



Subject:	Application for Extended Hours – Belfast Craft Beer Festival, Custom House Square
Date:	15th February, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, ext. 2435
Contact Officer:	Patrick Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager, ext. 6446

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 the Belfast Craft Beer Festival to operate over five nights within a marquee at Custom House Square, running from Thursday 25th to Monday 29th May 2017, and to permit entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm to 12.00 am on each of those nights.
1.2	This is the second year of the event operating in Custom House Square. It is 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 location map is attached at Appendix 1.
1.5	A copy of the letter from the organisers about the purpose of the festival and rationale for the request to extend the hours is attached at Appendix 2.
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: <ol style="list-style-type: none">agree if any or each of the five proposed nights should be permitted to take place beyond the standard hours of licence or;refuse to extend any or all of the hours as requested.

3.0	Main Report
	<p data-bbox="258 228 414 259"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="150 291 1458 389">3.1 Custom House Square is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and it currently holds both a Seven-day Annual Outdoor Entertainments Licence and a Seven-day Annual Marquee Entertainments Licence for the Square.</p> <p data-bbox="150 421 1458 560">3.2 The standard days and hours during which the marquee is currently licensed to provide entertainment are:</p> <ul data-bbox="271 528 890 560" style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday to Sunday: 11.30 am to 11.00 pm. <p data-bbox="150 591 1286 622">3.3 In addition the following conditions are attached to the Entertainments Licence:</p> <ol data-bbox="277 663 1372 1097" style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximum numbers will be agreed at the discretion of the Building Control Service and will vary depending upon individual concert set up proposals; 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; 3. Any requests to provide entertainment later than 23:00 hrs must be considered by the Licensing Committee and therefore must be made at least 3 months in advance of the proposed event; and 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 1128 1458 1294">3.4 Members will recall that you considered a similar request from the organisers, at your meeting on 16th March 2016, to operate the event in Custom House Square from Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd April 2016. On that occasion, the organisers requested that entertainment be permitted beyond 11.00 pm on two nights of the event and, after consideration, you agreed to grant the request to extend the hours.</p> <p data-bbox="150 1326 1458 1424">3.5 Members will also be aware that, in previous years, the Committee has granted extensions beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm for other events and festivals at the venue, namely the Cathedral Quarter Arts Festival and Belsonic.</p> <p data-bbox="150 1456 1458 1554">3.6 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 1585 1458 1751">3.7 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 provide entertainment beyond the standard hours of 11.00 pm in order to reduce the impact the event may have upon them.</p> <p data-bbox="150 1783 1458 1881">3.8 The organisers wish 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.</p>

Rationale for Additional Hours

- 3.9** The organisers have advised that they hope the additional hours will help to promote and compliment the festival to maximise the experience that patrons will have when attending.
- 3.10** They wish to provide entertainment to enhance the experience of the festival with their main emphasis being on the promotion of food, craft beer, cider and the produce which is created and brewed by local businesses.
- 3.11** The organisers intend to create an interactive opportunity to discover the tastes and producers of the region and create chill zones where patrons can enjoy live music or a quiet DJ vibe in the marquee.
- 3.12** The organisers have requested that you give consideration to permitting each of their five nights of entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm from Thursday 25th to Monday 29th May 2017, which is the Spring Bank Holiday weekend.
- 3.13** 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.
- 3.14** The Service is currently working with the organisers and officers of the Department regarding the event and the development of their event documentation. While this documentation is being progressed, officers will continue to work with the organisers to ensure that all technical requirements will be met.
- 3.15** Officers have also discussed the resident's notification and how this is essential to the success of events at the venue. Officers are also 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.
- 3.16** Representatives of the organisers, Belfast Craft Beer Festival, will be available at your meeting should you wish to seek further information about the festival.

PSNI

- 3.17** The PSNI has been consulted regarding the festival and the request to operate all nights of their event to 12.00 am. It has confirmed that it has no objections to the operation of the event and is keen to work with the organisers regarding the extent of the proposed Liquor Licence. A copy of its comments is attached at Appendix 3.

NIFRS

- 3.18** 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.
- 3.19** 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

- 3.20** 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

	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Noise Issues</u></p> <p>3.21 The Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) has been consulted in relation to the request for late night entertainment to run beyond 11.00 pm on each of their five nights at the venue.</p> <p>3.22 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.</p> <p>3.23 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.</p> <p>3.24 As for all of these types of events, officers are also 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.</p> <p>3.25 Officers will consider all reports and supporting information to ensure the technical requirements are in accordance with all the relevant legislation and guidance.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.26 Officers will be required to carry out inspections at the event but this is catered for within existing Service budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>3.27 There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Location Map</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Rationale from the organiser outlining the reasons for requesting the extended hours</p> <p>Appendix 3 – PSNI Correspondence</p>