

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Agenda Item:5**

**REPORT OF THE  
SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR ACCESS AND PUBLIC PROTECTION**

**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 registration of civil partnerships.

**Information and Advice**

Background

2. Current legislation allows the solemnization of marriages (for any couple) and the formation of civil partnerships (for same-sex couples only) to take place in venues other than register offices. The County Council is concerned with approval of:
  - Secular premises for civil marriages and civil partnerships
  - Religious premises for civil partnerships
3. Secular premises such as historic or romantic buildings, including 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 this can be done without compromising the fundamental principles of English law and Parliament's intention to maintain the solemnity of the occasion.
4. To be approved, a venue must be a permanently immovable structure comprising at least one 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 to be approved by the County Council it cannot be a 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.
5. There are currently 69 Approved Premises in Nottinghamshire (a net increase of one since last year), and these are listed in Appendix A to this report. The fee for

approval of a premise is included in the set of registration fees, which is reported annually to the Community Safety Committee for consideration and approval.

### Civil Partnerships in Religious Premises

6. The Marriages and Civil Partnerships (Approved Premises) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 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. However, at present there have been no applications for a religious building in Nottinghamshire to be licensed for Civil Partnerships.

### Procedures

7. 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.
8. The registration service 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' (Fifth Edition, Revised May 2014). 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**

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, public sector equality duty, 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.

### **Financial Implications**

10. There are no financial implications contained in this report.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) 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.

**PAUL MCKAY**

## **Service Director, Promoting Independence and Public Protection**

### **For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments**

11. As this report is for noting only, no constitutional comments are required.

### **Financial Comments**

12. There are no financial implications arising from the report.

### **Background Papers**

The Registrar General's Guidance to Authorities for the approval of premises as venues for civil marriage and civil partnerships' (Fifth Edition, Revised May 2014)

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All



### List of Approved Premises in Nottinghamshire

<b>Premises name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Beeston Fields Golf Club	Wollaton Road, Beeston
Bestwood Lodge Hotel	Bestwood Country Park, Arnold
Blackburn House,	Brake Lane, Boughton, Newark
Blotts Country Club	Adbolton Lane, Holme Pierrepont
Bramley Suite	The Bramley Centre, King Street, Southwell
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
County House	Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield
Deincourt Hotel	London Road, Newark
DH Lawrence Heritage Centre	Mansfield Road, Eastwood
East Bridgford Hill	Kirk Hill, East Bridgford
Eastwood Hall	Mansfield Road, Eastwood
Elms Hotel	London Road, Retford
Forever Green Restaurant	Ransom Wood, Southwell Road, Mansfield
Full Moon	Main Street, Morton, Southwell
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
Langar Hall	Langar
Leen Valley Golf Club	Wigwam Lane, Hucknall

<b>Premises name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Lion Hotel	112 Bridge Street, Worksop
Mansfield Manor Hotel	Carr Bank, Windmill Lane, Mansfield
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
Papplewick Pumping Station	Off Longdale Lane, Ravenshead
Portland College	Nottingham Road, Mansfield
Ramsdale Park Golf Centre	Oxton Road, Calverton
Retford Town Hall	Market Square, Retford
Richard Herrod Centre	Foxhill Road, Carlton
Ruddington Grange Golf Club	Wilford Road, Ruddington
Rufford Park Golf and Country Club	Rufford Lane, Rufford, Newark
Saracens Head Hotel	Market Place, Southwell
Sherwood Forest, Oak Room	Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre, Edwinstowe
Southwell Racecourse	Rolleston
Sutton Bonington Hall	Main Street, Sutton Bonington
Swancar Farm Country House	Trowell Moor, Trowell
The Carriage Hall	Station Road, Plumtree
The Gilstrap	Castle Gate, Newark
The Mill, Rufford Country Park	Ollerton, Newark
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
The Riding Hall	The Courtyard, Thoresby Park
The Rowan Suite	Chancery Lane, Retford

<b>Premises name</b>	<b>Location</b>
The Secret Garden	Lancaster Road, Gringley on the Hill
The Victoria Suite	Memorial Avenue, Worksop
The Workhouse	Upton Road, Southwell
Thrumpton Hall	Nottinghamshire
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
Worksop Masonic Hall	Potter Street, Worksop
Worksop Town Hall	Potter Street, Worksop
Ye Olde Bell Hotel	Barnby Moor, Retford