

Title of report: Application for a variation of a premises licence in respect of 'The Crown Inn, Lea, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire. HR9 7JZ – Licensing Act 2003.

Meeting: Licensing sub-committee

Meeting date: Thursday 13 March 2025 at 10:00am

Report by: Senior Licensing Technical Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

Penyard

Purpose

To consider an application for a variation for a premises licence in respect of The Crown Inn, Lea, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire. HR9 7JZ under the Licensing Act 2003

Recommendation(s)

That:

The sub committee determine the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community. They should give appropriate weight to:

- a) The steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives,
- b) The representations (including supporting information) presented by all parties,
- c) The guidance issued to local authorities under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003, and
- d) The Herefordshire Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2020 – 2025.

Reasons for Recommendations

Ensures compliance with the Licensing Act 2003

Alternative options

1. There are a number of options open to the sub-committee:
 - a) Grant the licence subject to conditions that are consistent with the operating schedule accompanying the application and the mandatory conditions set out in the Licensing Act 2003,
 - b) Grant the licence subject to modified conditions to that of the operating schedule where the sub-committee considers it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and add mandatory conditions set out in the Licensing Act 2003,
 - c) To exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities to which the application relates
 - d) To refuse to specify a person in the licence as the premise supervisor, or
 - e) To refuse the application

Key considerations

Licence Application

2. The application for the variation of a premises licence has received relevant representations and is therefore brought before the sub-committee for determination.
3. Herefordshire Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2020 to 2025 states "All representations must be 'relevant', for example they must be about the likely effect of the grant of the application". This followed paragraph 8.57 in the s182 Guidance which uses the same wording.
4. The details of the application are:

Applicant	Rose Savidge & Mark Savidge	
Agent	Not applicable	
Type of application: Grant	Date received: 17 January 2025 28 day consultation started: 18 January 2025	28 Days consultation ended: 15 February 2025

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Summary of Application

5. The application (appendix 1) requests the variation of a premises licence to allow the following licensable activities, during the hours shown, as follows:

Sale/Supply of Alcohol (consumption on the premises)

Sunday – Thursday 10:00-23:00
 Friday and Saturday 10:00-01:00
 New Year’s Eve 10:00- 02:00

Revised layout of pub and gardens (which includes the addition of an outside bar and areas for consumption of alcohol)

No other changes to the licensable activities

NB: It was noted that the newspaper advertisement did not include the full details of the variation and the reference to the outside bar area was omitted from the notices, therefore this part of the application was withdrawn by the applicant.

Current Licence

A copy of the current licence is attached at Appendix 2. It authorises

Sale/Supply of Alcohol (consumption on the premises)

On weekdays, other than Christmas Day, Good Friday or New Year’s Eve, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.
 On Sundays, other than Christmas Day or New Year’s Eve, 12 noon to 10.30 p.m.
 On Good Friday, 12 noon to 10.30 p.m.
 On Christmas Day, 12 noon to 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.
 On New Year’s Eve from the end of permitted hours on New Year’s Eve to the start of permitted hours on the following day (or, if there are no permitted hours on the following day, midnight on 31st December).

Summary of Representations

6. Two (2) representations were received from the responsible authorities, Trading Standards and The Licensing Authority as a responsible authority. The conditions requested have been agreed by the applicant. (Appendix 3). The conditions agreed include; the requirement of CCTV, an incident log, staff training, no admission to new customers after 23:30hrs, Challenge 25, refusals register, signage requesting customers to leave quietly, speakers within the premises shall be directed away from any residential property, no loud speakers in the external area after 23:00hrs and a curfew on when the outside areas can be used.

7. Seven (7) relevant representations were received from members of the public that the licensing authority accepted as being relevant and can be found at Appendix 4 The representations are in relation to noise nuisance at the premises, increased traffic issues and a mention of wildlife.

NB: The Licensing Sub-Committee cannot consider increased traffic or wildlife issues in determining the application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.

Premises History

8. The premises has been licenced since 2006
9. Since 2006, the Licensing Authority has received three (3) Transfer Applications. The latest one being on 30 October 2023 (as shown at Appendix 2).
10. The Licensing Authority has also received three (3) applications to Vary Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) since first being licenced in 2006.
11. The premises licence currently does not have a DPS, therefore no sale of alcohol can take place until there is a DPS who holds a personal licence is in place and application approved by the Licensing Authority and no objection received from West Mercia Police.

Community impact

12. Any decision may have an impact on the local community.

Environmental Impact

13. This report is in relation to a premises license under the Licensing Act 2003 and as such there are minimal environmental impacts for the council, as licensing authority.

Equality duty

14. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

15. There are no equality issues in relation to the content of this report.
16. This report has human rights implications for both the premises licence holder and the residents from the local neighbourhood. Any of the steps outlined in section 1 of this report may have financial implications for a licensee's business and livelihood and/or may have impact upon the day to day lives of residents living in close proximity to the premises.
17. Article 8(i) of the European Convention of Human Rights provides that everyone has the right to respect for his/her private and family life and his/her home (which includes business premises). This right may be interfered with by the council on a number of grounds including the protection of rights and freedoms of others. The First Protocol – Article 1 – also provides that every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions and shall not be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and conditions provided for by law. Members must accordingly make a decision which is proportionate to the hearing and endeavour to find a balance between the rights of the applicant, residents and the community as a whole.

Resource implications

18. This report is in relation to a premises license under the Licensing Act 2003 and as such there are minimal resource implications for the council, as Licensing Authority.

Financial implications

19. There are unlikely to be any financial implications for the council, as Licensing Authority at this time.

Legal implications

20. As relevant representations have been received, the sub committee must determine the application under Section 3.5.7 (c) of the Herefordshire Council constitution. The representations must relate to the licensing objectives and the sub committee must determine the likely effect of the grant of the premises licences on the promotion of the licensing objectives.
21. The Licensing Authority must have regard to the promotion of the four licensing objectives namely; the prevention of crime and disorder; public safety; the prevention of public nuisance; and the protection of children from harm in exercising its functions under the Licensing Act 2003. Further regard should be had to the statutory guidance under Section 182 of the Act and the Council's own statement of licensing policy. The options available to the Licensing Authority are set out in section 1 of this report.
22. The sub committee should be aware of a number of stated cases which have appeared before the Administrative Court and are binding on the Licensing Authority.
23. The case of Daniel Thwaites Plc v Wirral Borough Magistrates' Court (Case No: CO/5533/2006) at the High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division Administrative Court on 6 May 2008, [2008] EWHC 838 (Admin), 2008 WL 1968943, Before the Honourable Mrs Justice Black. In this case it was summed up that: -

24. A Licensing Authority must have regard to guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182. Licensing authorities may depart from it if they have reason to do so but will need to give full reasons for their actions.
25. Furthermore the Thwaites case established that only conditions should be attached to a licence with a view to promoting the Licensing objectives and that 'real evidence' must be presented to support the reason for imposing these conditions.
26. This judgment is further supported in the case of *The Queen on the Application of Bristol Council v Bristol Magistrates' Court*, CO/6920/2008 High Court of Justice Queen's Bench Division The Administrative Court, 24 February 2009, [2009] EWHC 625 (Admin) 2009 WL 648859 in which it was said:

'Licensing authorities should only impose conditions which are necessary and proportionate for the promotion for licensing objectives'.
27. In addition to this it was stated that any condition attached to the licence should be an enforceable condition.

Right of Appeal

28. Schedule 5 Part 1 of the Licensing Act 2003 gives a right of appeal which states:
Variation of licence under section 35.
 - (1) This paragraph applies where an application to vary a premises licence is (in whole or in part) under section 35.
 - (2) The applicant may appeal against any decision to modify the conditions of the licence under subsection (4)(a) of that section. —
 - (3) Where a person who made relevant representations in relation to the application desires to contend—
 - (a) that any variation made ought not to have been made, or
 - (b) that, when varying the licence, the licensing authority ought not to have modified the conditions of the licence, or ought to have modified them in a different way, under subsection (4)(a) of that section he may appeal against the decision
 - (4) In sub-paragraph (3) "relevant representations" has the meaning given in section 35(5).
29. Appeals should be made to the Magistrates Court and must be made within 21 days beginning with the day on which the appellant was notified by the licensing authority of the decision appealed against

Risk management

30. There is little risk associated with the decision at this time as the legislation allows a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court within a period of 21 days of being notified of the decision in writing.

Consultees

31. All responsible authorities and members of the public living within Herefordshire.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Application Form

Appendix 2 – Current Premises Licence

Appendix 3 – Agreed responsible authority conditions

Appendix 4 – Public Representations

Background papers

None Identified

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

DPS: Designated Premises Supervisor