

## **Press Release**

XXX XXX February 2008

### **Guidance for residents on licensing powers**

Oxford City Council is reminding residents and businesses that under The Licensing Act 2003 it allows them to have their say when someone applies for a licence or certificate to sell alcohol, provide regulated entertainment or provide late-night refreshments.

The act also allows agencies like the police, fire and environmental health officers to look at licence applications and to comment on them, if necessary.

If you want to comment or make a representation against an application you have to be an interested party.

The definition of an interested party is

- A person living in the vicinity of the premises
- A body (like a residents' association) representing people who live in that vicinity
- A person involved in a business in the vicinity of the premises
- A body (like a trade association) representing people involved in businesses in the vicinity of the premises.

Interested parties also include partnerships and the functions of charities, churches and medical practices.

The Licensing Authority will accept representations from interested parties residing or involved in business "in the vicinity of" the premises concerned. We've chosen not to define vicinity as a fixed distance from a premise but we will consider representations from those that can demonstrate that they are (or, in the case of new premises, are likely to be), effected by activities occurring on the premises.

Oxford City Council Licensing Authority have produced a leaflet that describes the process for making representations to the Authority about applications for new premises licences or certificates; variations to existing premises licences or certificates; or provisional statements. The leaflet also contains information about the hearing process.

If you would like to obtain a copy of this guidance, leaflets are available from the Oxford City Council office in St Ebbes, or by contacting the Licensing Authority on 01865 252565 or emailing [licensing@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@oxford.gov.uk).

