

Regulatory and Other Committee

Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills, Executive Director for Environment and Economy

Report to:	Planning and Regulations Committee
Date:	6 June 2016
Subject:	Beer & Bean Public House, Southgate, Sleaford – Pavement Café Licence Application

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to consider one objection received during the formal advertisement of this application for a pavement café licence by The Beer and Bean Public House, Sleaford.

Recommendation(s):

That the Committee agrees that the objection be overruled and that the licence be granted.

1. Background

1.1 The Beer and Bean Public House in Sleaford is an established business in the centre of the town (Appendix A) which caters for the usual public house uses including drinking and eating.

1.2 The owners have applied for a Pavement Café Licence, with the layout and location as per the plan in Appendix B.

2. Proposal

2.1 The proposal is for The Beer and Bean to be allowed to place tables, chairs and other items on the highway outside of the property. The area this takes up will be monitored and controlled under the rules of the Pavement Café Licence being issued to them.

3. Consultations

3.1 Formal consultations with statutory consultees including Sleaford Town Council and the local County Council Members took place between 27 August 2015 and 9 October 2015 (Appendix C - Civ). A formal advertisement was then posted on site between 4 November 2015 and 2 December 2015 (Appendix D), with letters also going to affected businesses and properties at the same time (Appendix Di).

4. Objections

4.1 One letter of objection was received during the advertisement period, a summary of the objections being given below.

- While the pavement might be reasonably wide, it is bounded by a line of seats and bike stands, meaning the pedestrian traffic is going to be constricted as it passes by. There are quite a few mobility scooter users in the town as well who may find this a difficult area to pass.
- This area is in the vicinity of the schools pick-up point, so that twice a day there are hundreds of school children milling around, further adding to pavement congestion.
- On Mondays, the local refuse collectors leave the 14 wheelie bins belonging to properties on Nags Head Passage in this immediate area. After collection, these bins invariably stay where they are until residents collect them at the end of the day.

5. Comments on Objections

5.1 Southgate in Sleaford is a well-used vehicle and pedestrian route, with both adults and children of all ages using the footways in the immediate area of the public house. The majority of usage comes before these licencing proposals would be introduced at the start of the day but, it is true to say, would be around when the schools leave at the later time in the day. However, the pick-up time at the end of the school day sees more children being picked up at the Market Place location and therefore sees a decrease in numbers in terms of school children in this area.

Addressing the objections listed above, the following comments are made.

- Once the proposals are in place, as per the layout shown in Appendix B, there would still be room in-front of and behind the existing street furniture to allow for pedestrians, wheelchairs and scooter users to pass and not be obstructed.
- As previously stated above, the morning rush would not conflict with the proposed licencing start times and the numbers of children do diminish in the afternoon due to where they are picked up.
- It is conceded that these bins may get in the way of the licenced area but this a matter for the owners of the public house and North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) and not the Lincolnshire County Council. NKDC have been informed of the possible conflict if this licence is granted and will try to address this before the licence is granted.

6. In Support

6.1 The proposal is supported by the local County Council Members and the Town Council.

7. Conclusion

7.1 This proposed Pavement Café Licence will be an added attraction to the town and will be the second such licence issued in the last 12 months if successful. This may well encourage others to do the same, as Sleaford is a lovely market town and does need some help in being revitalised. This second licence could be the catalyst in starting this process and may give rise to a café style culture in the town, something which is actually an aspiration within the Sleaford Masterplan. Officers therefore recommend that the objections be overruled and the licence is granted as consulted on and advertised.

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

N/A

Appendices:

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Location Plan
Appendix B	Pavement Café Layout Plan
Appendix C	Consultation Letter
Appendix Ci	Second Consultation Letter
Appendix Cii	Third Consultation Letter
Appendix Ciii	Consultation Plan
Appendix Civ	Consultation Plan
Appendix D	Public Notice
Appendix Di	Letter to Businesses and Properties
Appendix E	Photographs

Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Rowan Smith, who can be contacted on 01522 782070 or LCCHighwaysSouth@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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