

## LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

**29 June 2023**  
**LICENSING ACT 2003**  
**APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE**  
**Houghton Mill & Waterclose Meadows, Mill Street, Houghton, PE28 2AZ**

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Huntingdonshire District Council as the Licensing Authority has received an application for a new premises Licence:

from **National Trust (Enterprises) Limited**

for the premises **Houghton Mill & Waterclose Meadows, Mill Street, Houghton, PE28 2AZ**

- 1.2 The Application was received on the 05 May 2023. As required under the Licensing Act 2003, notice of the application was advertised by blue notices displayed at or near the premises from the 06 May 2023. The 28-day consultation period ended on 03 June 2023.

- 1.3 A copy of the application, is attached as **Appendix A** (application) & **Appendix B** (site plans)

### 2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Premises Licence application is applying for the following activities:

a. **Provision of Films - Indoors and outdoors**

Mondays to Sundays - 09:00 to 23:30

b. **Provision of Late-night refreshment indoors and outdoors**

Mondays to Sundays – 23:00 – 23:30

c. **Supply of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises**

Mondays to Sundays – 09:00 to 23:30

d. **Hours premises are open to the public**

Mondays to Sundays – 08:00 to 00:00

However, it is worth noting there are a number of public rights of way which run through and around the site. Thereby, restricting access to the site is limited. In addition, Waterclose Meadow also operates as a campsite March to January.

- 2.2 Section 'M' of the application form addresses the four licensing objectives. Any proposals made in this section are normally translated directly into enforceable conditions that will be attached to the premises licence. Paragraphs 8.41- 8.49

and Section 10 of the Home Office guidance issued under section 182 refer to the operating schedule and licence conditions

### **3. REPRESENTATIONS**

- 3.1 As part of the consultation the Responsible Authorities as determined under the Licensing Act 2003) were consulted on the application. Their responses can be seen in summary at **Appendix C**
- 3.2 During the period for representation a total of 41 valid representations have been received from 'other persons'. Full details of these representations have been attached as **Appendix D**.
- 3.3 A person who has submitted a relevant representation is entitled to address the Licensing Sub-Committee at the hearing and ask questions of any other party appearing at the hearing.
- 3.4 Not all matters raised within the representation may be relevant matters for consideration under the Licensing Act 2003.

### **4. FURTHER INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Following the end of consultation period, and receipt of the representations, the applicant has proposed a number of amendments to the application.
- a. Remove the activity of films from the application
  - b. Remove the area of Waterclose Meadows from the proposed licenced area. Leaving only the tea-room and Mill as the licenced areas.
  - c. Reduce the times alcohol will be sold to 09:00 to 17:00 Monday to Sunday
  - d. Reduce the opening hours of the licenced areas to 08:00 to 17:00 Monday to Sunday. This also has the effect of cancelling-out the need for the activity of Late-night refreshment.
  - e. Include the following conditions in the operating schedule – 1. The Mill may be used on no more than 15 occasions per calendar year until 21:00 for licensable activities. 2. The Mill will not be used for licensable activities outside of these 15 occasions.
- 4.2 This information was circulated to all interested parties via email on the 8 June 2023.
- 4.3 This information has since prompted 1 (as at the date of publication) interested party to withdraw their representations. These have been removed from the list at **Appendix D**.
- 4.4 Interested parties may withdraw their representations up to 24hrs prior to the start of the hearing, any further withdrawals will be advised of at the hearing, and must be disregarded

### **5. GENERAL DUTY/POLICY CONSIDERATION**

5.1 The licensing authority must carry out its functions under the Act with a view to promoting the licensing objectives, each objective has equal importance, the objectives are:

- a. the prevention of crime and disorder,
- b. public safety,
- c. the prevention of public nuisance, and
- d. the protection of children from harm.

5.2 The sub-committee must also have regard to:

- a. its statement of licensing policy, and
- b. any statutory guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.
- c. the Human Rights Act 1988

5.3 The Council must also fulfil its obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its district.

## **6. DETERMINATION**

6.1 In making a decision, this application must be determined on its individual merits having regard to the representations and supporting documents included as part of the report along with additional information considered relevant at the hearing. As part of the decision process the sub-committee is required to give its reasons for any decision arrived at.

6.2 Where the licensing authority considers that action under its statutory powers is appropriate, it may take any of the following steps:

- Grant the application as applied for
- Refuse the application
- Add additional conditions to the premises licence
- Exclude any licensable activities applied for
- Amend dates and times of licensable activities applied for.

6.3 Any decision made by the sub-committee must be reasonable and proportionate and promote the Licensing objectives.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Licensing Act 2003.

Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003.

The Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.