

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE – 22 OCTOBER 2004

REPORT BY: LICENSING MANAGER

REPORT AUTHOR: MRS NICKII HUMPHREYS

**BETTING, GAMING AND LOTTERIES ACT 1963
APPLICATION FOR TRACK BETTING LICENCE –
PORTSMOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB**

The purpose of this report is to advise members of an application received from solicitors acting for Portsmouth Football Club for the grant of a track betting licence in pursuance of Schedule 3 to the Betting, Gaming & Lotteries Act 1963. This item is formally reported to the Committee as it is not a delegated function that can be determined by your reporting officer.

RECOMMENDED that the application submitted by Portsmouth Football Club for the grant of a track betting licence in pursuance of Schedule 3, Betting, Gaming & Lotteries Act 1963 be approved.

Background Information

By virtue of the Betting, Gaming & Lotteries Act 1963 it is an offence for bookmaking to take place at any “betting track” unless the occupier holds a track betting licence issued by the local authority. Ordinarily, track betting licences are associated with racing or greyhound stadiums but the definition of “track” includes any premises providing for athletic sports or other sporting events to take place. In this case betting facilities are operated on match days at Portsmouth Football Club.

The premises have previously benefited from a licence which expires on 14 November 2004. Licences, once granted, remain in force for a period of seven years unless cancelled or revoked and are subject to payment of an annual licensing fee.

The 1963 Act regulates the giving of notice by the applicant in making an application for the grant of a licence. At least two months notice of the application must be submitted to the Council, the police and planning authorities. Likewise, the applicant must give notice of the application in two local newspapers giving persons an opportunity to submit written objections or representations. I am satisfied that appropriate notice has been given and certified copies of the newspapers carrying the public notices have been received.

No objections have been received from members of the public, police and fire authorities, or the City Planning Officer. The Act permits for a licence application to be refused if, in the event of a licence being granted, this would "... affect the health or comfort of persons residing in the neighbourhood ...", "... seriously impair the amenities of that neighbourhood" or "... result in undue traffic congestion or seriously prejudice law and order". No evidence has been submitted to suggest that any of these grounds exist and therefore I would advise that this application should be approved.

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Licensing Manager
Corporate Services

NH/DMF