

From: Paul Richards <paul.richards@stockport.gov.uk>

Sent: 28 November 2023 18:32

To: Licensing <licensing@stockport.gov.uk>

Subject: Bask - Licensing Application

Good Afternoon

I am obviously aware of the above licensing application but have been informed today that the applicant has made a last-minute submission to the Sub-Committee in which I am mentioned. I should firstly say that the applicant has been an extremely positive addition to the scheme at Stockport Exchange and they have brought a very good offer to the town. I hope that we are able to continue this positive relationship in spite of our difference of opinion on the proposed change to the licensing hours.

However I think it is important that the Committee are aware of some factual errors in the submission as set out below:

- My role within the Council is as Director of Development and Regeneration which includes responsibility for the development and management of Stockport Exchange. I also am Chief Executive of Stockport Mayoral Development Corporation and a Director of the Stockport Hotel Management Company Limited. I am not however, nor have ever been, a Co-Founder and Director of Marketing Stockport or Co-founding director of Stockport Town Centre Business Improvement District.
- The work that the applicant undertook on noise reduction came as a result of extensive discussions with the Council and CBRE team following a number of noise complaints from the Hotel that we sought to manage with the applicant. These were from both Managers from the hotel over a significant period of time where we sought to resolve this with the applicant directly rather than make any formal complaint to the Licensing team. None of the measures implemented were undertaken unilaterally by the applicant.
- Once I was made aware of the proposed variation to the licence, I did meet with the applicant to try and reach agreement on the position as the Council remain the landlord of the property and I believe it was reasonable to do this on the basis of good estate management of Stockport Exchange. This was not in my role as a Director of the Hotel Management Company. I do not believe that any conflict of interest exists here as we have always tried to reach consensus between the applicant and the Hotel Management.
- Unfortunately the agreement we believed we had reached with them over the acceptable hours from both a landlord and estate management perspective are not represented in the application which is now being made.
- I did offer to discuss with colleagues in the Licensing team whether there was any possibility of not paying an additional fee for an amendment to the application which had already been submitted but did not offer a discount or refund of fees as this is beyond my remit.

I am not going to comment on the application itself or to the objections made by the Council, CBRE or the Hotel but do need to address the penultimate paragraph of the letter from the applicant. I have not sought to bring any influence on what is a decision for elected members, nor have I discussed this matter with any elected members. Both of these would be highly inappropriate and I trust that the applicant will acknowledge that they have no evidence that this has taken place.

Kind Regards

Paul

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