



Council

Tuesday, 11 October 2016

Dear Councillor

You are advised that the attached documents form part of the main agenda papers for this meeting.

Please ensure you bring them with you to the meeting.

Yours faithfully

S Kilkie
Assistant Director (Communities)

List of documents attached

4. To answer any questions received from members of the public of which notice has been given under Council Procedure Rule 13 (Pages 3 - 4)
5. Minutes
To receive and adopt the proceedings, reports and recommendations of the following committees, except those items reserved under Council procedure Rule 5.2 (6) and to ratify and confirm the orders made by them.
 - k) Minutes of meeting Thursday, 29 September 2016 of Licensing Committee (Pages 5 - 8)
 - l) Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 5 October 2016 of Regulatory Board (Pages 9 - 12)

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Question from Mr Geof Foxwell

Are discussions ongoing with Queenridge Properties and if so, what have they been about? Cllr Cubitt stated in a reply to a question in Dec 2015, and I quote, as a matter of fact the necessary changes to the Development Agreement are in the process of being made but have yet to be finalised. We are now 10 months further on and no firm date seems to have been set for the commencement of the works and why are the residents adjacent to the development site being refused any answers by the Council.

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Licensing Committee**Thursday, 29 September 2016****7:30pm****Present:**

Cllr Harold Craske (Chair)

Cllrs: Karen Hurdle
 Sara Langdale
 John Loughlin
 Jordan Meade
 Leslie Pearton
 Peter Scollard
 Lyn Milner
 Valerie Ashenden
 Les Howes
 Michael Wenban

Sarah Kilkie	Assistant Director (Communities)
Mark Lees	Licensing Manager
Jane Blade	Compliance Manager, Gambling Commission
Emily Lane-Blackwell	Licensing Officer
Ben Clarke	Committee & Scrutiny Assistant (Minutes)

45. Apologies

An apology of absence was received from Cllr Steve Thompson, Cllr Gurjit Bains and Cllr Lesley Boycott (Vice-Chair).

46. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 07 March 2016 were signed by the Chair.

47. Declarations of Interests

The Chair declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in that his son is the Director of Communications at the Association of British Bookmakers.

48. Gambling Commission Overview and Update

The Compliance Manager, Gambling Commission gave a presentation to the Committee on what the Gambling Commission are and their work around the UK (please see supplementary).

Following Members questions the Compliance Manager, Gambling Commission explained that:

- All staff that work in gambling shops have to be trained to spot potentially vulnerable people. They should notice tell-tale signs like long periods spent in shops, repeated cash withdrawals from ATMs, smell of alcohol, shouting and swearing at machines etc. They also have a legal requirement to interact with any person they think has a gambling problem
- Self-exclusion does work once someone has self-excluded themselves from a premises, such as a betting shop, then that proprietor can inform other similar premises in the vicinity so that the exclusion applies there also. This information sharing may be carried out by means of an app provided by the trade body.
- A new optional feature is being implemented within the next 6-8 months where you can self-exclude yourself not only from all betting shops in the area, but also from other types of gambling premises such as arcades and bingo halls
- Operators themselves can also chose to exclude problem gamblers
- Online gambling is regulated in the UK and some illegal gambling websites have been shut down. Regulation and enforcement of overseas remote operators presents difficulties but new strategies and procedures are being developed and introduced.

The Chair thanked the Compliance Manager, Gambling Commission for an informative presentation.

Members **noted** the information contained within the presentation.

49. 'When A Licensing Officer Calls'

The Licensing Officer gave a detailed presentation to the Committee on the roles of the Licensing Officer and maintaining proper standards in Gravesham (please see supplementary).

The Licensing Officer expanded and gave further information not included on some of the slides from her presentation:

Licence Plates

- A white licence plate means it is a Taxi for hire vehicle
- A yellow licence plate means it is a private hire vehicle
- A green licence plate means the vehicle can only be used for school runs
- All plates must be visibly attached to the rear of the vehicle at all times unless the driver has an exemption form which is granted by GBC under special circumstances – this allows for the plate to be stored elsewhere in the vehicle

What else do I want to see on inspection?

- For all premises and clubs that hold a licence under the Licensing Act 2003, it is mandatory to have both the current owner and designated premises supervisor 's (DPS) names on the licence otherwise it cannot remain open
- All establishments must have age verification policies in place in case children try to get in and/or purchase alcohol
- If a premises provides gaming machines they must hold the relevant permit. All taxi vehicles must have CCTV inside, a sticker informing customers that there is CCTV, no smoking signs as well as a first aid kit and fire extinguisher somewhere in the vehicle. This is all checked on regularly

- Betting Premises can only have a maximum of four fixed odds betting terminal (FOBT) machines. as well as no drinking (alcohol) and age verification policies
- Scrap metal sites must have a licence and fully document all metal sales and purchases.
- A sex shop must have any windows that can be looked through into the inside of the shop by passers-by. There must be clear signs clarifying that no one under 18 may enter and clear prices on all products.; Refreshments are not allowed to be served on site

Safer Gravesham and Stronger Gravesham

- The Licensing team are part of the Gravesham Safety Advisory Group (SAG) and offer advice on making events safer and making sure they meet the licensing requirements
- Taxi drivers are informed when events are on and when there are severe traffic delays.
- The Safer Socialising Awards inspections, both renewals and new applications are in progress.; A team of officers from licensing, trading standard and the police inspect the premises and give them the award if they meet the criteria

The Licensing Manager advised Members of the following information with regard to the:

Sound and Self-Sufficient Council objective

- As of 2003, clubs and premises have had to pay an annual fee to the local Council to operate. Since 2012 the law was amended so that if the fee remains unpaid 21 days past the deadline, then their licence may be suspended
- So far around 20 have been suspended in Gravesham this year. Annual fee invoices have now been set up as automated PIMs.(periodic invoice masters) , to go out 2 weeks before the payment deadline. It is hoped that this will improve timely payments.
- GBC are looking to purchase a new online system for the Taxi Street Knowledge Tests which will be a more efficient process than the current manual system ‘
- la ID’s badges for the Taxi Drivers and other licence holders, will now incorporate embedded logos for increased security
- Online DBS checks are being investigated as a possible future efficiency improvement

Following questions from Members the Licensing Manager and Licensing Officer clarified that:

- All Taxi drivers are DBS checked (previously CRB checks) before they become drivers
- Taxi drivers do not need to pass an English language test, however they do need to pass a written exam which is in English
- The penalty point system in place for drivers and operated by the Licensing Team places points on their council driver licence not their DVLA licence

The Chair thanked the officers for an informative presentation.

Members **noted** the information within the presentation.

Close of meeting

The meeting ended at 9:05pm.

Regulatory Board**Wednesday, 5 October 2016****7.00 pm****Present:**

Cllr Robin Theobald (Chair)

Councillors: John Burden
 Lee Croxton
 John Cubitt
 Susan Howes
 John Knight
 Lauren Sullivan
 David Turner
 Michael Wenban

Jan Guyler	Head of Legal Services, Medway Council
Wendy Lane	Assistant Director (Planning)
Peter Price	Principal Planner
Richard Hart	Principal Planner
Rebecca Harrison	Senior Planner
Elizabeth Jump	Planning Assistant
Carlie Simmonds	Committee Services Manager
Sarah Arding	Committee Services Officer

40. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr William Lambert and Cllr John Knight attended as his respective substitute.

41. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 07 September 2016 were signed by the Chair.

42. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Lee Croxton declared an "Other Interest" in application GR/2016/0675 – 26 Shrubbery Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1JW as he lives near the application site and advised he would not vote on this item.

Cllr Michael Wenban declared an "Other Interest" in application GR/2016/0625 – 63 & Part of the Rear Gardens of 65 & 67 Whitehill Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 5PF as he lives near the application site.

43. GR/2016/0625 - 63 & Part of the rear gardens of 65 & 67 Whitehill Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 5PF

Further to minute 34 (07.09.2016), the Board considered application GR/2016/0625 for the partial demolition and alterations to no 63 Whitehill Road and erection of seven dwellings and new highway access plus other associated works.

Resolved that application GR/2016/0625 be DEFERRED for one cycle for negotiations to achieve a reduced number of units on the site, taking into consideration Members' concerns regarding highways access, overspill parking, residential amenity, refuse storage and collection and landscaping. Consideration also be given to the impact of the development on the Funeral Directors at 67 Sun Lane and an assessment of bats on the site.

Note: (1) Mr Andrew Street, agent for the applicant, addressed the Board.
 (2) Objectors Mrs Joanne Barker-Platy, Mrs Jo Watts and Miss Jessie Ling addressed the Board.
 (3) Cllr Steve Thompson spoke with leave of the Chair on this item.

44. GR/2016/0655 - 28 First Avenue, Northfleet, Gravesend, Kent DA11 8DJ

Further to minute 36 (07.09.2016), the Board considered application GR/2016/0655 for the erection of a single storey extension at the rear, construction of dormer extensions in both side roof slopes and conversion of the roof space into three bedrooms and bathroom with front and rear hip-to-gable enlargements.

Resolved that application GR/2016/0635 be PERMITTED subject to conditions, reasons and informatives to be detailed in the decision notice issued by the Planning Department and available at the following link:- <http://tinyurl.com/04ufwe7>

Note: (1) Mr David Meaney, agent for the applicant, addressed the Board.

45. GR/2016/0675 - 26 Shrubbery Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1JW

Further to minute 37 (07.09.2016), the Board considered application GR/2016/0675 for the change of use of land to residential (C3) and incorporation into the residential curtilage of 2 Shrubbery Road and erection of a detached storage shed.

Resolved that application GR/2016/0675 be REFUSED on grounds relating to the proposal being visually harmful, detrimental to the character of the Conservation Area and may set a precedent for harmful development in the area. The reasons to be detailed in the decision notice issued by the Planning Department and available on the following link:- <http://tinyurl.com/04ufwe7>

Furthermore that the current development on the site be investigated and appropriate enforcement action taken to reinstate the land.

Note: (1) Objector Mr Mark Whitehouse addressed the Board.
 (2) Cllr Steve Thompson spoke with leave of the Chair on this item
 (3) Cllr Lee Croxton did not vote on this item.

46. GR/2016/0727 - Garages and Land off Lanes Avenue and Packham Road, Northfleet, Kent - report herewith.

The Board considered application GR/2016/0727 for the demolition of two existing garage blocks and the construction of a terrace of six number two bed four person houses; a terrace of three number one bed two person bungalows, with additional useable space in the roof, and one number two bed four person wheelchair accessible bungalow; additional external landscaping works and associated parking.

Resolved that application GR/2016/0727 be DEFERRED for a Members' Site Inspection in order assess the proposal in the local context with particular reference to access to the site, displacement parking, the quantum of development and the impact of the development on adjacent properties.

47. Planning applications determined under delegated powers by the Director (Housing & Regeneration)

A Schedule showing applications determined by the Director (Housing & Regeneration) under delegated powers has been published on the website.

Close of meeting

The meeting ended at 9.07 pm

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