

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL LICENSING (2003 ACT) COMMITTEE

HEARING PROCEDURE

1. Introduction

- The Chairman of the sub-committee will welcome and introduce everyone present, giving explanations of roles where necessary, and outline the procedure to be followed.
- The hearing will take the form of a discussion to be led by the sub-committee.
- Members of the sub-committee will be able to ask questions of any party, or the Licensing Officer, at the hearing. They will try, so far as possible, to ask their questions at the conclusion of each party's submission.
- The sub-committee will consider any requests for permission to ask questions of other parties. It will decide if questions are required in order for it to consider the case properly. If permission is given to one party, it will usually be given to all other parties.
- The Chairman may ask any person behaving in a disruptive manner to leave and may refuse to permit that person(s) to return or may permit them to return with specified conditions. Such a person may, before the end of the hearing, submit to the authority in writing any information which they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave.
- Members of the sub-committee will be asked to make any Declaration of Interests.

2. Witnesses

The sub-committee will consider any requests from any of the parties to call witnesses.

3. New evidence/information

The sub-committee will consider any requests for permission to present new evidence or information not previously disclosed to all the parties and the sub-committee prior to the hearing. The general rule is that such information or evidence must not be considered unless all parties at the hearing agree to it being considered on the day of the hearing. A request may be made for a short adjournment to allow time for everyone to receive copies of the extra information and time to read it.

4. Allocation of time

Each party will be asked for a time estimate for the presentation of their case. The sub-committee will hear all estimates and then allocate each party an equal amount of time to speak.

5. Licensing Officer's report

The Council's Licensing Officer will outline details of the application and representations received by the council. No recommendation to members will be made.

6. Applicant's case

The applicant will present their case first. They have a right to:

- address the sub-committee on any points of clarification the council has sought;
- address the committee generally; and
- call any witnesses that they have been given permission to call. Witnesses may be cross-examined if permission is granted. If this happens, the time taken for questions will count towards the allocated time of the party asking the questions, not the party answering them.

Members of the sub-committee may ask questions of the applicant.

7. Police representations

The Police will make any representations about the application, with the same rights as listed at s.6. Members of the sub-committee may ask questions of the police representative.

8. "Responsible authorities" representations

Other "responsible authorities" (Police/Fire/Environmental Health Officer/Social Services/Trading Standards/Planning Directorate) will then make representations, with the same rights as listed at s.6.

Members of the sub-committee may ask questions of those authorities represented.

9. Any other representations

Anybody else making representations will go last, with the same rights listed at s.6.

Members of the sub-committee may ask questions of any person who has made a representation.

10. Legal advice

Once all parties have presented their cases to the sub-committee, and the members of the sub-committee have no more questions for any of the parties, the Council's Legal Officer will be asked to outline any relevant legal guidance.

11. Decision-making

The sub-committee will remain in the room to make its decision. The Council's Legal Officer and Democratic Services Officer will also remain with members to advise where necessary and take notes of the decision. All other persons present will vacate the room.

12. Notification of decision

Depending on the nature of the application, a determination of the case will either be made at the conclusion of the hearing, or within 5 working days. In most cases, all parties will be notified of the decision in writing.