

Report of: Head of Environmental Development

To: General Purposes Licensing Committee

Date: 3rd June 2008 **Item No:**

Title of Report : Confirmation of Annual Street Trading Consent for Mr Khaled Al-Qadi trading from Catte Street/Radcliffe Square, Oxford.

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To ask the committee to confirm that it is satisfied with the confirmation and extension of a Street Trading Consent for Mr Khaled Al-Qadi trading from the corner of Catte Street and Radcliffe Square, selling Oxford University clothing and souvenirs.

Key decision: N/a

Portfolio Holder:

Scrutiny Responsibility: N/a

Ward(s) affected: Carfax

Report Approved by

Portfolio Holder:

Legal: Jeremy Franklin

Finance: Andy Collett

Strategic Director:

Policy Framework: N/a

Recommendation(s): General Purposes Licensing Committee is recommended to confirm that the Street Trading Consent issued to Mr Khaled Al-Qadi to trade from Catte Street at the junction of Radcliffe Square for the initial period of three months, to sell Oxford University clothing and souvenirs should be extended to allow him to trade from this site by issuing him with an Annual Street Trading Consent.

1. Oxford City Council introduced a Street Trading Consent Scheme in 1986 to regulate trading in the City centre and its suburbs. The Street Trading Consent Scheme requires anyone selling items to hold a Street Trading Consent issued by the City Council's Environmental Health Service. The consent allows that trader to trade from a fixed site and is granted under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. There are currently 30 annual let sites within the consent area, 16 for evening sales of hot food, 11 for daytime sales (mainly non food) and 3 for ice cream.
2. The street trading site at Catte St is situated outside Hertford College at the junction of Radcliffe Square and adjacent to The Bodleian Library. This trading site has been traditionally used for the sale of Oxford University logo clothing and similar souvenirs, aimed at the tourist market that frequents this area. It has been successfully managed in the past by other traders who have since relinquished their trading position there, rendering it vacant.
3. Mr Al-Qadi subsequently approached Oxford City Council towards the end of 2006 to enquire if he could apply to trade from this Catte St site. He applied to sell Oxford University logo clothing like sweatshirts and baseball caps, as well as other Oxford souvenirs. Particularly targeting the tourist market. He intended to trade from a wooden Victorian styled barrow stall.
4. Oxford City Council was satisfied with his application and the product to be sold and therefore, using delegated powers, offered him a conditional three months Consent to trade from this site to commence in January 2007. Mr Al-Qadi paid the relevant fees. Unfortunately as a result of his stock not being delivered in time he was not really able to commence trading properly until March 2007 so did not obtain the full benefit of his Consent. A further three months delegated Consent was issued to him for the period July to September 2007.
5. Mr Al-Qadi has between 4 and 5 years trading experience in selling this type of stock from Street Trading positions as well as retail. He maintains a good working relationship with Hertford College and other neighbours. He is polite to customers and general public. His stall has been examined on several occasions by Oxford City Council and always found to be neat, tidy and well positioned in this historic part of Oxford City Centre. There have been no complaints received regarding him trading from this site.
6. Due to Mr Al-Qadi's continued interest in providing a service to tourists and the public and his desire to be considered for an Annual Street Trading Consent a further three months Consent was issued to him from April to June 2008 while a Committee report was written to request this extension.

7. During this recent trading period renovation work to the roof of The Bodleian Library commenced and builders hoarding was erected around the perimeter of the building at Catte Street and Radcliffe Square thus reducing the visual display of Mr Al-Qadi's stall. This subsequently affected his trade as potential customers would not instantly recognise his stall and pass by in another direction. Therefore in liaison with The Bodleian Library and St Mary & The Virgin Church a temporary site was agreed upon closer to the Church and The Vaults café. Mr Al-Qadi was very flexible in working with the City Council and his immediate neighbours to find a solution to this problem and has informed the Council throughout of any changes.
8. Mr Al-Qadi is considered a suitable candidate to have his Street Trading Consent extended to an Annual Consent to trade from Catte Street, Oxford.
9. Therefore General Purposes Licensing Committee is recommended to confirm that the Street Trading Consent issued to Mr Khaled Al-Qadi to trade from Catte Street at the junction of Radcliffe Square for the initial period of three months, to sell Oxford University clothing and souvenirs should be extended to allow him to trade from this site by issuing him with an Annual Street Trading Consent.

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Background papers: N/a