

The Highland Licensing Board

Meeting – 25 April 2022

Agenda Item	9.8
Report No	HLB/042//22

Application for a major variation of premises licence under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005

Spar, Station Road, Conon Bridge

Report by the Clerk to the Licensing Board

Summary

This report relates to an application for a major variation of premises licence by C J Lang and Son Limited in respect of Spar, Station Road, Conon Bridge.

1.0 Description of premises

1.1 A premises licence is held for this convenience store located on the main street in Conon Bridge. The premises licence was granted on conversion on 1 September 2009.

2.0 Current operating hours

2.1 The premises currently has the following operating hours:

Off sales:

Monday to Sunday: 1000 hrs to 2200 hrs

3.0 Summary of variation application

3.1 Variation sought

The applicant seeks to vary the premises licence as follows:-

1. add music as an activity provided within and outwith core licensed hours and provide explanation for this;
2. provide information relating to activities held outwith core hours;
3. amend layout plan to reflect increase of alcohol display area from 12.39m² to 13.75m².

4.0 Background

4.1 On 10 March 2022 the Licensing Board received an application for a major variation of a premises licence from C J Lang and Son Limited.

- 4.2 The application was publicised during the period 18 March to 8 April 2022 and confirmation that the site notice was displayed is awaited.
- 4.3 In accordance with standard procedure, Police Scotland, the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service and the Council's Community Services (Environmental Health) and Planning and Building Standards were consulted on the application.
- 4.4 Notification of the application was also sent to NHS Highland and the local Community Council.
- 4.5 Further to this publication and consultation process, no timeous objections or representations have been received.
- 4.6 The applicant must nevertheless be given the opportunity to be heard before the Board determines the application and has accordingly been invited to attend a meeting on Microsoft Teams. The applicant has been advised of the hearings procedure.

5.0 Legislation

- 5.1 The Licensing Board must in considering and determining the application, consider whether any grounds of refusal apply and if none of them applies, the Board must grant the application.
- 5.2 Relevant grounds of refusal may be: -
 1. the grant of the application will be inconsistent with one or more of the licensing objectives;
 2. having regard to (i) the nature of the activities carried on or proposed to be carried on in the subject premises, (ii) the location, character and condition of the premises, and (iii) the persons likely to frequent the premises, the Board considers the premises are unsuitable for use for the sale of alcohol in accordance with the proposed variation;
 3. that the Board considers that, if the application were to be granted, there would, as a result, be overprovision of licensed premises, or licensed premises of the same or similar description as the subject premises, in the locality.
- 5.3 For the purposes of the Act, the licensing objectives are-
 - (a) preventing crime and disorder,
 - (b) securing public safety,
 - (c) preventing public nuisance,
 - (d) protecting and improving public health, and
 - (e) protecting children and young persons from harm.
- 5.4 The Board only has power either to grant the application and make a variation of the conditions to which the licence is subject or to refuse the application.

5.5 If the Board refuses the application, the Board must specify the ground for refusal and if the ground for refusal relates to a licensing objective, the Board must specify the objective in question.

6.0 Licensing Standards Officer

6.1 The LSO has provided the following comments:-

- a) The property is a standard convenience store selling fresh and frozen foodstuffs with an off sale alcohol facility. This is a national company with a good compliance record.
- b) The application is to allow provision of an increased off sales display area within the store. The application also seeks to include the playing of background music and to allow the provision of household goods, as well as other ancillary consumer services.
- c) The full details of variation are detailed elsewhere within report.
- d) The activities sought would appear to be reasonable and appropriate for the proposed operation of the premises.
- e) There would not appear to be any matter contained within the application that is inconsistent with the licensing objectives.
- f) During the period of public consultation, no objections were received
- g) I have no objection to this application.

7.0 HLB local policies

7.1 The following policies are relevant to the application:-

- (1) Highland Licensing Board Policy Statement 2018-23
- (2) Highland Licensing Board Equality Strategy

8.0 Conditions

8.1 Mandatory conditions

If the application is approved the mandatory conditions set out in Schedule 3 of the Act will apply.

8.2 Local conditions

None apply.

Recommendation

The Board is invited to determine the above application and if minded to grant the application.

If the Board is minded to refuse the application, the Board must specify the ground for refusal and if the ground for refusal is in relation to a licensing objective, the Board must specify the objective in question.

Reference: HC/CSR/0298

Date: 12 April 2022

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Background Papers: The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005/Application Form.