

**Supplement to the agenda for**

# **Licensing Sub-Committee**

**Monday 23 March 2026**

**10.00 am**

**Online meeting / Conference Room 2 - Herefordshire Council,  
Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE**

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>5. REVIEW OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF: OUT TO GRASS, WOODEND FARM, CRADLEY, HEREFORDSHIRE, WR13 5JW - LICENSING ACT 2003</b>	<b>3 - 10</b>



**From:****Sent:** 19 March 2026 12:51**To:****Cc:** Licensing <licensing@herefordshire.gov.uk>**Subject:** RE: OUT TO GRASS - LICENCE REVIEW - SUBMISSIONS EH RESPONSE TO LICENCE HOLDER

OFFICIAL

Good Afternoon,

**Ref - Response to Out to Grass (OTG) documents and Licensing conditions proposals**

I confirm Environmental health have received OTG Licence condition proposals, documents and noise management plan (NMP) provided as part of this Licence review. We have further considered this information and comments as follows:-

It is noted, the NMP and proposals has been completed by Claire Kelly – we are not aware of Ms Kellys qualification and expertise in acoustics and noise controls. The documents make reference to consulting a sound engineer. For the noise management plan we would be requiring an appropriately qualified noise control expert to have input on the Noise management plan to ensure all aspects of sound control has been considered i.e. the **sound source** – type of music, sound system etc, **sound pathways** - premises structure and layout effectiveness of barriers, and impact at **receptors** - noise levels/ audibility's assessment at noise sensitive premises (impact on garden and inside premises to be considered due to duration and frequency of events and public nuisance to the general area).

We reviewed Out to Grass's proposed conditions and agreed to some, with changes to wording for others. However, the high number of large events proposed and lack of limits on smaller events are concerning, as we consider these conditions are unlikely to improve compliance with meeting the 'Prevention of Public Nuisance' licensing objective. This is mainly due to the following points of concern:-

- **Structure** – very little to no sound attenuation properties for the entertainment structures on site and some events have outside entertainment stages.
- **Site and Location** - The site is located in a quiet rural and tranquil area, both in the day and even more so at night.
- **Level and type of music** – Typical music played on the site is loud amplified music with a heavy drum and bass character and bass drops.
- **Duration of events** – currently the conditions permit very long and frequent music events running from 12:00 noon through to 02:00 over the weekends and slightly reduced time over the weekdays. These were initially considered in 2013 with the main event activity being two weekend music festival a year. The business model for the premises has significantly changed since this date, now running mainly as a private function festival site throughout the summer months (6 months a year).
- **Number of events** - Entertainment at the site has expanded from two music festivals to a private hire venue and camping area, operating almost every summer weekend. N.B Standard planning procedures are typically required for alterations to a music entertainment venue, this has not been the case for this site activity; consequently, licensing conditions serve as the sole regulatory measures currently in force.
- **Premises History** – Over the past 25 years, Environmental Health has received repeated excessive noise complaints regarding the OTG Entertainment site. Despite ongoing guidance from Environmental Health Services and the issuance of Abatement Notices in 2001, 2015, and 2025, noise issues have persisted. While occasional reductions in noise were observed, typically coinciding with fewer events, these improvements were temporary, and the concerns returned with little to no improvement.

- **Confidence in management** – The overall management of the site has not been changed over the 25 years. Considering all the above mentioned factors including extensive Environmental health involvement over the years the Authority currently has little to no confidence in the management for controlling entertainment noise on site.

Please find attached Environmental Health revised condition proposals to the committee. The conditions marked blue are agreed conditions with OTG proposals, Black are current (to remain) and red are Environmental health's proposed changes. All conditions with strike through to delete. These have been carefully considered with the balance of the business economic impact against its noise impact on the area. For the number of annual events we have made consideration to the 'Concert guide' that detailed an annual maximum of 12 music days (only up to midnight) and the Licensing TENs process where a maximum of 15 TEN days can be held per calendar year at a single premises. Our proposed 15 days music entertainment days are with the proviso the reduced hours and additional restrictions of 2 Large events only (max three day duration for each event) and the remaining days classed as small events, are applied.

The NMP in our proposed conditions is intended to be a key document for further controlling noise impact. The NMP would be required to distinguish between noise management controls for the two types of events. For the two Large events there will be an anticipated increased audible noise level to the area, however all the other small event would be required to implement stricter audibility control requirements, particularly later in the evening e.g. reduced audibility after 23:00 and further reduction after 00:00 (mid-night) to barely audible; no distinctive bass sound being audible over and above lower music levels at an agreed monitoring location.

Supplementary evidence of sound clips and additional noise guidance document are also being sent to Licensing for the committee hearing. Also attached is a revised Licensed area site plan as one Geodome was accidentally left out of previous plan – proposed changed to include family camping Geodome and café facilities area. For the sound clips it is noted the bass levels are the key factor for presenting these sound clips, so appropriate speaker / headphone systems will be required to fully hear this noise impact. (Environmental health will provide speaker for the licence Review hearing). Normal computer and TV speakers may not have the bass settings to adequately play this bass music noise.

Kind Regards

xxiii OTG Plan proposed changes - Amended 18/03/2026

**Environmental Health Proposed changes to Out To Grass Entertainment Licence.**

1. Request the Live Music Act 2012 is disapplied to this premises. *(This is to allow conditions to be applied to reduced amplified entertainment music timings and restrict entertainment days.)*
2. Licenced areas- Request the site entertainment area to include dome tent in family camping area – *(See attached plan - xxiii OTG Plan. proposed changes Amended)*
3. ~~Section – FOR ANY EVENT OF 500 PEOPLE OR MORE~~ *(Delete Agreed)*

Environmental Health - Proposed changes to Licence Conditions

Part 1 – Premises Details

The times the licence authorises the carrying out of licensable activities

Live music .Recorded Music

~~Sunday – Thursday 12:00 to 24:00~~  
~~Friday – Saturday 12:00 to 02:00~~

Thursday - 12:00 to 24:00  
Friday – Saturday 12:00 to 02:00  
Sunday –12:00 to 22:00

~~Non standards timings~~

~~An additional 2 hours at the end of permitted hours on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day, if these fall on a day other than a Saturday.~~

~~An additional 2 hours at the end of permitted hours on the Sunday of Bank Holiday weekends.~~

~~From the end of permitted hours on New Years Eve until the commencement of permitted hours on New Years Day.~~

~~An additional hour at the end of permitted hours on the day British Summertime begins.. (delete Agreed)~~

## **Annex 2 - Conditions consistent with the operating Schedule**

### **Section - For Events of less than 500 people (including staff etc)**

#### **General**

The dates of any Event shall be notified to the Police and the Licensing Authority at least 14 days before the first day of the event, **with total number of people planned to attend detailed.**

The capacity of the premises, inclusive of staff and performers, shall be no more than 500 people. *(Agreed)*

The Premises Licence will only permit a maximum of fifteen (15) days where amplified music entertainment can take place on the premises per calendar year. For the purposes of this licence a music entertainment shall be defined as an entertainment where the primary purpose is a programmed act / performance featuring amplified music.

The Premises Licence will only permit a maximum of three days, where amplified music entertainment can take place over consecutive days – within a 72-hour period (an 'Event').

The Premises Licence will only permit a maximum of two (2) 'Large Events per calendar year to take place on the premises.

N.B For the purposes of this licence a ~

- **'Large Event'** shall be defined as an entertainment, where at each event, the capacity is between 300 to 500 people, inclusive of staff and performers.
- **'Small Events'** shall be defined as an entertainment, where at each event the capacity is less than 300 people, inclusive of staff and performers.

#### **The prevention of Public Nuisance**

Noise or vibration shall not emanate from the premises so as to cause a nuisance. **Noise is defined as sound which is created by entertainment consisting of either vocal (recorded or live) or instrumental music (recorded or live), bass or drum (recorded or live) or a combination of all.**

~~The premises licence holder shall develop and maintain a Noise Management Plan.(NMP)~~

***Suggested rewording:-*** The Premises Licence holder must appoint an appropriate noise control expert to draft a Noise Management Plan (NMP) for the amplified music activities held on the site. Within 2 months of issuing this licence or 28 days prior to the first sites amplified music entertainment activity of the year. The draft NMP must be submitted to Environmental Health for review. Environmental Health shall communicate any issues with the NMP to the premises licence holder in writing within one calendar month of receipt and agree any amendments with the Premises Licence holder or DPS. Where notification of any issues is not received within one month of receipt of the NMP the draft NMP shall be deemed to be agreed.

~~For each Large Event, an Event Specific Noise Management Plan shall be devised.~~ The NMP must clearly differentiate and detail appropriate controls and monitoring required for 'Large' and 'Small' events. **The NMP shall contain (but not be limited to) the following: *(Agreed)***

- Noise Assessment
- Noise Control Measures
- Monitoring and reporting
- Stakeholder engagement
- Complaints Management
- Review and revision

~~The NMP shall be reviewed at least annually~~ *Suggested rewording:-* The Premises Licence holder must review the NMP on an annual basis or in the event that further amendments are made to the NMP after submission of the final NMP, the Premises Licence holder or the DPS shall notify the Licensing Authority and Environment Health of the change prior to the start of the season or event.

~~A copy of the NMP shall be retained on site and made available to authorised officers of the licensing authority.~~  
*(Agree)*

The Premises Licence holder must comply with the Noise Management Strategy as set out in the NMP and shall ensure that the promoter or organiser, the sound system supplier and all individual sound engineers are informed of any sound control limits.

Make public a program of planned amplified music entertainment days and events no less than 28 days of the event.

The date of any Large events, together with the details of the event organiser will be notified to Environmental Health at least 28 days prior to the event.

The Premises License Holder will maintain a noise monitoring log for each amplified music entertainment events, and this will be kept on the Licence site and will be available at all times for inspection by officers of Herefordshire Council.

The Premises Licence Holder or DPS must immediately comply with any request to adjust noise levels/ frequency spectra made by an 'authorised person' (as defined by Section 13 of the Licensing Act 2003) or the Police.

~~A contact number for the premises, which shall be manned during any event, shall be made available to local residents.~~ *Suggested rewording:-* The premise licence holder or their nominated person will communicate with Local Residents and Local Businesses to ensure they are aware of contact names and contact details to hotline and general office, so that they can report any issues directly to the Licensed Premises.

The noise hotline will be operational throughout the hours of regulated entertainment. All contacts must received a timely response.

~~A record of any call contact to the Hotline during events shall be maintained and shall record:~~

- (a) Date and time of call
- (b) Name and location of caller
- (c) Nature of complaint/incident
- (d) Any remedial action taken

The Complaint log will be available at all times for inspection in the Site Office.

Notices shall be placed on the premises, and at all entrances and exits, reminding customers to respect local neighbours

Litter patrols shall be undertaken during the course of any event and up to, and including the day after any event

~~Noise' from the premises must not be 'audible or discernible' within any occupied permanent structure where people normally reside or sleep, when assessed with windows and doors closed. 'In this conditions; 'Noise' is defined as sound which is created by entertainment consisting of either vocal (recorded or live) or instrumental music (recorded or live) or a combination of both. Audible or discernible' is defined as 'noise' which is distinct above the general hubbub of activity on the site which can be identified by the human ear as originating from discrete sources from the licensed premises'~~



xxiii OTG Plan. proposed changes - Amended 18/03/2026



