

LICENSING AND REGULATORY (URGENT REFERRALS) COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON 13 NOVEMBER 2012**

PRESENT: Councillor Kerrigan (in the Chair)
Councillors Robinson and Preece

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

4. CINEMAS ACT 1985 - "SMALL CREATURES" SCREENING - CROSBY PLAZA

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Built Environment on a request from Mr. Martin Wallace for permission to exhibit a film entitled 'Small Creatures', which had not been certified by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC).

The report indicated that Mr Wallace wished for the film to be screened at the Plaza Cinema, 13, Crosby Road North, Crosby L22 0LA.

The film was described as having an educational type 'Anti-Bullying' theme and that to highlight National Anti-Bullying Week 19-23 November 2012, it was proposed to screen the film on 19, 20, 21 and 25 November 2012.

The report indicated that the applicant had supplied the following synopsis of the content of the feature:

"A fourteen year old boy ignores the advice of his teachers, family and the police and, despite knowing it to be wrong, finds himself embroiled in knife crime. He attempts to run

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away from home but eventually serves time in a Young Offenders Institute”.

Prior to any decision being taken, it had been necessary for Members to view the film in its entirety. Accordingly, the Committee had viewed the film immediately before the commencement of the meeting.

The total run time of the film was 87 minutes.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the film ‘Small Creatures’ to be screened at the Plaza Cinema, 13 Crosby Road North, Crosby L22 0LA, on 19, 20, 21 and 25 November 2012, be deemed unsuitable for viewing by persons under the age of 15 years and as such it be awarded the British Board of Film Classification – Certificate 15; and
- (2) Director of Built Environment be requested to inform Mr. Martin Wallace of the Committee’s decision.

Reasons:

The Committee were required to provide a BBFC rating for the film presentation ‘Small Creatures’ following a request received from Mr Martin Wallace to exhibit the film at the Plaza Cinema, Crosby, to highlight National Anti-Bullying Week - 19 to 23 November 2012. The feature has not been previously exhibited in the United Kingdom and consequently has not received a classification.

The Committee considered the classification guidance for the 12/12A and 15 ratings. It was not felt that the feature would be suitable for children under that age. The Committee had regards to the issues raised in the presentation, especially with reference to the use of drugs and alcohol, the violence portrayed in the film and the impact of imitable behaviour such as self harming, cyber-bullying and general anti-social behaviour. The Committee felt that the language used in the feature exceeded the guidelines provided for a 12/12A rating in that its content and occurrence was considered more than moderate and it was felt that this was inappropriate for a 12/12A rating.

Taking into account all of the above, the Committee felt that a 15 Rating should be awarded.