

**APPLICATION FOR HARDSHIP RATE RELIEF UNDER SECTION 49 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1988 FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2007/08 AND 2008/09**

**Applicant's Name:** Giraffe Leisure Ltd **Account Ref:** 101103262

**Property Address:** AQUARIUS, Victoria Street, Hednesford, Cannock, Staffs, WS12 1BT

**Status of Property:** Occupied **NEW APPLICATION**

**Relief Claimed:** Hardship **Period:** 1/4/07 – 31/3/08  
1/4/08 – 31/3/09

**Use of Property:** Ballroom for local entertainment

**Financial Situation:** Summary attached to Annex

<b>Rates Payable:</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Occupied Charge</b>	10,656.00	11,088.00
<b>Less Hardship Relief (50%)</b>	<u>5,328.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
<b>Hardship consideration</b>	<b>5,328.00</b>	<b>11,088.00</b>
<b>If 100% granted</b>		
<b>NDR Pool (75%):</b>	3,996.00	8,316.00
<b>General Fund (25%):</b>	<u>1,332.00</u>	<u>2,772.00</u>
<b>Rates payable:</b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>If 50% granted</b>		
<b>NDR Pool (75%):</b>	1,998.00	4,158.00
<b>General Fund (25%):</b>	<u>666.00</u>	<u>1,386.00</u>
<b>Rates payable:</b>	<b><u>2,664.00</u></b>	<b><u>5,544.00</u></b>

**Supporting Information:**

Giraffe Leisure Ltd purchased the lease for the Aquarius Ballroom, Victoria Street, Hednesford from Cannock Chase District Council on 15 January 2007. Due to the derelict state of the premises the company did not commence trading from the premises until 16 March 2007.

The company currently employs two members of staff, both who live within the Cannock Chase area.

It is the aim of the company to restore the reputation of the Aquarius Ballroom and establish itself again within the local community. However, the costs involved in this process cannot be sustained by the company, therefore, this application for hardship relief has been submitted in order to assist the company in achieving its objectives.

Attached to this annex is the supporting documentation and accounts summary in respect of their application.

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**NCRS**

**Comments:**

Applications for hardship relief should be supported with copies of audited accounts and balance sheets for the past 2 years; however, as the company has only traded for a few months they do not have any audited accounts to submit in support of their application.

Giraffe Leisure Ltd's initial application for Hardship relief was submitted to the Rate Relief Committee for consideration on 20 August 2007. Members resolved that 100% hardship rate relief be granted for the period 15 January 2007 to 31 March 2007 and 50% relief for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. Members considered that the premises were previously a community building and provided an amenity to the area and that trading had not commenced until 16 March 2007 due to the poor condition of the premises.

Giraffe Leisure Ltd are concerned that the level of relief awarded for 2007/08 was insufficient in order to achieve its business objectives, therefore, the company wishes the matter to be reconsidered once again together with their fresh application for 2008/09.

Once again, it should be noted that whilst considering this application for hardship relief Members should be mindful that the authority can only exercise its discretion if it is satisfied that both; the ratepayer would sustain hardship if relief wasn't granted **AND** the authority must have regard to the interest of its council tax payers.

Members can exercise their discretion to grant a full or partial remission of rates at **any** level up to 100%.