

**MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 24 APRIL 2008**

Councillors Patel (Chair), Peacock (Vice-Chair), *Baker, Beacham, Demirci, *Edge, *Lister, Reid, *Vanier and *Dodds

Also Present: Councillor Oatway

* Denotes Members Present

MINUTE NO.	SUBJECT/DECISION	ACTION BY
LSCO05.	<p>ELECTION OF THE CHAIR</p> <p>In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair the Committee was asked to elect a Chair to preside over the meeting. Cllr Dodds nominated Cllr Lister and Cllr Baker seconded the nomination. The Committee agreed that Cllr Lister would chair the meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>That Cllr Lister be appointed as Chair for the duration of the meeting.</p>	
LSCO06.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Patel, Peacock, Beacham and Demirci.</p>	
LSCO07.	<p>URGENT BUSINESS</p> <p>There were no items of urgent business.</p>	
LSCO08.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>None received.</p>	
LSCO09.	<p>ALEXANDRA PALACE, ALEXANDRA PALACE WAY, N22 (ALEXANDRA WARD)</p> <p>The Licensing Officer, Ms Barrett, presented the report on the application by Alexandra Park Trading Ltd. The Committee was asked to consider an application for the provision of facilities for betting (track), a betting premises licence.</p> <p>The Committee was informed that the application had originally been submitted for a full license that could be used at any time a sporting event was taking place at the premises, but had subsequently been amended so that the application would only cover the dates of the World Darts Tournament, held at the Palace each year.</p> <p>The licensing authority had not received any representations from the responsible authorities during the consultation period. Objections were received from local residents, who had stated that the premises were not</p>	

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suitable for gambling activity in light of the detrimental effect that granting such a licence would have on the surrounding community.

The applicant's representative addressed the Committee and stated that the application was restricted in area, as betting would only take place in the Panorama Room, and restricted in time, as betting could only take place on the dates of the World Darts Tournament.

The application had been submitted by Alexandra Palace Trading Ltd, as only those with the right to occupy the premises could apply for a premises licence under the terms of the Gambling Act 2005. Under a track premises licence, betting facilities would be provided by a third-party operator with an operating licence, in this instance Ladbrokes, who held the contract to sponsor the World Darts Tournament for the next five years.

Ladbrokes were an established company that operated over 2,000 sites, and provided betting facilities at numerous sporting occasions, classified as 'tracks' under the terms of the Gambling Act 2005. A local example was at White Hart Lane football ground, where Ladbrokes provided betting facilities.

As holders of an operating licence, Ladbrokes were bound to comply with the rigorous conditions and terms of practice demanded by the Gambling Commission. These rigorous requirements would ensure that gambling was conducted in a fair and open way and that measures were in place to protect children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

Betting had been permitted legally at Alexandra Palace during the 2007/08 World Darts Tournament under an Occasional Use Notice, and the Police had confirmed that there were no incidents of crime or disorder reported at the Palace during this time. There was no evidence that there would be a resultant increase in crime or disorder in future if the licence applied for were to be granted.

An objector asked the applicant's representative what evidence she had to support the assertion that betting was not linked to crime and disorder. The Committee was informed that there would be no legalised gambling if there were evidence to link the two, and that in relation to this particular application, the Police would have flagged up any concerns they may have, and had not done so.

Cllr Oatway, representing absent objectors, asked the applicant's representative to clarify where the entrance to the Panorama Room would be, whether there would be any access to the room from the walkway and also the hours permitted for betting under the licence applied for.

The applicant's representative reported that the hours of the licence would be the hours as set out in the default conditions. The entrance to the Panorama Room was indicated on a plan of the venue. It was

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reported that access to the room would be exclusively via the Palm Court, and that only ticket holders for the World Darts Tournament would have access to the Panorama Room. There would be no access via the walkway.

The applicant's representative was asked to specify some of the social responsibility procedures in place at Ladbrokes. It was reported that self-exclusion programmes whereby people can request to be excluded for a period of 6 months to 5 years were in place, and that problem gamblers could be referred to Gamcare. Notices that under-18s were not permitted to bet were displayed at all Ladbrokes operations, and the company also operated a Challenge 21 policy, whereby anyone appearing under the age of 21 would be asked to prove that they were 18 or over. All staff were extensively trained, and a compliance folder was kept on site for reference. During the tournament, a district supervisor would be present during operating hours, and would have responsibility for supervising betting activities.

Objectors expressed concern that granting the licence would lead to an increase in crime and disorder around the venue, as criminals would be attracted to the area when gambling was taking place, particularly once the World Darts Tournament and betting associated with it became established. The Palace and its environs were popular with children, and concerns were expressed that children might be harmed as a result of exposure to gambling. The isolated nature of the venue meant that it was difficult to control any criminal activity around it, and so the venue was not appropriate for gambling. Objectors suggested that an Occasional Use Notice could be used for events in future, as had happened previously, as this would be more appropriate to the venue than a permanent betting premises licence.

A representation that Alexandra Palace Trading Ltd was not legally entitled to apply for a betting premises licence was made, but was disregarded as the Licensing Officer would have carried out all necessary checks before the licence application was accepted.

RESOLVED

The Committee decided to grant the application as asked, subject to the mandatory and default conditions.

The Committee was satisfied that the applicants had met the following principals:

- a). In accordance with any relevant code of practice under section 24.
- b). In accordance with any relevant guidance issued by the Commission under section 25.
- c). Reasonably consistent with the licensing objectives (subject to paragraphs a) and b), and
- d). In accordance with the statement published by the authority under section 349 (subject to paragraphs a) and c).

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	<p>The Committee took into account the written and oral representations from interested parties and were satisfied that the mandatory and default conditions would meet any legitimate concerns raised.</p> <p><u>INFORMATION:</u></p> <p>The Committee requested that the company rigorously applied the Challenge 21 policy and that bets were not accepted from young persons under 18 years of age.</p>	
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**Cllr Harry Lister
Chair**