



**NORWICH**  
City Council

## Notice of Determination

**Date of Hearing:** Monday 21 November 2011

**Licence Type:** Application to vary a Premises Licence

**Name of Applicant:** The Open Youth Trust, 20 Bank Plain, Norwich NR2 4SF

**Postal Address of Premises (or description of premises):**

Open Venue, 20 Bank Plain, Norwich NR2 4SF

**Licensing Sub-Committee:**

Councillors Wright (Chair), Sands M and Banham

**List of Public Attending Committee**

Tom Bristol (Member of the press, Evening News)

**Determination –**

The Committee heard the application to vary a premises licence in respect of the Open Venue, 20 Bank Plain, Norwich NR2 4SF ("the Premises").

Ian Streeter, the Licensing Manager, presented the Head of Citywide Services report to the Licensing sub-committee ("the Report").

The variation requested sought to add the licensable activity of the sale of alcohol between 11:00 to 01:00 and the non standard timings as listed at paragraph 1.3 of the Report.

In addition, the application seeks to remove an existing condition attached to the licence, namely that "The venue will be smoke, drug and alcohol free with the exception of alcohol sales / consumption allowed by any separate authorisation issued under the Licensing Act 2003".

Following discussions with Norfolk Constabulary the applicant has added a number of further conditions to their operating schedule as listed at paragraph 1.5 of the Report. It should be noted that one of these further conditions amends the application so that sale of all alcohol will cease at 00:00 (midnight).

In attendance on behalf of the applicant were Sarah Minty, Principle of Open Youth Trust, and Christine Beveridge, Head of Operations, Open Youth Trust. Ms Minty provided a summary of the applicant's history and advised that due to massive cuts in the funding that the applicant receives from central government they had been forced to review their business model and as a result of that review the application had been put forward. The venue lends itself for use as a music venue however it can only operate as such if it has the benefit of a premises licence that allows the sale by retail of alcohol. The premises currently has a limited licence for alcohol for corporate bookings. She advised that the current premises licence does not prevent under 18's attending these events and so the new operating schedule will rectify this.

The Committee asked a range of questions regarding the application including: whether the applicant envisaged difficulties in policing events due to confusion as to whether an event was an under or over 18's event; if smoking would be allowed on the premises and if so where; the capacity of the venue and details of how the applicant would determine the number of door supervisors required for each event.

In response to these questions the Committee were advised respectively: that staff always check ID and that for events where an artist who has a strong youth focus is due to perform then no alcohol will be on sale; smoking is allowed at the Premises and that there are 2 designated smoking areas; the capacity of the Premises is 1,460; and regards the assessment of the number of door supervisors required for each event this is determined by reference to a detailed risk assessment.

By way of a closing statement the applicant's representatives advised that the applicant would only operate over 18's events in order to make the business sustainable.

#### **The Committee's decision:**

The Committee granted the application subject to the conditions agreed to between the applicant and Norfolk Constabulary. Members took into account the views of the Responsible Authorities insofar as there were no outstanding objections to the application.

#### **Right of a Party to appeal against the determination of the Authority**

For your information, applicants and any person who has submitted a relevant representation, or submitted an objection notice, who is aggrieved by the decision, or the imposition of any term, condition or restriction, have a right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of the date on which they are notified of the decision.

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2011