Application for the Grant of an Entertainments Licence - Limelight Belfast Ltd., former Belfast Telegraph Building, Royal Avenue

(Mr. S. Hewitt, Building Control Manager, and Mr. P. Cunningham, Assistant Building Control Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Committee considered an application for the grant of an Entertainments Licence by Limelight Belfast Ltd. for the former Belfast Telegraph Building in Royal Avenue.

In response to a number of questions, the Committee was advised that the application for an entertainments licence had been submitted on 28th August and the statutory consultation period had expired on 26th September and no objections to the application had been received. The company had, during that time, organised a sell-out event at the venue which was to be held on Saturday, 30th September. However, there was an issue in so far as planning permission had not yet been granted for change of use for the building. It was pointed out also that applications of this nature were normally dealt with under the Council's Scheme of Delegation but it was felt that it would be prudent to place the application before the Committee for consideration and decision, given the Council's current interest in the building.

In response to a further question, the Committee was advised that the building met all Health and Safety conditions and technical requirements for the holding of an entertainments licence.

Several Members expressed concern in relation to how the application was being dealt with. It was pointed out that the Council had a quasi-judicial Licencing Committee which had delegated authority from the Council to deal with such applications and the application should have been placed before that Committee.

After further discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Attwood, Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,

That the Committee agrees to grant an Entertainments Licence to Limelight Belfast Ltd. to hold a one-off event in the former Belfast Telegraph Building, Royal Avenue on Saturday, 30th September.

On a vote by show of hands, ten Members voted for the proposal and four against and it was declared carried.

Chairperson