



22 May 2012

Agenda Item:8

**REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & REGISTRATION
APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL CEREMONIES**

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an annual update and overview of the County Council's role in licensing premises for the solemnization of marriages and the formation of civil partnerships.

Information and Advice

Background

2. Current legislation allows the solemnization of marriages and the formation of civil partnerships to take place in venues other than register offices. Historic or romantic buildings such as castles, stately homes and country houses can be licensed, as can hotels, civic buildings and sports stadia. In all cases, approval can only be granted if it can be done without compromising the fundamental principles of English law and Parliament's intention to maintain the solemnity of the occasion.
3. To be approved, a venue must be a permanently immovable structure comprising at least a room or any boat or other vessel which is permanently moored. Premises outside this definition, such as the open air, a tent, marquee or any other temporary structure, and most forms of transport, would not be eligible for approval. The premise must be a seemly and dignified venue for the proceedings, and cannot be religious premise, other than for the formation of Civil Partnerships. Also, it must be regularly available to the public, which rules out a domestic home.
4. Last year there were 61 Approved Premises in the County, and this year there are 70 (including four former Register Offices that have been decommissioned). Appendix A to this report provides a list of all currently approved premises in Nottinghamshire. The fee for approval of a premise is included in the set of all registration fees, which was previously approved by the Cabinet Member for Community Safety and in future will be reported to the Community Safety Committee for consideration and approval.

Civil Partnerships in Religious Premises

5. The Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 came into effect on Monday 5th December 2011. These allow civil partnership ceremonies to be conducted in places of worship in England and Wales. The Registration Services' role

is to approve the premises. Nationally, the leaders of Liberal Judaism, the Quakers and the Unitarians have all expressed interest in holding ceremonies. The procedure and basis on which approvals will be granted is broadly the same as that which currently applies to secular premises. Once approved, the premises will be included in the list of approved venues for civil partnerships, indicating that they are a religious premise (and so cannot be used for a civil marriage). Civil partnerships were introduced in 2005 to give couples the same legal protection as if they were married.

Procedures

6. The Constitution of the County Council identifies that the power to approve premises for the solemnisation of marriages lies with the Planning and Licensing Committee. Under the 'Officer Scheme of Delegation', the responsibility for exercising all functions in relation to the registration service is delegated to the Group Manager, Emergency Planning and Registration.
7. The registrar's procedures for approval of premises have been developed following 'The Registrar General's Guidance to Authorities for the approval of premises as venues for civil marriage and civil partnerships' (Fourth Edition, Revised December 2011). The premises are assessed for suitability, fire safety and the need (or otherwise) for planning permission. Once granted, each approval lasts for three years.

Statutory and Policy Implications

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service, and where such implications are material they are described in the report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted and that further reports will be brought to the Planning and Licensing Committee annually.

Robert Fisher

Group Manager, Emergency Management and Registration

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Robert Fisher, 0115 977 3681

Constitutional and Financial Comments

None. The report is for noting only

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All

List of Approved Premises in Nottinghamshire

Premises name	Location
Blackburn House,	Brake Lane, Boughton, Newark
The Bramley Suite	The Bramley Centre, King Street, Southwell
The Bestwood Lodge Hotel	Bestwood Country Park, Arnold
Blotts Country Club	Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont
The Carriage Hall	Station Road, Plumtree
Charnwood Hotel	Sheffield Road, Blyth, Worksop
Clumber Park	The National Trust, Worksop
Clumber Park Hotel and Spa	Worksop
Cockliffe Country House	Burntstump Country Park, Burntstump Hill
Country Cottage Hotel	Easthorpe Street, Ruddington
Deincourt Hotel	London Road, Newark
The Drawing Room	Balderton Gate, Newark
DH Lawrence Heritage Centre	Mansfield Road, Eastwood
Eastwood Hall	Mansfield Road, Eastwood
Elms Hotel	London Road, Retford
Forever Green Restaurant	Ransom Wood, Southwell Road, Mansfield
The Full Moon	Main Street, Morton, Southwell
The Gallery	County House, Mansfield
The Garden Room	The Hall, Bridgford Road, West Bridgford
Goosedale	Goosedale Lane, Bestwood Village
Grange Hall	Vicarage Lane, Radcliffe on Trent
Hodsock Priory	Blyth, Nr Worksop
Holme Pierrepont Hall	Holme Pierrepont, Nottingham
Kelham Hall	Kelham, Newark
Kelham House Country Manor Hotel	Main Street, Kelham, Newark
Lakeside	2 Waterworks House, Mansfield Road, Arnold
Leen Valley Golf Club	Wigwam Lane, Hucknall

Premises name	Location
Langar Hall	Langar
The Lion Hotel	112 Bridge Street, Worksop
The Mill, Rufford Country Park	Ollerton, Newark
Newark Castle	Castle Gate, Newark
Newark Town and District Club Ltd	Barnbygate House, 35 Barnbygate, Newark
Newark Town Hall	Market Place, Newark
Newstead Abbey	Newstead Abbey Park, Ravenshead
Norwood Park Country House	Southwell
Nottingham Forest Football Club	City Ground, Nottingham
Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club	Trent Bridge, Nottingham
Nottinghamshire Golf and Country Club	Stragglethorpe
The Oakdale Suite	County House, Mansfield
The Oakham Suite	Nottingham Road, Mansfield
The Old Court House	Church Street, Bingham
The Old Vicarage	Park Lane, Elkesley, Retford
The Old Vicarage, Boutique Hotel	Westhorpe, Southwell
Papplewick Pumping Station	Off Longdale Lane, Ravenshead
Portland Hall Hotel	Carr Bank, Windmill Lane, Mansfield
Radcliffe Hall	Main Road, Radcliffe on Trent
Retford Town Hall	Market Square, Retford
Richard Herrod Centre	Foxhill Road, Carlton
The Riding Hall	The Courtyard, Thoresby Park
The Rowan Suite	Chancery Lane, Retford
Ruddington Grange Golf Club	Wilford Road, Ruddington
Rufford Park Golf and Country Club	Rufford Lane, Rufford, Newark
Rufford Suite, County Hall	Loughborough Road, West Bridgford
Saracens Head Hotel	Market Place, Southwell
Sherwood Forest, Oak Room	Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre, Edwinstowe
The Secret Garden	Lancaster Road, Gringley on the Hill
Southwell Racecourse	Rolleston
Stoke Hall	Church Lane, East Stoke, Newark

Premises name	Location
Sutton Bonington Hall	Main Street, Sutton Bonington
Swancar Farm Country House	Trowell Moor, Trowell
Thoresby Hall Hotel and Spa	Thoresby Park, Nr Ollerton
Thrumpton Hall	Nottinghamshire
The Victoria Suite	Memorial Avenue, Worksop
The Village Hotel and Leisure Club	Brailsford Way, Chilwell
Welbeck Banqueting Hall	Welbeck Road, West Bridgford
West Retford Hotel	24 North Road, East Retford
Woodborough Hall	Bank Hill, Woodborough
The Workhouse	Upton Road, Southwell
Worksop Town Hall	Potter Street, Worksop
Ye Olde Bell Hotel	Barnby Moor, Retford