



Subject:	Application for the Variation of a 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence for The Post House, 32-40 Malone Road
Date:	17 April 2024
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435
Contact Officer:	Quintin Thompson, Senior Building Control Surveyor, Ext 2570

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues						
1.1	<p>To consider an application for the variation of a 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence based on the Council's standard conditions, to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.</p> <table><tr><td>Area and Location</td><td>Ref. No.</td><td>Applicant</td></tr><tr><td>The Post House 32 – 40 Malone Road Belfast, BT9 5BQ</td><td>WK/2022/03654</td><td>Mr Paul Langsford, Clover Pubs NI No4 Limited.</td></tr></table>	Area and Location	Ref. No.	Applicant	The Post House 32 – 40 Malone Road Belfast, BT9 5BQ	WK/2022/03654	Mr Paul Langsford, Clover Pubs NI No4 Limited.
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The Post House 32 – 40 Malone Road Belfast, BT9 5BQ	WK/2022/03654	Mr Paul Langsford, Clover Pubs NI No4 Limited.					
1.2	The Post House was previously known as The Eglantine Inn.						
1.3	A location map is attached as Appendix 1.						

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Taking into account the information presented and any representations made in respect of the application you are required to make a decision to either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve the application for the variation of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence to vary the hours during which entertainment may be provided as requested, or b) Approve the application for the variation with special conditions, or c) Refuse the application for the variation of the 7-Day Annual Entertainments Licence.
2.2	<p>If an application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court. In the case that the applicant subsequently decides to appeal, entertainment may not be provided to the later hours requested until any such appeal is determined.</p>
3.0	Main report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.1	<p>This area of the Malone Road in the 1990's was a major centre for nightlife in the city. The three licensed premises located in this area, The Botanic Inn, The Eglantine Inn (which is now The Post House), and the Wellington Park Hotel have in the past been subject to objections and complaints which resulted in a number of Committee and Special Committee meetings. Additionally, decisions of the Council were subject of appeal by the applicants and heard at Belfast Recorders Court.</p>
3.2	<p>Members are reminded that the normal process for dealing with Entertainments Licence applications which are not the subject of objections is that the licence will be granted, as provided for in the Council's Scheme of Delegation.</p>
3.3	<p>However, due to previous conditions set by the Council restricting the hours of entertainment for the three licensed premises in this area, this application is being presented to you for consideration even though no objections have been received.</p>
3.4	<p>Major refurbishment works were carried out to this premises in 2023 and The Post House now operates as a restaurant/bar where previously, as the Eglantine Inn, it operated as a nightclub.</p>
3.5	<p>The days and hours during which entertainment may be provided under the terms of the current Entertainments Licence are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday - Tuesday 11:30 am to 11.00pm • Wednesday - Saturday 11:30 am to 1.00am the following morning, and • Sunday 12:30 pm to 12.00 midnight.
3.6	<p>With a special condition being attached to the Licence permitting entertainment to 12.30am on Easter Monday and if Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, St. Patrick's Day or Halloween fall on Monday or Tuesday night.</p>
3.7	<p>A further condition stipulates that the Licensee is to attend, as required, liaison meetings between the Building Control Service, the Lower Malone Residents' Association and the Police Service of Northern Ireland.</p>
3.8	<p>Since the current applicant has taken over the premises there have been no requests from any party to hold such a meeting.</p>

3.9	The nature of the variation is to extend the hours during which entertainment may be provided on Monday and Tuesday nights to 1.00am the following morning.
3.10	At present entertainment is provided in the form of live bands playing from Thursday to Sunday inclusive.
3.11	The licensee has stated that they would like the variation to extend the permitted hours until 1.00am on a Monday and Tuesday nights to bring the hours in line with their other nights. The main reason for this is to stay competitive with other local bars in the area and in the City Centre as they lose any crowd they have on these nights to other local bars after 11pm.
3.12	Entertainment provided will be in the form of one-piece acoustic acts on these nights.
3.13	A layout plan is attached as Appendix 2.
	<u>Representations</u>
3.14	Public notice of the application has been placed and no written representation has been lodged as a result of the advertisement.
	<u>PSNI</u>
3.15	The Police Service of Northern Ireland have been consulted in relation to the application and have confirmed that they have no objection to the application.
3.16	A copy of their response is included as Appendix 3 to this report.
	<u>NIFRS</u>
3.17	The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service have been consulted in relation to the application and we await their response. An update will be provided at your meeting.
	<u>Health, safety and welfare</u>
3.18	The premises have been subject to inspections as part of the licensing application process and all technical requirements and associated operational and management procedures have been checked and are satisfactory.
	<u>Noise</u>
3.19	No noise complaints have been received by the Service in the past 12 months.
	<u>Applicant</u>
3.20	The applicant, and/or their representative will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications
4.1	None

5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
5.1	There are no issues associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 – Location map• Appendix 2 – Layout plan• Appendix 3 – PSNI Comments