

## Licensing Committee – 26 November 2021

### Summary Review – Queens Hotel

Cllrs – Ludford, Connolly and Flanagan

Applicant – GMP – PC Stuart Hammersley in attendance

PLH – Janice Flint represented by her partner Stephen Dale

Decision: Suspend the licence with immediate effect pending full Review to be heard on the 21 December 2021

#### Reasons:

The Committee considered the representations made on behalf of GMP and the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) and have taken both the written and oral representations into account.

In reaching its decision the Committee have also considered the Council's statement of Licensing Policy, the Licensing Act 2003, the Guidance issued by the Secretary of state under Section 182 of the Act and the licensing objectives.

The Committee considered the incident on the 24th of November and the lack of fully working CCTV at the premises serious enough to warrant the implementation of interim steps

The Committee were concerned by the evidence from GMP of the large quantity of suspected class A drugs prepared for individual deals. GMP also stated that a knife was found under a table nearby the seats where the drugs had been discarded. A number of people had run away from inside the premises as the police approached the venue. A walkie talkie was also found at the entrance to the premises. GMP stated alcohol was also found hidden in the toilets and near a container outside.

The Committee heard from the PLH's representative that the DPS was not on site at the time however they had been informed that lads that had been hanging around on the waste land next to the pub had run in when police arrived to try to escape out a back door which was locked so they discarded the drugs and ran away. The PLH confirmed the alcohol found was not theirs and that one of the lads had been carrying a box with it in which he discarded before running off.

The PLH has been unable to show the CCTV inside the pub to GMP or the panel today and said it was working however they were unable to access it and play back. They have taken it back and got a new system.

The Committee found the lack of fully working CCTV very concerning and that this would have clarified what happened in the premises that evening. This is also a condition on the licence and the Committee expect the PLH to be able to provide CCTV on request.

Whilst the Committee accepted that there was no evidence before them of any previous drugs or other issues with the premises due to the lack of CCTV on the night of the incident and evidence to support the PLH's account, at this time, they accepted the concerns of GMP as to there being potential significant criminal activity occurring at the premises.

The committee considered whether any of the licence conditions could be modified to address their immediate concerns, as suggested by the premises, but considered this not to be the case as there was already a CCTV condition on the premise licence which was not being fully complied with.

The Committee therefore found that it was necessary and proportionate to suspend the licence with immediate effect pending the full review hearing to prevent the potential for any serious crime occurring and to uphold the licensing objectives pending determination of the review of the premises licence.

For the purpose of Section 53B(5)(b) of the Licensing Act 2003 immediate notice of this decision was given orally to GMP and the PLH at the hearing.

The PLH was advised of their right to make representations against the interim steps and it was confirmed that the matter will be listed for full review on 21 December 2021 at 10am.