

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED



Licensing Department
Millgarth Police Station
Millgarth Street
Leeds
LS2 7HX

Leeds District Licensing

Tel: 0113-2414023
Fax: 0113-2413123
Email: lynn.dobson@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

19 October 2012

Entertainment Licensing Section
Leeds City Council
Civic Hall
Leeds
LS1 1UR

OBJECTION NOTICE:
VARY PREMISES LICENCE - DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR:
SECTION 37(5) & 37(6) LICENSING ACT 2003

PREMISES SUPERVISOR: KENNETH GREENHOUGH
PREMISES: THE WHINMOOR, STANKS LANE SOUTH, LEEDS LS14 5HZ

West Yorkshire Police serve notice to this application, which we received at Millgarth Police Station on 10 October 2012.

If granted, West Yorkshire Police are satisfied that the exceptional circumstances of the case would undermine the crime prevention objective.

The Whinmoor is situated in the middle of the Swarcliffe area and has been closed for several months. Prior to its closure, the venue suffered from a disproportionate number of problems and was the subject of intelligence and recorded crimes. The premises had a 'rotating door' in respect of licence holders. All of whom, it is fair to say, struggled to operate a challenging premises in a challenging area.

On 2 July 2012 I received information that the premises had been bought, at auction, by a gentleman from outside the immediate area. He had contacted the Licensing Authority, tentatively enquiring about the licence. He was advised in very general terms and told to contact me as the representative for the North East Leeds area. This gentleman is Mr Hing How.

On 17 July 2012 I contacted Mr How, by e-mail, to introduce myself and suggest a meeting. On 19 July I met Mr How at Stainbeck Police Station to discuss his proposals for The Whinmoor.

Mr How does not have a background in the licensed trade and is a baker. Very briefly, his plan for The Whinmoor was to provide tea, cakes and refreshments by day and a carvery in the evening.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

At this same meeting, Mr How stated that he had been approached by a number of local personal licences holders who were keen to take on the premises. I was familiar with all the names except one, who originated in the Bradford area. Whilst it is accepted that personal licence holders do move around, it is unusual for a licence holder, who has always operated in one district, to move to another local authority area. This candidate was Kenneth Greenhough.

Mr How appeared to be keen to employ Mr Greenhough, but I said would check with Bradford Licensing to see if they had concerns whilst he had been at Bradford premises. Because of the challenging nature of The Whinmoor I stressed that it was important to employ the correct designated premises supervisor (DPS) from the start. This person would need to be 'hands on', they would need to spend a great deal of time at the venue and not be a DPS in name only. They would also need to be prepared to challenge anything which would undermine the licensing objectives. Mr How was keen to engage with the Police, but seemed equally keen to appoint Mr Greenhough and open The Whinmoor as soon as possible.

Having communicated via e-mail with the Bradford Licensing Officer, PC Dawson, it became clear that there had been a number of issues at premises where Mr Greenhough had been the licence holder. I asked PC Dawson to provide a statement of her involvement and a copy of this is attached to this letter of objection.

On 6 August 2012 I contacted Mr How, by e-mail, to let him know concerns had been raised regarding Mr Greenhough and that an application to propose him as DPS would attract an objection. I heard nothing more.

On 10 October 2012 this application was received. I contacted Mr How by telephone to express my concern and surprise that he had proposed Mr Greenhough in light of our discussions and the subsequent e-mail. Mr How said that he had not received an e-mail from me and that he wished to proceed with the application. I agreed to meet Mr Greenhough and Mr How to outline the concerns in person.

On 11 October 2012 I met with Mr How and Mr Greenhough at Killingbeck Police Station and outlined the issues brought to my attention by PC Dawson. Mr Greenhough challenged the concerns and did not think there had been any problems at the premises he had operated. It can quite clearly be seen, from PC Dawson's statement, that there have been a number of issues with Mr Greenhough and his style of management would not be correct for The Whinmoor.

Whilst it is accepted that there is nothing set down in the legislation to say how much time a DPS needs to spend at a premises, there are premises that are needier and more time consuming than others. As Mr How intends to leave the day to day management of the venue very much in the hands of the DPS, then this person needs to be able to be frequently on site and needs to engage with the authorities. These two points have clearly been failings in Mr Greenhough's management of other licensed venues.

West Yorkshire Police would ask any presiding Sub-Committee to refuse this application.

Lynn Dobson
PC 5783
North East Leeds Licensing

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED