

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Division/Station : High Wycombe

From : Andy Dean C2915
Licensing OfficerTo : Bracknell Forest Council
PPP - Licensing

Ref :

Date : 18 June 2018

Tel.No. 01865 309 275

Subject :

OBJECTION - Application for premises licence - Sandhurst Tandoori

To Whom it may concern,

I am a Licensing Officer employed by Thames Valley Police to represent the Chief Officer of Police in aspects of Alcohol Licensing.

On 4th June 2018, Thames Valley Police received an electronic application for a premises licence for Sandhurst Tandoori, 80 High Street, Sandhurst. The applicant is William Cowie.

Thames Valley Police have recorded a couple of incidents where crimes have been committed by the Management / owner of the premises.

6th September 2017 – There was a multi agency visit by Bracknell Forest Council Officers and Home Office Immigration Compliance and Enforcement team to the premises at which time there was found to be two persons working illegally in contravention of the Immigration Act 2016.

18th November 2017 – there was a follow up visit by officers from the Home Office Immigration Compliance & Enforcement team to the premises and again 2 persons were found to be working illegally.

There may have been a third visit but this is not recorded by Thames Valley Police.

On or around February 2018 the Immigration Office applied to review the licence of the above premises and at hearing the licence was revoked – there has been no appeal to this ruling.

After receiving the application myself and an officer from Bracknell Forest Licensing Team visited the premises on 8th June 2018 as part of an evening carrying out enforcement visits in the Sandhurst area. We called in to Sandhurst Tandoori and spoke with the staff there (Mr Miah). Although the licence had been revoked there was still alcohol on the shelves and in a small fridge behind the counter – when questioned the Mr Miah stated he was giving it away to regular customers.

On Friday 15th June at 12.00 hrs I spoke with the applicant Mr William Cowie at Bracknell Police Station. I indicated that I had heard that he had applied for the premises licence on the request of the owner (Taj Miah). Mr Cowie confirmed this indicating that he didn't want to lose a place to live or his job if he hadn't agreed to do it. He didn't know whether this would have happened if he had disagreed. He confirmed he wasn't happy with what the owner had done but he was not in a position to prevent it. I asked if the present owner was selling alcohol and he responded that he hadn't seen it and stated he had felt it wrong to give people alcohol so tried not to serve any.

I confirmed with him that Mr Miah was remaining as the owner and controller of the business even if he (Mr Cowie) obtained the licence in his name. I then indicated to

Mr Cowie that I would be objecting the application due to this fact. I then asked what would happen once and if a licence was granted to him. Mr Cowie replied that once he had obtained the licence Mr Miah was looking to transfer into someone else's name – but wasn't sure who.

I personally know of at least three indian style restaurants that are unlicensed and encourage customers to bring their own beverages, which is a good idea as the drink should be a secondary factor and the food is what you are visting the restaurant for.

Thames Valley Police are therefore for the above resons objecting to the licence application as we feel that there is a history of non compliance within the manamgent – and that is not changing, there is a revocation for non compliance and therefore should the licence be granted further non compliance or further criminal offences will occur.