

LICENSING, ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE A

Meeting: 2 September 2024

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Dickie Davies (Chair) in the chair; Councillors Dean Fitzpatrick and Pete West.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 August 2024 (copies of which had been circulated) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and officers were invited to declare any interests which they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations of interest were made.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public were invited to put questions to the Chair on any matters in the powers or duties of the Sub-Committee, subject to the exclusions set out within the Code of Practice.

No public questions were submitted.

4. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of agenda item 5 – ‘Licensing Act 2003: Application for the Classification of a Film’ in accordance with Section 14(2) of The Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 to allow the Sub-Committee to view a film which had not yet been classified for public exhibition. It would not, on balance, be in the public interest to allow the unrestricted public viewing of the film prior to its classification by the Sub-Committee and therefore the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

5. LICENSING ACT 2003: APPLICATION FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF A FILM

A representative of the Director of Place Management submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) detailing an application submitted by Mr Paul Woodward for the classification of a feature documentary film “The Little Things” which was proposed to be exhibited to the public at The Plaza, Mersey Square, Stockport, SK1 1SP on 30 September 2024.

It was reported that the film as originally submitted to the Licensing Authority included scenes of people in emotional distress.

The Sub-Committee viewed the film as part of its consideration of the application.

The Sub Committee noted that whilst the applicant or their representative was not present for the meeting, the application submitted satisfactorily addressed the matters requiring consideration by the Sub Committee.

The Sub-Committee then proceeded to consider the protection of children from harm licensing objective in respect of the application together with the relevant parts of the Council's Licensing Policy and the BBFC Classification Guidance.

The Sub Committee noted that whilst there were scenes of people in emotional distress during the film and that the film is emotionally impactful to the viewer, the educational value of the film outweighed this in line with guidance from the BBFC.

It was then

RESOLVED – That the feature documentary “The Little Things” submitted for classification by Mr Paul Woodward be awarded a PG rating for public exhibition at The Plaza, Mersey Square, Stockport, SK1 1SP.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm