

**RUNNYMEDE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE**

**HEARING DECISION NOTICE**

**Applicant:** Chertsey Town Football Club

**Premises:** Chertsey Town Football Club, Alwyns Lane, Chertsey Surrey,  
KT16 9DW

**Hearing Date:** Wednesday 28 September 2005

**Sub Committee:** Mrs C. Jones (Chairman), Mrs Y. Lay and Mrs E. Gill

**This was an application for:**

- 1) Conversion of the existing Justices Licence, and
- 2) Variation.

**The variation applied for was to:**

- 1) Extend hours of the supply of alcohol and the hours that the Premises remain open to the public everyday of the week.
- 2) The provision of regulated entertainment being recorded music, live music, and indoor sporting events.

The Applicant, Mr Christopher Gay, Secretary of the Club and Mr Stephen Powers, Chairman of the Club both attended and were not represented.

25 letters of representation were received from interested parties being persons living in the neighbourhood of the Premises.

Mr Noel Desmond, Mr Brian Rigby and Ms Rosemary Collins attended pertaining to three of the representations.

No representations were received from the Police or any of the responsible authorities.

The Sub-Committee heard from Mr Gay who expressed his concern at all the objections that had been received and was pleased that he could explain what he hoped the future would hold for the Club. Mr Gay explained that the Club was opened in 1929 and he had been a member since 1975. He believed that there was a natural assumption in the area that if any noise or nuisance was heard or caused in the neighbourhood it emanated from the Club. Mr Gay advised that the Club in fact had very few events and private parties and they would continue to operate in this manner. He said that he felt that the Club was blamed unnecessarily in the majority of circumstances and recalled only the other day when he had received three telephone calls complaining about noise from the Club when there was no function on at the Club that day but a nearby neighbour was responsible for the loud music.

Mr Gay said that the Club does have an extractor fan which is very loud but this problem is being dealt with as an extension is being built at which point the extractor fan will be moved to the other side of the building. The Applicant said however that he did not believe that music from the Club could be heard by the residents of Riversdell Close as he had been to stand on the road when music was playing at the Club and claimed that he could not hear it.

Mr Gay said that he had spoken to the Police and the Environmental Health Officer prior to the hearing and neither had made any objections to his application. He said that he is in contact with the Police as the Club suffers from extensive vandalism and believes that they are the victims in the area rather than the villain of the piece.

Mr Gay listed the next years functions which included 50<sup>th</sup> and 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday Parties and family private functions. He said he recalled a few problems that they had with 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Parties which is why they no longer had these. They had recently taken on a 21<sup>st</sup> as they had been assured this was a family party. They received no problems at this event. The Applicant assured the Sub-Committee that he supervised members on leaving the premises and ensured that bottles and glasses were collected from patrons and also that they supervise the car park area as far as they possibly could.

Mr Gay explained that Grove Road acts as a walk through for many young people from the local Public Houses in Chertsey returning home after drinking in the evenings and eating takeaways. He said the nuisance and any rubbish left by these people should not be attributed to the Club.

Finally, Mr Gay explained that the club is unable to survive on just football and asked the Sub-Committee and residents to support the Club as much as they could. He explained that the property itself is on Trust as a Football Club and said that if the Club was to stop trading it would end up as a derelict building which would become an eyesore in the area.

The objectors explained that they were often disturbed by loud music until midnight on the days that events did take place at the Club, and that noise went on further into the night as people left the Premises. They said that the streets were filled with young youths after an event and believed that these youths were the cause of public nuisance. The objectors also complained that the car park holds too few cars, that many park on the streets blocking the exits and often damaging other cars. They also rev their engines on leaving the street. One of the objectors, Mr Rigby, said that he had complained a few times to the Police but does not know whether these complaints have been logged.

The objectors proposed that windows should be closed at all times, that the Premises should be soundproofed and members should supervise patrons leaving the Premises.

The objectors said that they had not complained to the Police or to Environmental Health Authority.

Having considered the application, the representations made by interested parties, the submissions of the Applicant and those making representations, the Committee's decision was as follows:

1. Application for conversion approved.
2. Application for variation approved subject to the following conditions:
  - a) All windows and doors to be remain shut whilst music is playing.
  - b) All events to be supervised by a member of the club, especially when people are leaving the premises including the car park belong to the premises.
  - c) Live music and recorded music to cease at the following times:-  
  
Sunday to Wednesday - No live music  
Thursday to Saturday - 11.00pm

**Reasons for the imposition of the conditions:**

Prevention of public nuisance and public safety.

**Appeals**

If the Applicant or any person who made a relevant representation wishes to appeal against this Decision an appeal must be made to the North West Surrey Magistrates Court at Woking within 21 days of the date of receipt of this Notice.

Dated: .....