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1. THE APPLICATION

On the 16th November 2023, Richard Baker of RB Retail & Licensing Services Limited submitted an application for a new premises licence on behalf of Ajinder Singh Kapoor (“the applicant”) to be granted in respect of the premises known as, North End Road Post Office, 363 North End Road, London, SW6 1NW.

1.1 Application Requested

The applicant has applied for a new premises licence for the sale of alcohol off the premises as outlined below, and proposes to operate as a grocery store/ off licence and post office:

Licensable activities sought:

The sale of alcohol off the premises only

Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 06:00 to 23:00.

Opening hours of the premises

Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 06:00 to 23:00.

A copy of the application form and plan can be seen on pages **148-171** of this report.

1.2 Applicants Operating Schedule

The applicant has proposed a number of additional steps to promote the four licensing objectives if the application is granted. A copy of the proposed conditions can be seen on pages **163** of this report.

On the 30th November 2023, following correspondence from the Police Licensing team, the applicant agreed to reduce the hours for the sale of alcohol and add 3 conditions to licence, if granted. The amendments are as follows:

Licensable activities sought:

The sale of alcohol off the premises only

Mondays to Sundays between the hours of 07:00 to 23:00.

Agreed Conditions

1. All beer, cider, lager and Stout with a ABV above 5.5% will not be sold or stocked except for premium beer, lager and cider with an ABV of over 5.5%. The definition of premium is:
The retail selling price will be at least 50% higher than the most expensive single cans/bottles found to be on sale at a local off licence. A note of the of the product, date of check, retail price and premises name and address where the product was on display will be recorded in a log that is available for the responsible authorities to check upon immediate request. The comparison will only be made against normal super strength product available locally that is available over 5.5% abv.

2. Premium Beer, lager and cider will only be stocked from behind the counter and will not be available for self-service.
3. If there are Police concerns regarding street drinkers consuming a specific beer, cider, lager or Stout product with a ABV above 5.5%, a police licensing officer can give 28 days' notice to the premises license holder to seize any remaining stock of that specific product (if any remains on the premises) without reimbursement. That specific product cannot later be stocked or sold thereafter from the premises.

A copy of the agreed amendments and correspondence can be seen on pages **172-173** of this report.

On the 5th January 2024, the Licensing Team contacted the Police Licensing Team, querying condition 1 above. Conditions attached to the premises licence, if granted, must be clear, appropriate, and enforceable. The applicant and the Police Licensing Team have met to discuss the re-wording of the condition, and an update is due. A copy of the correspondence of the meeting can be seen on pages **174** of this report.

2. BACKGROUND

The main access to the premises is located on North End Road. There is a mixture of both residential and commercial premises within the area. A map showing the location of the premises and neighbouring licensed premises can be seen on pages **175-178** of this report.

There are several options for transport away from the area including buses and taxis which run from in and around the North End Road and Lillie Road area. West Brompton overground station is a 9-minute walk away, and West Kensington and Fulham Broadway tube stations are an 11-minute walk away.

3. CONSULTATION

A public notice was displayed at the premises for 28 days. The application was advertised in a local circular and all statutory consultees were notified as required by the Regulations. The Council has served written notice of hearing upon the applicant and all those parties that have made representations in respect of the application.

3.1. Relevant Representations

The licensing section received 2 representations objecting to the licence application. One was received on behalf of the Barclay Road Conservation Area Neighbourhood Watch and one from a local resident. A copy of these representations can be seen on pages **179-182** of this report.

On the 11th and 15th December 2023, the Licensing team contacted the applicant's agent with a request to contact the representors for mediation. A copy of the correspondence between the representors and agent can be seen on pages **183-188** of this report.

4. OTHER INFORMATION

4.1 Enforcement History

There have not been any warnings, simple cautions or prosecutions given in respect of the premises during the past three years.

4.2 Temporary Event Notices (“TENs”)

No TENs have been submitted in respect of this premises in the past twelve months.

5. POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Section 2 pages 7-10 of the Statement of Licensing Policy (“SLP”) states the Licensing Authority is keen to support the licensed sector and leisure offer within the borough, with a particular focus on business resilience and growing a robust and thriving cultural and leisure sector.

To achieve this the Licensing Authority has identified three key themes of the Licensing Policy and the Licensing Authority’s approach to implementing it. These are:

- A sustainable, well-run licensed sector;
- Hammersmith & Fulham as a good place to live, work and enjoy leisure; and,
- A safe licensing environment and night-time economy.

5.2 Section 5 pages 12 and 13 of the SLP states that to ensure the promotion of the four Licensing Objectives the Licensing Authority will require applicants to detail in their operating schedule:

- the steps proposed to promote the licensing objective of the prevention of crime and disorder on, and in the vicinity of, the premises, having regard to their location, character, condition, the nature and extent of the proposed use and the persons likely to use the premises;
- the steps proposed to ensure the physical safety of people using the relevant premises or place;
- how they intend to prevent nuisance arising, prevent disturbance and protect amenity so far as is appropriate to ensure that the Licensing Objectives are met. Where there is a relevant representation regarding extended hours, the Licensing Authority will not permit an extension unless it is satisfied that the Licensing Objectives would be met;
- the measures and management controls in place to protect children from harm. Where appropriate a written childcare policy should be available and be incorporated in the induction of staff.

5.3 Policy 3 page 21 of the SLP states that where there is a relevant representation, the Licensing Authority will consider each particular case on its merits having regard in particular to the following matters:

a) Whether the licensed activities are likely to have an adverse impact especially on local residents and, if there is potential to have an adverse impact, what, if any, appropriate measures will be put in place to prevent it;

- b) Whether there will be a substantial increase in the cumulative adverse impact from these or similar activities, on an adjacent residential area;
- c) Whether there is a suitable level of public transport accessibility to and from the premises at the appropriate times;
- d) Whether the activity will be likely to lead to a harmful and unmanageable increase in car parking demand in surrounding residential streets suffering high levels of parking stress or on roads forming part of the Strategic London Road Network or the London Bus Priority Network leading to a negative impact on the Licensing Objectives relating to the prevention of crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour (ASB), nuisance and vehicle emissions;
- e) Whether there have been any representations made by Responsible Authorities, or other relevant agency or representative.

It will be the normal policy of the Licensing Authority to allow shops, stores and supermarkets to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any times (in line with permitted planning hours) when the retail outlet is open for shopping unless there are good reasons based on the Licensing Objectives for restricting those hours. Should there be evidence regarding street drinking issues, child protection issues, cumulative impact, anti-social behaviour (ASB), issues in relation to public nuisance and disorder in the vicinity of this type of premises, the Licensing Authority may restrict the hours of the sale of alcohol or decide to review the licence. To act as a guide for new or existing operators we have set out the suggested closing times for licensed premises below:

Type of premises	Town centres	Mixed use areas	Residential areas
Off-licences and alcohol sales in supermarkets	23:00 daily	23:00 daily	22:00 daily

5.4 Policy 4 pages 22 and 23 of the SLP states that in determining an application where there has been a relevant representation the Licensing Authority will, where appropriate, take into account the cumulative effect of the number, type and density of licensed premises already existing in the area. Consideration will be given to the proximity to any drug and alcohol treatment site, A&E department or homeless hostel in a local area type remit ie applicants need to make the case for how they would not increase further problems for residents/clients nearby.

In coming to any decision regarding cumulative impact the Licensing Authority will consider other mechanisms outside of the licensing regime which may also be available to address this issue, these include but are not limited to:

- Planning controls (where development or change of use is involved, or where trading hours are limited by planning conditions)
- Police and other enforcement of the normal law concerning disorder and anti-social behaviour.
- Prosecution or other enforcement of any personal licence holder or member of staff at such premises who is selling alcohol to people who are drunk

- Prosecution or other enforcement of any personal licence holder or member of staff at such premises who is selling to underage persons or selling illegal alcohol or tobacco
- Police powers to close down instantly any licensed premises or temporary events on grounds of disorder, the likelihood of disorder or excessive noise emanating from the premises, for up to 24 hours.
- The power of the police, other responsible authorities, a local resident, business or Councillor to seek a review of the licence or certificate in question.
- Police and Local Authority power to issue a Closure Notice for up to 48 hours where serious antisocial behaviour is taking place at licensed premises under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.
- To ensure that residents are protected from the negative impact of late-night local licensing activities the Licensing Authority may decide to adopt an Area Specific Cumulative Impact Policy in relation to a specific area; where the number, type and density of premises providing licensable activities is having a serious negative impact on the local community and local amenities.

5.5 Policy 11 page 30 of the SLP states that Licensing law is not the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour caused by people once they are away from the licensed premises and, therefore, beyond the direct control of the licensee. However, licensing is a key aspect of such control and licensing law is part of a holistic approach to the management of the night-time economy.

As a matter of policy, the council expects every holder of a licence, certificate or permission, to accept and be responsible for minimising the impact of their activities and anti-social behaviour by their patrons within the vicinity of their premises by taking appropriate measures and action consistent with that responsibility. Licensees and certificate holders should take reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of crime and disorder and public nuisance immediately outside their premises, for example on the pavement, in a beer garden or in a smoking area, to the extent that these matters are within their control.

Population densities in this borough are high, with many residential premises located above or in close proximity to licensed premises. This means that the public nuisance and crime and disorder objectives will be of paramount concern when evaluating Operating Schedules. Licensing Committees will place high regard on the control measures put in place by the applicant to ensure that our residents are protected from the potential detrimental effects of any licensed premises.

5.6 Policy 13 pages 31 and 32 of the SLP state that despite Licensing and Planning being under different legislation, the Licensing Authority will ensure that the licensing regime is in line with the planning regime in Hammersmith & Fulham as far as is possible.

The local planning authority has powers to control opening times of all new establishments seeking planning permission, where harm might occur. Licensing applications will not be a re-run of the planning application.

If the licensing committee grants any variation of a licence which involves a material alteration to a building, the applicant still needs to apply for planning permission, or building regulation control, where appropriate. Where an applicant is granted a

premises licence with operating hours that are different to the hours permitted by the premises planning permission, the applicant must observe the earlier closing time. Premises operating in breach of their planning permission would be liable to prosecution under planning law. We would suggest that the applicant contacts Planning apply to vary their conditions.

5.7 Policy 14 pages 32 and 33 of the SLP in relation to delivery services states that the Licensing Authority has concerns with the potential for the following:

- Age verification at both purchase point and delivery point;
- The safety of delivery drivers at the point of delivery;
- Safety of the premises from which orders are taken and sent out for deliver; and,
- Possible public nuisance and anti-social behaviour (ASB) caused by delivery drivers collecting deliveries from the licensed premises.

The Licensing Authority is likely to place the following conditions on to a premises licence for delivery services where it is appropriate and relevant to the individual licence application:

- Appropriate security will be in place at the premises as agreed with Police.
- A signature at the point of delivery **must** be obtained. No delivery shall be left without a signature.
- Alcohol shall only be delivered to a residential or business address and **not** to a public place.
- Every third-party courier delivery box shall be labelled with the words “Age Restricted Product”.
- Any delivery driver or third-party courier will be required to have appropriate age verification training, particularly they will be required to have training in refusal of supply where age verification is not provided.
- A refusals log will be maintained for deliveries.
- Appropriate security will be in place at the premises as agreed with Police.
- Measures for minimising noise and disturbance and anti-social behaviour (ASB) caused by the dispatch of deliveries to be identified in the operating schedule. In particular applicants are expected to consider the use of electric vehicles to minimise air pollution and noise. The Licensing Authority expects that applicants will make arrangements for all deliveries after 8 pm to be made using electric vehicles or non motorised vehicles i.e. bicycles.
- A requirement for a specific delivery collection area to be made clear to any third party delivery service. This area may not be directly outside the licensed premises to take account of any residential accommodation close by or obstructing the pavement/highways.

5.8 Annex 1 pages 35 and 36 of the SLP in relation to the prevention of crime and disorder states licence applicants will be expected to demonstrate the following in their operating schedules:

- c) Operators of off-licences in areas problems relating to street drinking and underage drinking are prevalent, measures should be outlined to strictly monitor the way alcohol is sold, specifically where the premises are located close to

schools and hostels and similar premises that provide shelter or services to alcohol dependent persons.

- d) It is important to ensure that staff working at off licences are suitably trained and receive appropriate refresher training in their responsibilities under the Act and can discharge their duties in full compliance with the licence conditions and requirements of the Act. This includes the ability to competently check a customer's age with acceptable forms of identification where necessary. The Licensing Authority will particularly consider the following matters where they are material to the individual application:
- I. The likelihood of any violence, public order or policing problem if the licence is granted;
 - II. The measures taken to control admission to the premises, and to take reasonable steps to prevent the occurrence of crime and disorder and public nuisance immediately outside the premises, where and to the extent that these matters are within their control.
 - III. Past conduct and prior history of complaints against the premises;
 - IV. Whether a dispersal policy has been prepared to minimise the potential for disorder as customers leave the premises; and
 - V. Any relevant representations.

g) Conditions will, so far as possible, reflect local crime prevention strategies, and the Licensing Authority will also have regard to the views of the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

h) **Crime and disorder in the vicinity of the premises:** this may include the crime and disorder risks arising from persons queuing to enter the premises; persons exiting the premises and customers smoking eating or drinking in outdoor areas and on the highway outside the premises. This can also include crime arising from pickpockets and bag snatchers, particularly in open spaces or crowded areas where alcohol is being consumed.

j) **CCTV** - using CCTV inside and/or outside the premises together with appropriate procedures and having staff properly trained to use CCTV equipment.

l) **dealing with and reporting crime and disorder** - training for staff and door security aimed at reducing crime and disorder in the premises and its vicinity and dealing with and reporting incidents if they occur.

p) **local schemes** – joining and attending local Pubwatch meetings and participating in the Behave or Be Banned Scheme (BOBB) and/or signing up and using the Council's Safety Net Radio scheme.

5.9 Annex 1 pages 38 to 40 of the SLP in relation to the prevention of public nuisance states that the Licensing Authority will particularly consider the following matters where they are material to the individual application:

- ii. The proximity of residential accommodation;
- iii. The type of use proposed, including the likely numbers of customers, proposed hours of operation and the frequency of activity;
- v. The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the applicant to prevent disturbance by customers arriving at or leaving the premises.
- ix. The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the applicant to ensure staff leave the premises quietly;
- x. The arrangements made or proposed for parking by patrons, and the effect of parking by patrons on local residents;

- xii. The level of likely disturbance from associated vehicular and pedestrian movement to and from the premises;
- xiii. The delivery and collection areas and delivery/collection times;
- xiv. The siting of external lighting, including security lighting that is installed inappropriately;
- xv. The arrangements for refuse disposal, storage and the prevention/tidying of litter (including fly posters and illegal placards);
- xix. Any other relevant activity likely to give rise to nuisance;
- xx. Any representations made by the Police, or other relevant agency or representative;

The following provides a non-exhaustive list of risks associated with the public nuisance objective that applicants may want to consider when preparing their Operating Schedule:

j) **Deliveries/collections** – noise from deliveries to and/or collections (e.g. refuse) from the premises are another common source of complaint. Consider the times of such deliveries/collections and make sure you specify to any contractors that deliveries/collections should not be made at anti-social times. As a guide, the Noise and Nuisance Service recommend that deliveries/collections should only be made between the hours of 7:30am and 9:00pm, depending on the proximity of residential and/or other noise sensitive properties.

l) **Light pollution** – this is an increasingly common source of complaint, particularly from illuminated signs and external security lighting. Where provided, illuminated signs should not cause glare to neighbouring properties, ideally being turned off at night, and external lighting should be angled and/or diffused to also prevent nuisance.

m) **Noise and/or vibration** breakout from the provision of regulated entertainment, particularly from (but not limited to) live music – consider what type of entertainment is to be provided, in what room/area of the premises and the suitability of the construction of this room/area to contain sound. Windows are a particular weak-point for noise break-out so consider providing regulated entertainment in a room without windows or with as few windows as possible, particularly windows that face towards nearby residential properties. Where suitable, install a lobby to prevent spillage of noise each time an entrance/exit door is opened.

r) **Waste** – consider how and where waste will be stored/disposed of at the end of trading hours, particularly if trading until late at night. This is important because the disposal of glass and/or cans to outside bin areas can be very noisy and give rise to complaints, so it may be necessary to store such items and other non-degradable refuse inside the premises until the next trading day. Consideration should also be given to the time of deliveries to minimize disruption to local residents.

s) **Litter** – for example, litter patrols for late night take-away premises

5.10 Annex 1 pages 40 to 41 of the SLP in relation to the protection of children from harm states that the Licensing Authority will require operating plans to specify the measures and management controls in place to protect children from harm.

The 'Responsible Authority' in relation to the protection of children from harm is the council's Local Safeguarding Children Board. The Trading Standards service will also have certain responsibilities particularly in relation to the underage sales of age restricted products and providing advice about measures that can be taken to reduce the risk of alcohol sales to under eighteens. The following provides a non-exhaustive

list of risks associated with the protection of children from harm objective that applicants may want to consider when preparing their Operating Schedule:

i) Where premises are subject to age-restrictions, the procedures in place to conduct age verification checks. The Council will expect premises only to accept current passports, driving licences or documents bearing the national PASS logo, such as Citizencard. The Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) is the UK's national guarantee scheme for proof-of- age cards as endorsed by the Home Office. More information can be found on The Proof of Age Standards Scheme (PASS) website.

6. DETERMINATION

6.1 In determining this application, the Committee must have regard to the representations and take such of the following steps as it considers necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives. The steps are:

- (a) Grant the application in full
- (b) Grant the application in part – modifying the proposed hours, activities or conditions.
- (c) Reject the application

It is the Council's duty under the Licensing Act 2003 ("The Act") to determine applications with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives; Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Public Safety, Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.

In reaching a decision the Council shall consider the details of any relevant representations received; the applicant's Operating Schedule; the Council's adopted Statement of Licensing Policy and the guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Act.

If the Committee is minded to grant the application conditions may be attached to the licence to alleviate the concerns raised through the representations.