Licensing Department carried out a test purchase operation, Op Farm. This operation entailed actors who were pretending to be excessively drunk entering premises and attempting to purchase alcohol. They were successful in purchasing alcohol from HQ Sports Bar and were in fact encouraged to order 'doubles' by the member of staff who served them. This was highlighted to the venue as a concern and a probable training issue. We are concerned that with these events being held as an 'annex' of HQ Sports Bar that lots of extra staff will be drafted in and a concern of how well trained they will be at identifying those already excessively drunk.

These events also have an impact on how they will be policed. There is always concern with events such as these and this has also been raised by A/Chief Inspector Mark Farrant and he has expressed this in an email he sent out to various partners (see document 3 Appendix B).

APPENDIX B

Document 1



Jamie HEAD
HQ Sports Bar
5-6 Grove Park
Court Drive
Dunstable
LU5 4GP

Our CS/LT/0/2017/12291
ref:
Date: 24/04/18

Dear Mr Head

I write following a visit to The Dunstable Conference Centre on Saturday 7th April 2018 by PS Liam Mitchell and myself. Whilst there we found a boxing event was being hosted at the venue and asked to speak with the person who was running it. It became apparent that you were heading, or at least organised the event and had not obtained a Temporary Event Notice. Boxing is a licensable activity and as such a TEN or premises license needs to be in place for this activity go ahead.

I must advise you that carrying out unlicensed activities may mean that the premises are at risk of being closed under **Section 80 (5) of the Antisocial Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014**, which enables a senior police officer or council official to close premises for up to 48 hours and to seek an order from a Magistrates' Court that the premises remain closed for a further **3 months**. This could also mean that the organiser could be breaching **Section 136 of the Licensing Act 2003**, which can carry an **unlimited fine and / or 6 month imprisonment**. This could also affect any private alcohol license that is held or applied for. I cannot stress enough the importance ensuring that any future licensed event is covered with the appropriate TEN.

If you would like to discuss this, or any other relevant matters, further please contact me via the details below.

Darren WELCH

PC 138
Licensing Officer
Bedfordshire Police
Luton Police Station
Buxton Road
Luton
LU1 1SD
Telephone 01582 394269
Email LicensingCentral@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Meeting at the HQ Sports Bar on Tuesday 22/05/18 to discuss the screening of World Cup 2018 games

Attendees:

Jamie Head – HQ Sports Bar
Ed Deakin-White Harrison – HQ Sports Bar
Karen Few – Bedfordshire Police Licensing Officer
Darren Welch - Bedfordshire Police Licensing Officer
Jo Borthwick - Jo Borthwick Service Manager Public Protection – Central Bedfordshire Council
Hannah Hurd – Property Manager Stimpsons Eves
Ellie and 2 other team members – The Grove Theatre
Alan Stone – Environmental Health – Central Bedfordshire Council

Jamie confirmed that he has requested this meeting as he wishes to ensure that he has plans in place in relation to the screening of the forthcoming World Cup games.

Jamie wants to ensure the appropriate safety measures are implemented to cover both the inside of HQ and the surrounding area. Jamie is also keen to seek input from representatives from both the Central Bedfordshire council and neighbouring premises.

Capacity, promotion and ticket sales

HQ Sports Bar has a capacity of approximately 500 people. The screening of the games will be advertised on social media sites. 150 tickets (charge applicable) will be sold for each game and the remaining customers (to reach capacity, including staff) will be allowed in on a first come first served basis.

Safety Measures

- Plastics will be used all day;
- Between 10 and 12 security staff will be used during the screening of games, with 2 stationed at the entrance and two stationed in the outside area;
- The large plants pots outside will be removed;
- The furniture in smoking area will be removed and put into storage;
- Most of the internal furniture and pool tables will be cleared away;

- Portable toilets will be positioned to the right of the entrance (inside the barriers) which will ensure that people aren't queuing in the stairwells inside;
- Suggestion that pillars with ashtrays on them could be positioned near the grassed area;
- Free bottles of water will be handed out to customers.

Screens and Barriers

Hannah Hurd will investigate:

- Storage to accommodate the furniture being removed from the venue;
- Solid barriers/screens for the front of the premise to allow and create a larger area for entry and exit. This area will also accommodate the smoking and portable toilet area;
- High solid barriers/screens would be preferable to ensure that no one can jump over them and gain entry, that noise from inside the venue will be buffered and people will not be able to watch the games whilst standing outside (through the glass, as has happened in previous years).

The Grove Theatre – neighbouring premise

- Hannah Hurd will investigate the possibility of hiring temporary Security Staff for the Grove Theatre;
- Customers attempting to purchase drinks at the bar will be asked to show their tickets to ensure that HQ Sports Bar customers and not attempting to enter the premise solely to buy drinks;
- Confirmed that there are no major events at the premise on the key dates of 6th and 7th July;
- The premise has a big event on during 24th June.

Environmental Health/Noise Pollution

It was established that HQ Sports bar will not be serving any drinks, playing any music or screening any games outside of the premise. Alan Stone confirmed that these factors have alleviated his initial concerns. This being said, any noise complaints submitted as a result of these screenings will be investigated and this matter may have to be reviewed when the next major tournament takes place.

Consideration/Reminder

The grassed area outside the front of the premises on Grove Park/Court Drive is a no drinking area

Actions

- Karen Few will provide contact details (to Rhea at The Grove Theatre) for Mandy at CCTV so that Nite Net Radios can potentially be obtained allowing the Grove Theatre to talk directly to HQ Sports Bar;
- Jamie will provide details to Ellie regarding Security Staff they may wish to hire;
- Jamie will forward a site map showing the proposed sectioned off area at the front of the premise.

Karen Few 24/05/18

Document 3

From: "FARRANT, Mark 60" <mark.farrant@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk>

Date: Friday, 22 June 2018 at 13:50

To: Jo Borthwick <[REDACTED]>, Susan Childerhouse
<[REDACTED]>

Cc: Andrew Stewart <[REDACTED]>, Licensing Enquiries
<[REDACTED]>, Richard Johns
<[REDACTED]>, Ben Salvatierra
<[REDACTED]>, Pollution
<[REDACTED]>, "WELCH, Darren 138"
<[REDACTED]>, "DIMMOCK, Ben 5337"
<[REDACTED]>

Subject: RE: HQ SPORTS BAR [OFFICIAL]

All – I just want to add some clarification about my concerns but also if you can get some confirmation on what Dunstable Town Council position is.

The proposed TEN means we are looking at 1000 people in the park or the premise itself. This is a significant event that is being planned merely with a few days' notice and little opportunity to plan. My assumption is that normally something like this would go through a SAG and be considered many months in advance. I have real concerns in relation both in relation to the increased risk of crime and disorder, but also around the public safety for this event.

However my biggest concern is that this land belongs to Dunstable Town Council. My understanding is that [REDACTED] has told them they could use the land if the Police had no objections. However when informed the police did have objections the reply was along the lines of 'I don't know if we can stop it?' My view is very simple it is their land and if they don't give permission then it stops any proposal.

I really just would like a definitive view as to whether this is an event Central Beds or Dunstable Town Council are looking to support.

Kind Regards

Mark

35

Mark Farrant

A/Ch Inspector 60

Resource Management and Ops Planning Unit



 mark.farrant@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

