

Division/Station : St Aldates

From : Laura Morris
Licensing OfficerTo : Cherwell district Council
Licensing Dept

Ref : DPS Objection

Date : 17th September 2009

Tel.No. 01865 266109

Subject :

Blarney Stone, Banbury

I am writing to formally object on behalf of Thames Valley Police to the application of Christopher Lyons to become Designated Premises Supervisor of the Blarney Stone Public House, Banbury.

We are concerned as Mr Lyons at present has two other premises (Unicorn and Musketeer) in the Banbury area and we feel that a third premise will cause this person to be spread too thin and will not comply with the licensing objective to reduce crime and disorder.

The Unicorn and The Musketeer that Mr Lyons is currently Designated Premises Supervisor of also have had several incidents this year that cause concern to the way the premises are run. Taking these into account shows that adding another premise to his portfolio would only add to the issues, rather than improve them. A meeting was held with Mr Lyons and the Brewery on the 17th September 2009 to discuss the running of the Unicorn Public House as it is deemed that although this premise is a fairly small premise compared to the others in the Banbury area over recent months more incident have occurred at this premise than any other premises in the Banbury area.

We also have concerns that Mr Lyons has recently applied for DPS of the Jolly Weavers public house in Banbury and that this application was objected to by the Police and yet it has come to light that the brewery has put another DPS in the premise but Mr Lyons is still the manager of the premise and controls how it is run. As stated in my previous objection Mr Lyons has recently been involved in several incidents at the Jolly Weavers one of which he was actually arrested for Assault occasioning Actual Bodily Harm and released due to the aggrieved dropping the complaint. This is not appropriate behaviour for someone in his position.

Incidents**URN: 55 08/03/09 00:24 Musketeer**

2 males are kicking off at the premise and are smashing the windows. 1 male was arrested for criminal damage.

12/04/09 Unicorn

A music event took place at the premise in breach of the premise licence. The event was confirmed as taking place on the 12th April and finished at 04.00am. The licence states that licensable activities should have ceased at 01.00am. Upon speaking to the DPS it was discovered that a miscommunication between Mr Lyons and his manager was the cause as Mr Lyons had forgotten to apply for a TEN for the event and forgotten to tell his manager that the event could no longer take place.

01/05/09 Unicorn

CCTV had captured male being escorted by door staff from the premise and he was placed over a bin just down the road from the premise. The male was convulsing when the officers attended and was suspected to have taken Ketamine. When officers went to speak to door staff it was stated that the manager was not there and also that Mr Lyons DPS was not there. Inside several people were extremely intoxicated.

URN: 572 12/05/09 13:02 Unicorn

Male has been assaulted he was grabbed by his chest, his hair and his head. He does not know why he was grabbed the minute that he entered the premise. Upon speaking to the Landlord it was discovered that the male has been barred from "all 3 of his premises" it was concluded that Mr Lyons used reasonable force to evict the male.

URN: 76 16/05/09 00:45 Jolly Weavers

Mr Lyons forcibly removed a previous Landlord from premise. He was well within his rights to remove the male but was given words of advice from officers about using excessive force. No complaint was made.

URN: 277 16/05/09 03:23 Jolly Weavers

It was reported that three males were fighting outside the Jolly Weavers. When police arrived a male was lying on the pavement. The male was conscious and breathing. Mr Lyons was identified as the offender by three witnesses. Upon speaking to the aggrieved it was discovered that a fight had taken place and had finished. The aggrieved was walking away when Mr Lyons then head butted him in the face and he fell to the floor Mr Lyons then proceeded to kick the aggrieved in the ribs several times. Mr Lyons was then arrested at 04:59 for ABH.

URN: 1970 26/06/09 23:42 Musketeer

Window of premise was smashed Mr Lyons then went out to confront the offender and was punched in the face. The offender then made off.

Meeting held on the 17th Sept 09 to discuss over 40 violent or drug related incidents since Mr Lyons became the DPS of the Unicorn in 2006. This premise has benefited from many site visits from several parties over the past few years all offering advice on how to combat the issues that were arising. Since Mr Lyons has taken over first the Musketeer and now the Jolly weavers the unicorn has obviously been neglected and the incidents have increased rather than decreased.

Laura Morris
Thames Valley Police Licensing Dept