

Licence Granted For New Hotel At Somersford THE THIRD APPLICATION

C.T. March 8, 1941

AN application for a licence for a new hotel to be erected at Somersford was granted by the licensing magistrates at Christchurch on Monday.

This was the third time the application had been made; it was refused a year ago when the second application was made.

Mr. C. F. Hiscock, of Southampton, for Messrs. Strong and Co., said the application was for a provisional full licence for premises to be erected on the north side of the road from Christchurch to Highcliffe. It would have a frontage of 250 feet and a depth of 250 feet, and would be set back 80 feet from the road, leaving space for a car park in front that would in no way interfere with traffic on the road. The plans have been approved by the appropriate authorities. Provision was made for a large lounge and tea room, revolving shutters dividing off the bar when the premises were not open for the sale of intoxicating liquor. There would be both public and private bars and the servery would give good supervision over the whole of the premises. Upstairs there would be six bedrooms and two bathrooms. The estimated cost of the building is £7,000.

241 Houses Within Half-a-Mile.

The nearest licensed houses to the site of the proposed new hotel were The Globe, 2,300 yards away; Avonmouth Hotel, which had a restricted licence, 2,500 yards; the Haven Inn, 2,750 yards; the Nelson, 2,750 yards; and the King's Arms Hotel, which was also a considerable distance away.

Within a half-mile radius there were 241 houses and estimating five persons to a house, that gave a population of 1,205. Ten new houses had recently been completed in this area, and in addition there were many workers employed in the district.

There is no community service at all in this district, said Mr. Hiscock, and many of the workers lived away from their occupation. A house of the kind of the proposed hotel would serve as a club where people can meet and discuss matters among themselves, for which at present there were no facilities.

Mr. Percy J. N. Vincent, who prepared the plans, confirmed the details given by Mr. Hiscock.

In answer to Mr. A. E. Dalton, who opposed the application on behalf of the Nelson Hotel, the Highcliffe Hotel, and the King's Arms Hotel, Mr. Vincent said the number of houses within the half-mile radius was about the same as last year.

No Difficulty in Obtaining Materials.

Asked if there would be any difficulty in obtaining materials, Mr. Vincent said he did not think there would be any difficulty; they had a quantity of materials in hand from demolished premises. Neither did he think there would be a shortage of labour, actually the labour was available. He estimated the building would take about six months to erect. In his opinion developments in the district fully justified erecting an hotel of this nature.

Mr. Robert Charles Chambers, secretary to Messrs. Strong and Co., confirmed that there would be no difficulty in obtaining either materials or labour. In answer to Mr. Dalton, he said they had the labour waiting to get on with the work. He said that while the residential population had not increased there was a large increase of workers in the district and he had no knowledge that the workers had any club of their own.

Support For The Application.

Mr. William Talbot Gargan, of "Isabelle," Somerford Avenue, said he had been four years in the district. There was not a licensed house nearer than one and a half miles and there was no club in the district. He had allowed the use of a room in his house for meetings as there was no other place available. The new hotel would be a place for people to meet. He fully supported the application.

Mr. Peter J. N. Garrett, of Seaway Avenue, Friars Cliff, also supported the application; he considered it a necessity in the locality. The nearest licensed house was at present one and a half miles away and the new house would be only half-a-mile.

Mr. Harry Nicholls Hillier, of "Belvedere," Friars Road, said he had lived for ten years in the district and there had been a need for an hotel in the area for some time.

Opposition.

Mr. Dalton said the application came before the magistrates for the second time last year and was refused. He submitted there was now no change in the situation. Whatever merits the proposal might have in peace time those merits do not maintain under present conditions. He argued that it would be using materials that were required for other purposes. Road traffic was curtailed and people had been encouraged to economise.

To proceed with the erection of this building, he contended, would be making an inroad into efforts which should be devoted to other purposes. There had been no change in the building position, except for the erection of ten houses, and he thought the grounds for refusing the application had rather increased than decreased.

Inspector W. P. Thomas said there was no objection on the part of the police.

After retiring to consider their decision, the magistrates announced that the application would be granted for a term licence and would be adjourned for a fortnight for the purpose of fixing the monopoly value.

The magistrates were Major W. O. Campbell (chairman), the Mayor (Councillor T. Markham), Mr. J. H. Burroughs and Mr. D. Llewellyn.