



## LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

**Thursday 19 November 2020**

**FILM CLASSIFICATION – A FILM TO BE SCREENED AT RIVERSIDE THEATRE, WOODBRIDGE**

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

1. An application requesting the classification of a film has been received.
2. Arrangements were made for members of the Licensing Sub-Committee to view the film on 19 November 2020.
3. The Sub-Committee is asked to determine the appropriate admission criteria for the film.

Is the report Open or Exempt?	Open
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Woodbridge
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr. Mary Rudd, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health
<b>Supporting Officer:</b>	Teresa Bailey Senior Licensing Officer 01394 444364 <a href="mailto:teresa.bailey@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">teresa.bailey@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a>

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1. Cinema proprietors licensed by the Council are obliged by the mandatory conditions attached to their premises licences to comply with the admission criteria awarded by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC).
- 1.2. These same admission criteria should be used for any film presented to a Local Authority for classification.

## **2. APPLICATION**

- 2.1. The Council's Licensing Team has received a request to arrange for the classification of a film to enable it to be screened at the Riverside Theatre, Woodbridge on 4 December 2020. The request along with additional information is attached at **Appendix A**.
- 2.2. The film has not been shown to the public before within the East Suffolk district and it is therefore necessary for this Authority to give it a suitable classification.

## **3. THE FILM**

### **3.1 The War Just Outside Ipswich**

For over a decade 'Trench Farm' on the outskirts of Ipswich (Suffolk) has been a Mecca for filmmakers wanting to recreate realistic war-scenes for their films, TV documentaries and adverts. Millions of cinema goers and TV viewers around the world have watched stories of bloodshed, human endeavour and heroism unfold before their very eyes and this is where much of that conflict and drama has been filmed. High profile productions such as Downton Abbey, Journeys End and the famous Sainsbury Christmas TV advert have all filmed defining scenes at this purpose built and atmospheric network of World War One trenches. This film talks to 'Trench Farm's' owners and creators to talk about how the system came about and the filming over the years. Anecdotes of famous films, actors and war stories help give the viewer a unique glimpse of life behind the scenes. We follow the filmmakers of Stanley's War, a Suffolk WW1 film, and their ups and downs as they go about recreating battles and trench scenes on an ambitious project for the Armistice centenary. The trenches bring a lot of film money into the area with cast, crew, and extras, many of whom need accommodation and feeding. We also look at 'Trench Farm's' sister company, TV period costume provider, Khaki Devil, and their plans to recreate a WW1 village built out of Great War Huts. The film closes with a look at how Covid-19 has impacted the film industry and decimated film production at 'Trench Farm' and whether this valuable Suffolk film-making resource will survive.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 Having attended a viewing of the film, the Sub-Committee is asked to determine the appropriate admission criteria for the film.

The policies used by the BBFC when deciding classification for a film are attached at **Appendix B**.

APPENDICES	
<b>Appendix A</b>	Requests for the classification of 'The War Just Outside Ipswich'.
<b>Appendix B</b>	British Board of Film Classification guidance.