

REPORT TO PICKMERE PARISH COUNCIL

3rd December 2019

AGENDA ITEM 7.2 UPDATE - APPLICATION FOR EVENT LICENCE – CHESHIRE SHOWGROUND

1 Report

- 1.1 At the time of writing the above application has been rejected by Cheshire East Council as invalid. It is thought that this decision related to the advertising of the application not being in accordance with statutory requirements.
- 1.2 It was envisaged that the application would be resubmitted, but this has not occurred to date. Mixed messages have been received from CEC as to whether, if resubmitted, CEC would inform the objectors to the proposal and whether the objections that have already been submitted would be transferred to the newly registered application. However it is considered that if a new application is submitted, it would be advisable for any previous objections to be formally resubmitted.
- 1.3 As instructed by your council, an objection was submitted to the licence application, but in addition a separate set of critical comments were sent to CEC in respect of their procedures for advertising such applications in the local community, and the procedures they adopted for the inspection of such applications.
- 1.4 The CEC response emphasises that the advertising procedures for licensing applications are tightly defined in statute, and that the law precludes the council from making any other advertising arrangements. The arrangements were reviewed by Government several years ago and the decision made not to include parish councils as 'Responsible Authorities', which would have required such councils to be consulted on applications. The CEC officer comments that *"If you feel the [town and parish] Councils should have a greater say in the Licensing process you should consider lobbying your Member of Parliament and seek a further change to the legislation"*.
- 1.5 On the question of making applications available for inspection, the response says their procedures are constrained by office resources, including the redacting of such applications (what information is redacted is not stated), and also by licensing case law, and that therefore CEC cannot make the licensing register available in a format which does not comply with the requirements of legislation.
- 1.6 As to your council's complaints as to the actual inspection process at Macclesfield Municipal offices, a separate response is awaited from that Council's Customer Services team.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the report be noted and members consider any additional action.

Jack Steel
Clerk to Parish Council