

March 2013

Thomas & Thomas E-News

Planning Relaxation for 2 year Pop Up Shops & Restaurants

Proposed changes to the planning system may further enhance the number of pop-ups and reduce the increasing number of empty units in town centres. The proposed Temporary Town Centre Use regulations would, if enacted, allow temporary changes of planning use of two years or less to proceed without the usual and potentially difficult application to change the planning use.

This could allow a range of buildings to convert temporarily to alternative uses, including A1 shops and even A3 restaurants and cafes. Westminster are likely to resist the plans, probably because the changes may result in a further intensification of licensed premises in Westminster. Conversely, the proposals would be welcome to many landlords and operators. However, although temporary, it is still likely the currently redundant units will also need a full Premises Licence to authorise any licensable activities and this could be still contrary to policy.

British Summertime

The clocks go forward on Sunday 31 March 2013 at 1.00 am to 2.00 am. Operators open normally later than 1.00 am on Saturday night should check their Premises Licence to ensure it authorises an additional hour when British Summertime begins.

Minimum Unit Pricing called off

The Government has recently announced a U-turn on its plans for a proposed minimum unit price for alcohol sales. The plans were meant to target irresponsible drinking but concerns were raised that responsible drinkers would be unfairly affected in a difficult economic climate.

Late Night Levy & New Forms

The Late Night Levy legislation is now effective. This means Licensing Authorities can, after consultation, impose a Levy on operators holding a Premises Licence that authorises licensable activities anytime between midnight and 06.00am. Westminster have recently commissioned a report on the impact of licensed premises in the West End. Co-incidence? For more information on the Levy and EMROs please see our previous E News: [The Levy & EMROs](#). If your Licensing Authority is consulting on introducing a Levy or EMRO in your area it is very important you make representations to help protect your position.

Removal of Redundant Licence Conditions

Many Premises Licences include various historical and redundant conditions. Common examples include conditions from historical supper hours certificates and public entertainment licences. It seems the police and responsible authorities are in some cases amenable to the prospect of tidying up licences and removing these conditions. If you would like some assistance spring cleaning your licence please do not hesitate to contact one of the partners.

Save the date

Our popular Licensing Seminar will be held in the spectacular surroundings of the House of St Barnabas in Soho on the 9th May at 6pm. Invites to follow or keep an eye on the website. Very informative and free (but limited) alcohol so as not to fall foul of a mandatory condition! For details click: [here](#).

Kind regards

Alun and Thomas