



To: All Members of the Licensing (General) Sub-Committee

Dear Councillor,

**LICENSING (GENERAL) SUB-COMMITTEE - THURSDAY, 24TH AUGUST, 2023 ,
Council Chamber - Epsom Town Hall**

Please find attached the following document(s) for the meeting of the Licensing (General) Sub-Committee to be held on Thursday, 24th August, 2023.

4. **E-MAIL CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE APPLICANT TO THE SUB-COMMITTEE** (Pages 3 - 4)

Correspondence from the Applicant to the Members of the Sub-Committee.

For further information, please contact democraticservices@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or 01372 732000

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sing'.

Chief Executive

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Paul Holliday

From: Damon <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 23 August 2023 16:29
To: Paul Holliday
Subject: [WARNING EXTERNAL] Stir777 SEV Renewal

To: PHoliday@epsom-ewell.gov.uk
Subject: Stir777 SEV Renewal

Hi Paul, can you please circulate the below to members for tomorrow's meeting.

Stir777 SEV renewal application.

Background and Summary

The premises known as Stir in East Street has been a licensed venue since 2004, I have operated it since 2007.

During that time various forms of artistic, music and dance style entertainment were introduced on an ad-hoc basis.

In 2009, the additions of strip and burlesque style entertainment were included on a weekly basis (prior to SEV licensing regulations) under a strict set of agreed conditions with Police and local authority. This entertainment had the effect of significantly reducing anti social behaviour and noise nuisance associated with the previous operation of the venue.

In 2011 I licensed the bar Stir under the new SEV licence regulations so that we could continue to offer this unique style of entertainment on a limited basis. Again strict operational conditions were agreed and placed upon the licence.

Stir has operated this way ever since and I am proud to say has an exemplary record with local authority licensing, environmental health and the Police.

I am pleased to say that this licensing authority has confirmed that they have 'no complaints on file for the last 10years'.

I would like to address the objections that have been received, the first in many years.

I have looked at the statistics mentioned within one of the objections, which states that '*I have done some research and sexual offences are 4 since May and 50 per average per year*'.

This would also be of concern to me, but when analysing the information that this is based on, they are not just sexual offences as the number also includes violent assaults & fights (these offences are all categorised the same). It is unfortunate that loosely published local crime figures that are based on a wide area of a complete postcode are used to prejudice one venue without any real basis, when that postcode area has multiple licensed establishments. Interestingly, the following months numbers (June 2023) have since been published and they show the lowest number of offences in that same area for the last 3 years.

To give some perspective on these numbers, the McDonalds restaurant itself (not the postcode) on the High Street had 45 recorded police incidents in the last 2 years. FOI request ref: 003662/23. This is less than a 2 minute walk from Stir.

Some people will always object to SEV licences, regardless of where they are and what measures are put in place. This is often due to an unfortunate media based misconception of what an SEV licensed venue creates. One objector refers to Stir as a 'Sex shop' which is nothing to do with this SEV application whatsoever and is a different licence. This objection goes on to say Stir's website 'promotes private sexual acts'; this allegation is false and incorrect.

Another objection references that 'the venue is in clear site of young adults'. Whilst the venue is in clear site, Stir is predominantly a bar, it looks like a bar during the day and night. There is no suggestion of its SEV activity anywhere, even when you walk into the actual bar. Again, this objection is based on a misconception that there is nudity on display. The current licence conditions; 4 and 5 are already in place to cover this.

I still look after the operations at the Stir venue in Epsom, and have seen changes over the last 16 years in Epsom of local authority members, committee members, police, council licencing officers and street pastors, but the location that Stir is based in has barely changed.

A fundamental issue is that without an SEV license, under exemptions in the Policing and Crime act 2009, venues are able to still have sexual entertainment events but without any of the restrictions or conditions that apply to a licensed venue. Yes the events are less frequent, but as has been seen in some other parts of the UK, venues can run a sexual entertainment event lasting 24hrs, every month but one, without a licence.

These events can and have been able to operate without the need to offer the same level of protection or safeguards for performers, patrons or the local community. No restrictions on physical contact, ID checks, operation times, safety, sexualised advertising images or the entertainment being seen by literally anyone walking past, day or night!

The SEV licensing regime allows local authorities to introduce under licence, significant and enforceable protection for patrons, performers, operators and therefore local communities, as was the governments intention with the introduction of the Police and Crime act 2009.

It is key to the nigh time economy that we have the ability to provide a range of legitimate entertainment so that people have a choice. We must acknowledge the importance of individual freedom and personal choice, in a democratic society like ours. Adults have the right to make their own decisions about how they spend their leisure time, provided it is within the bounds of the law and granting Stirs SEV license renewal respects this fundamental principle. This not only safeguards the interests of the general public but also helps to combat activities that might occur in unregulated, underground establishments.

Best
Damon



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