

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING AND APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Letchworth Garden City
on Thursday 9 June 2005**

PRESENT Councillors Mrs Joan Kirby (Chairman), A. Bardett, Paul Clark, and Gary Grindall.

IN ATTENDANCE: Legal Adviser, Licensing and Enforcement Manager, Assistant Licensing and Enforcement Officer, District Environmental Health Officer, Principal Building Control Surveyor and Committee & Member Services Officer.

ALSO PRESENT: **Letchworth Garden City Conservative Club**
S. Shaddick: Applicant
Objectors: R. Giblin, M. Redding, E. Offord, D. Parker, J. Medd, J. Redding and G. Khelp.

RAP - AID:
Foley Adigun: Applicant.
Bobby Singh
Hertfordshire Constabulary.

(9) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Joan Kirby be appointed as Chairman for this meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Sub – Committee.

(10) PROCEDURE

The Chairman ascertained that all parties present were satisfied to adhere to the suggested procedure as circulated with the agenda for the meeting.

(11) APPLICATION FOR A PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE – LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY CONSERVATIVE CLUB

In accordance with the agreed procedure the Chairman established that the below-mentioned people were appearing before the Licensing and Appeals Sub - Committee.

Applicant:	Mr. S. Shaddick
Officers:	Licensing and Enforcement Manager Assistant Licensing and Enforcement Officer Legal Adviser
Objectors:	R. Giblin, M. Redding, E. Offerd, D. Parker, J.Medd, J. Redding and G. Khelp.

The Assistant Licensing and Enforcement Officer presented his report to the meeting and had one amendment to make to his report at Paragraph 4.1.1. The Hours applied for should read:

Monday to Saturday 1200 to 2400

Sunday 1630 to 2200

In response to an enquiry the officer advised that maximum numbers visiting the Conservative Club would be the responsibility of the licensee and through periodic checks by the Licensing Authority.

The objectors spoke in turn, with reference to their previously submitted letters of objection and the main thrust of objection concerned noise levels and the disruption to local residents. The noise, bright headlights and use of car horns when individuals left the club and the noise coming from the club on summer evenings when windows and doors had been left open could be tolerated by some of the objectors on the current number of events. However, all the objectors considered a seven days a week licence to be intolerable in light of previous experience and noise levels would seriously affect the quality of life for local residents. Also several local residents had shift patterns which meant that workers would be trying to sleep when events were held and customers would be leaving the premises. Another objector with a family of young children confirmed that it was difficult and often impossible for the youngsters to sleep when an event was being held and that the prospect of a seven-day week of events was very difficult to comprehend. The objectors confirmed to a Member that they had not made any complaints to the Licensee or the Licensing Authority purely on the grounds of being 'good neighbours'.

The Applicant advised that the Conservative Club had been established on this site in Birds Hill for more than 90 years and that musical entertainment usually took place at weekends, that it was a Members Club only and that guests could only arrive and leave with a member. A Strict Code of Conduct was adhered to by all visitors and it was unlikely that there would be a change to the nights of entertainment and the number of events.

The Assistant Licensing and Enforcement Officer, and applicant were invited to make closing statements and the sub-committee retired to consider the application and points raised by those present. On their return the sub – committee:

RESOLVED:

The Sub – Committee having taken due regard to the submissions of the local residents of the local residents and the Applicant are minded to **GRANT** the application for a Public Entertainment Licence as per the conditions stated in the report and subject to 30 events in a 12 month period and such events will terminate at 2300 hours.

These restrictions are necessary to prevent persons in the neighbourhood being unreasonably disturbed by noise.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To permit the grant of a Public Entertainment Licence which considered the needs and requests of local residents in Birds Hill, Letchworth Garden City.

**(3) APPLICATION FOR AN OCCASIONAL PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE –
RAP AID CONCERT SATURDAY 30 JULY, BROADWAY GARDENS,
LETCWORTH GARDEN CITY**

In accordance with the agreed procedure the Chairman established that the below-mentioned people were appearing before the Licensing and Appeals Sub - Committee.

Applicant:	Foley Adigun
Applicant's associate:	Bobby Singh
Officers:	Licensing and Enforcement Manager Assistant Licensing and Enforcement Officer Legal Adviser Principal Building Control Officer Principal Environmental Health Officer
Hertfordshire Constabulary:	Police Officer J. McCracken

The Licensing and Enforcement Manager advised Members that a revised ground and activities plan for Rap Aid had been received but the Sub – Committee should only

make a determination on the application before them as there was insufficient time before the event to submit a new application. Members were concerned that according to the report the applicant had not provided to the Licensing Authority certain documents, which were necessary for the application to proceed.

The Assistant Licensing and Enforcement Officer confirmed that no objections had been received from local residents and that Hertfordshire Constabulary had raised their concerns on stewarding, toilet facilities, structural safety, event safety officer, and particularly a public safety plan.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer advised the Sub-Committee that it would be essential to regulate the noise levels as the music provided at Rap Aid would have a clear potential to cause disturbance to local residents due to noise. In his report he had indicated that the Music Noise Level should not exceed 75 decibels between 1100 and 2000 hours but he would subject to all other aspects of this application being met agree to a limit of 90 decibels between 1100 and 2000 hours. He also confirmed that he still awaited a noise management plan

The Principal Building Control Officer confirmed his concerns on the equipment to be used for the staging, location and the identity of the 'competent person' who would provide the completion certificate. He specifically required more information on loads on the stage and truss system for the stage.

The Applicant and his associate advised the Sub-Committee that it was very difficult for such a small group such as themselves to organise Rap Aid 2005 and they regretted the omission of certain documents in their application. This was a very important event for everyone in Letchworth Garden City and they would make every effort to meet their obligations and wished to thank all officers in Community Development for their time and assistance in making this application. The applicant advised that the stage for 2005 was far superior to the one used for 2004 and he was pleased to advise that the specifications would meet the requirements of the Licensing Authority. With regard to the concerns of Hertfordshire Constabulary about the stewarding of the event and a public safety management plan the applicant said that he was in discussions with Council officers and he was very optimistic that a reputable company and Head Steward would be appointed.

The Licensing and Enforcement Manager, District Environmental Health Officer, Principal Building Control Officer and applicant were invited to make closing statements and the sub-committee retired to consider the application and points raised by those present. On their return the sub – committee:

RESOLVED:

That the Sub – Committee is minded to **GRANT** the application for an occasional Public Entertainment Licence as per the conditions set out in Appendix G to the report with Paragraph 13 amended to 'A minimum of 10 Stewards' and that at Paragraph 5.5 to the report a proviso that 'The Music noise Level shall not exceed 90 decibels', and one additional condition as follows:

The name, address and contact details of the stewarding company retained to service the event must be provided in writing to the Licensing Authority no later than 1700 on Friday 24 June 2005.

REASON FOR DECISIONS

To permit the grant of an occasional Public Entertainment Licence, which considered the needs of local residents in Broadway, Letchworth Garden City and the provision of a public safety management plan.

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

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Chairman