



Subject:	Application for Extended Hours - Belfast Brewing and Distilling Festival, Custom House Square
Date:	16th March, 2016
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Martin, Head of Building Control, ext. 2450
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider a request from the organisers of Belfast Brewing and Distilling Festival to operate their festival over three nights within a marquee at Custom House Square running from Thursday 21 st April to Saturday 23 rd April 2016, and to permit the entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm to 12.00 am on two of those nights.
1.2	The festival is new to Belfast and is being organised by Brewbot Belfast which is based at 451 Ormeau Road. The event is essentially centred on the celebration and promotion of craft beers now coming into Northern Ireland and the organisers are leaders in the local market.
1.3	It is a standard condition of the Marquee Entertainments Licence that all requests to operate beyond the permitted hours of entertainment must be considered by the Licensing Committee.
1.4	A copy of the letter from the organisers about the purpose of the festival and rationale for the extended hours is attached as Appendix 2.
1.5	A location map is attached as Appendix 1.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Taking into account the information presented and any representations received you are required to consider the request to extend the hours of entertainment and, subject to all technical requirements being met, either: 1. agree if any or each of the two proposed events should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence or; 2. refuse to extend any or all of the hours as requested.

3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="256 219 416 248"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="150 275 1449 371">3.1 Custom House Square is the responsibility of the Department for Social Development and they currently hold both a Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a 7-Day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for the Square.</p> <p data-bbox="150 398 1449 461">3.2 The standard days and hours during which the marquee is currently licensed to provide entertainment are:</p> <p data-bbox="357 499 930 528" style="padding-left: 40px;">Monday to Sunday: 11.30 am to 11.00 pm.</p> <p data-bbox="150 555 1289 584">3.3 In addition the following conditions are attached to the Entertainments Licence:</p> <ol data-bbox="277 622 1366 1160" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="277 622 1366 685">1. Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals. <li data-bbox="277 723 1366 819">2. Prior to any event taking place the promoters are required to demonstrate evidence of early consultation and have in place a robust system of dealing with any complaints, which has been agreed in advance with the Council. <li data-bbox="277 857 1366 954">3. Any requests to provide entertainment later than 23:00hrs must be considered by the Licensing Committee and therefore must be made at least 3 months in advance of the proposed event. <li data-bbox="277 992 1366 1160">4. Should the Council receive a significant number of noise complaints for any event which has successive nights of entertainment permitted beyond 23:00hrs or if a complaint about an event beyond 23:00hrs is of major concern, then those successive nights with later hours may be subject to reduction and the promoter should have appropriate arrangements in place should this occur. <p data-bbox="150 1189 1449 1285">3.4 Members may recall that in previous years the Committee has granted extensions beyond the standard hours of 11.00pm for similar events and festivals at the venue, namely the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival, Belsonic and the Open House Festival.</p> <p data-bbox="150 1312 1449 1408">3.5 Whilst recognising that such music events contribute to the overall ‘vibrancy’ of the City it is also the case that noise from these events has the potential to cause widespread disturbance to those living and working in the vicinity.</p> <p data-bbox="150 1435 1449 1603">3.6 Before granting any extension, the Committee has always carefully considered the financial and commercial benefits of such events against the interests of residents within the area and has, on occasions, agreed with respective promoters to reduce the number of nights they had originally intended to go beyond the standard hours of 11.00pm in order to reduce the impact the event may have upon them.</p> <p data-bbox="150 1630 1449 1760">3.7 The organisers have confirmed that they wish to provide the entertainment to enhance the experience of the festival with the main emphasis of the festival being on the promotion of food, craft beer, cider and the produce, which are created and brewed by local businesses.</p> <p data-bbox="150 1787 1449 1850">3.8 The acts they hope to utilise will be local upcoming artists and consist of a mixture of live bands and DJ’s.</p> <p data-bbox="150 1877 1449 1973">3.9 The festival is connected and part of the year of Food and Drink Festival and is a three day celebration of the renaissance happening in NI artisan of food, craft beer, cider and distilling sectors.</p>

3.10	They hope to create a vibrant, interactive festival which showcases local independent food, beverage and live music, while creating a truly memorable experience for locals and visitors alike.
3.11	They also hope to host their gathering of over 50 vendors, in a large city location, so thousands have easy access, and can immerse themselves in a truly unique cultural experience.
3.12	Patrons will have an authentic NI experience as they interact with passionate, local producers and discover the tastes of the region. They learn where the product is from, how it's made, and what inspires the producers who make it. They will have the opportunity to sample the various food and drink, while enjoying the live music.
3.13	They will also offer free, master classes, and beer and food pairing sessions, where guests can meet the producers in a more intimate setting.
3.14	<p>The organisers have requested that you give consideration to permitting two nights of entertainment to run beyond 11.00pm as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 22nd April 12.00 am • Saturday 23rd April 12.00 am
<p><u>Rationale for Additional Hours</u></p>	
3.15	The organisers have advised that they hope the two nights with an additional hour will help to promote and compliment the festival to maximise the experience that they hope patrons will have when attending.
3.16	As this is not an application to vary the terms of the Marquee Entertainments Licence, but a request for Council's permission to extend the hours under an existing licence condition; there is no requirement for public advertisement in this case.
3.17	The Service has received a copy of an initial Event Management Plan and outline site plan. Officers are currently assessing this information and will continue to work with the organisers to ensure that all technical requirements will be met. Work is ongoing in this regard.
3.18	Officers have also discussed the resident's notification and how this is intrinsic to the success of events at the venue. Officers are working with the organisers to develop an appropriate resident's notification letter and for consistency they will continue to liaise with them to agree the extent of its delivery in accordance with other events held at the venue.
3.19	Representatives of the Belfast Brewing and Distilling Festival will be available at your meeting should you wish to seek further information about the festival.
<p><u>PSNI</u></p>	
3.20	The PSNI has been consulted regarding the festival and their request to operate two nights of the event to 12.00 am. It has confirmed that they have no objections to the operation of the event and will also be working with the organisers regarding the extent of the proposed Liquor Licence. A copy of its comments is attached at Appendix 3.

NIFRS

3.21 The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service has also been consulted about the application and has confirmed that it has no concerns about the event.

3.22 Members are advised that, as with all such events, a series of detailed planning meetings will be held, and attended by officers of the PSNI and NIFRS to look at public safety, traffic management, transport and any wider operational issues.

Health, Safety and Welfare Issues

3.23 Officers from the Service have carried out inspections for other events and festivals at the venue. Several planning meetings have already been held with the organisers and Officers can confirm that the organisers have co-operated in ensuring that everything is being done to protect public safety and to reduce the potential for noise disturbance and nuisance from the event.

Noise Issues

3.24 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the request for late night entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm on two of the three nights at the venue.

3.25 Due to the cumulative impact of the consecutive nights proposed and potential sleep disturbance to nearby residents, Officers are concerned that there is a greater potential for complaints after 11.00 pm. Members are reminded that the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives councils additional powers in relation to entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.

3.26 However, considerable work has been done with organisers of various events and festivals at the venue and as a result; the level of complaints and noise issues has been reduced.

3.27 As for all of these types of events, Officers are currently working with the organisers and their representatives on appropriate noise management plans for the festival. The noise plan must demonstrate that noise from the event will not cause unreasonable disturbance to both the commercial and residential premises of the area.

3.28 Officers will consider all reports and supporting information to ensure the technical requirements are in accordance with all the relevant legislation and guidance.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.29 Officers will be required to carry out inspections at the event but this is catered for within existing Service budgets.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

3.30 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.

4.0

Documents Attached

- Appendix 1 – Location map
- Appendix 2 – Rationale RE Extended Hours
- Appendix 3 – PSNI correspondence