



Title of report: Application for a variation of a premises licence in respect of Hereford Rugby Club, Wyeseide, Belvedere Lane, Hereford, HR4 0PH– Licensing Act 2003.

Meeting: Licensing sub-committee

Meeting date: Friday 30 May 2025 at 14:00hrs

Report by: Senior Licensing Technical Officer

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

Hereford - Greyfriars

Purpose

To consider an application for a variation for a premises licence in respect of Hereford Rugby Club, Wyeseide, Belvedere Lane, Hereford, HR4 0PH 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 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	Hereford Rugby Football Club Ltd	
Agent	The Licensing Guys	
Type of application: Grant	Date received: 2 April 2025 28 day consultation started: 3 April 2025	28 Days consultation ended: 30 April 2025

Summary of Application

5. The application (appendix 1) requests the variation of a premises licence to allow the following
- 1) Extend Licensed Area to include a pitch-side bar and outdoor areas – new plans provided
 - 2) Extend licensed hours to include Sale of Alcohol (on and off the premises): Friday-Saturday to 10:00 – 02:00hrs

Live & Recorded Music: Friday-Saturday: 12:00 – 02:00hrs and Sunday 12:00 – 23:00hrs
Late Night Refreshment: Friday-Saturday 23:00 – 02:00hrs

NB. All OUTDOOR licensable activities will end no later than 23:00hrs.
 - 3) Enhance the licence with additional conditions.

Current Licence

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

Live Music & Recorded Music (Indoors)

Monday – Thursday 12:00 – 23:00

Friday – Saturday 12:00 – 23:59

Late Night Refreshment (Indoors/Outdoors)

Friday – Saturday 23:00 – 23:59

Sale/Supply of Alcohol (consumption on and off the premises)

Sunday – Thursday 10:00 – 23:00

Friday – Saturday 10:00 – 23:59

Non-Standard Timings

Terminal Hour extended to 01:00hrs on Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, Valentine's Day, Bank Holidays, and Sundays preceding Bank Holiday Mondays.

Summary of Representations

6. No representations were received from the Responsible Authorities.
7. 36 relevant representations were received from members of the public that the Licensing Authority accepted as being relevant and can be found at Appendix 3. The representations are mainly in relation to noise nuisance at the premises and traffic issues.
- NB: The Licensing Sub-Committee cannot consider increased traffic, parking issues or wildlife issues in determining the application in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003.*
8. Eight (8) representations received from members of the public were rejected by the Licensing Authority as not being relevant as they did not address the likely effect of the grant of the application would have in relation to the licensing objectives.

Premises History

9. The premises applied for a grant of a premises licence in May 2021. The application received relevant representation and therefore was brought before the Licensing Sub-Committee on 14 July 2021 for determination. The representations received related to potential noise nuisance at the premises.
10. The decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee on 14 July 2021 was to adjourn to allow for a site visit to take place on 6 August 2021. The application was then heard again on 17 August 2021.
11. The decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee on 17 August 2021 can be found at Appendix 4 and stated in order to promote the licensing objectives, specifically the prevention of public nuisance, the sub-committee decided to grant the licence as requested but with a modification to the hours on Fridays and Saturdays. This modification was a terminal hour of 23:59 as stated at Appendix 2.
12. The Licensing Authority has also received one (1) application to Vary Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS) since first being licenced. This was granted in September 2022.

Community impact

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

Environmental Impact

14. 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

15. 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.
16. There are no equality issues in relation to the content of this report.
 17. 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.
 18. 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

19. 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

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

Legal implications

21. 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.
22. 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.
23. 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.
24. 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: -
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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'.

28. In addition to this it was stated that any condition attached to the licence should be an enforceable condition.

Right of Appeal

29. 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).
30. 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

31. 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

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

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Application Form
Appendix 2 – Current Premises Licence
Appendix 3 – Public Representations
Appendix 4 – Decision Notice 17 August 2021

Background papers

None Identified

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

DPS: Designated Premises Supervisor