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## NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

### LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM  
ON TUESDAY, 16TH JUNE, 2026 AT 10.00 AM

#### MINUTES

**Present:** *Councillors: Elizabeth Dennis (Chair), Daniel Allen, Bryony May and Steven Patmore.*

**In Attendance:** *Robert Filby (Committee, Member and Scrutiny Officer), Melanie Gillespie (Licensing Officer), Jamie Graham (Democratic Services Apprentice), Megan Harvey (Senior Licensing Officer) and Dimple Roopchand (Legal Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer).*

**Also Present:** *At the commencement of the meeting 6 members of the public, including registered speakers.*

#### 10 ELECTION OF A CHAIR

Councillor Steven Patmore proposed and Councillor Daniel Allen seconded and, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Elizabeth Dennis be appointed as Chair for this meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

#### 11 ELECTION OF A RESERVE MEMBER

Councillor Daniel Allen proposed and Councillor Steven Patmore seconded and, it was:

**RESOLVED:** That Councillor Bryony May be appointed as Reserve Member for this meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee.

#### 12 HEARING PROCEDURE

The Sub-Committee noted the hearing procedure.

#### 13 PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF GEORGE & DRAGON

The Licensing Officer presented the report entitled 'Application by Green King Brewing and Retailing Ltd for the Grant of a Premises Licence in respect of George & Dragon, High Street, Graveley, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 7LE'.

The report together with questions and submissions from the Applicant and their Representatives, and the Other Persons, as well as advice from the Legal Advisor, was considered.

#### 14 DECISION NOTICE

The agreed decision notice is attached as part of the Minutes of this meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.45 am

Chair

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## Decision Notice

Date of Hearing	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Members of Panel	Councillors - Cllr Elizabeth Dennis (Chair), Cllr Steven Patmore, Cllr Daniel Allen  Reserve Member – Cllr Bryony May,
Premises Licence Holder(s) Name	George & Dragon
Premises Address	High Street, Graveley, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 7LE
Date of Application	22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2026
<b>APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF THE PREMISES LICENCE</b>	<p>This is an application for the grant of a Premises Licence under Section 17 of the Licensing Act 2003.</p> <p>The Sub-Committee has read the material presented to it. The Sub-Committee has considered the National Guidance and the Statement of Licensing Policy and has come to the following decision:</p> <p>The Sub-Committee has decided to grant the premises licence subject to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The condition agreed between the Applicant and Environmental Protection as set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report.</li> </ul>
<b>LICENSABLE ACTIVITY TIMINGS</b>	<p><b>Live and Recorded Music: Indoors</b></p> <p>Mon – Thurs 08:00 – 23:00            Fri – Sat 08:00 – 00:00            Sunday 08:00 – 23:00</p> <p><u>Seasonal variations</u> with non-standard timings from the end of permitted hours on New Years Eve to the start of permitted hours on New Years Day for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, Good Friday, Easter Saturday/Sunday/Monday, the Sunday &amp; Monday of all other Bank Holidays from 08:00 to 01:00 the following morning for licensable activities closing at 01:30.</p> <p><b>Supply of Alcohol (on and off the premises)</b></p> <p>Mon – Wed: 08:00 – 23:30            Thurs: 08:00 – 00:30            Fri – Sat: 08:00 – 01:00            Sunday: 08:00 – 23:30</p> <p><u>Seasonal variations</u> with non-standard timings from the end of permitted hours on New Years Eve to the start of permitted hours on</p>

	<p>New Years Day for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, Good Friday, Easter Saturday/Sunday/Monday, the Sunday &amp; Monday of all other Bank Holidays from 08:00 to 01:00 the following morning for licensable activities closing at 01:30.</p> <p>To allow for the showing of major sporting events involving England men’s or women’s teams to be shown and alcohol sold up to 1 hour prior to the commencement of the sporting event and finishing 30 minutes after the sporting event (where such times fall outside of the ordinary operating set out above). Notice of any such events under this condition to be given to the Police licensing team a minimum of 7 days’ notice in advance of the event taking place.</p> <p><b>Late Night Refreshments (Indoors)</b>  Mon – Wed: 23:00 – 23:30  Thurs: 23:00 – 00:30  Fri – Sat: 23:00 – 01:00  Sunday: 23:00 – 23:30</p> <p><u>Seasonal variations</u> with non-standard timings from the end of permitted hours on New Years Eve to the start of permitted hours on New Years Day for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day, Good Friday, Easter Saturday/Sunday/Monday, the Sunday &amp; Monday of all other Bank Holidays from 08:00 to 01:00 the following morning for licensable activities closing at 01:30.</p>
<p><b>EFFECT OF FAILING TO COMPLY WITH CONDITIONS EXPLAINED TO APPLICANT</b></p>	<p>The effect of failure to comply with any of the conditions attached to the licence or certificate is a criminal offence, which upon conviction, would result in an unlimited fine or up to six months imprisonment or both.</p>
<p><b>STATUTORY GUIDANCE CONSIDERATIONS</b></p>	<p>The Sub-Committee has considered the Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (February 2026 version) in reaching its decision it has found the following sections to be of particular relevance in reaching this decision:</p> <p><b>Sections</b>  1.3; 1.4; 1.5; 1.16; 1.17; 2.21; 2.26; 8.47; 9.3; 9.9; 9.37; 9.38; 9.42; 9.43; 9.44, 10.9</p>
<p><b>LICENSING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS</b></p>	<p>The Sub-Committee has considered the North Hertfordshire District Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy in reaching its decision. They have found the following sections to be of particular relevance in reaching this decision.</p> <p><b>Sections</b>  D2.1; D2.4; D2.9; D6.2; D6.3; E3.1.1; E.3.9.1; E3.9.2; O1.1; O4.1.4; O4.2.6; O4.7.1; O4.7.2</p>

<b>RATIONALE FOR DECISION</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In coming to its decision, the Sub-Committee has had regard to the application, the representations and the Applicant's response to the representations presented at the hearing. The Sub-Committee aims to strike a healthy balance between the application and the promotion of the licensing objectives.</li> <li>2. The Sub Committee is mindful that the Other Persons do not object in principle to the application, however the objections raised are not a reason to refuse a licence where there is insufficient evidence to support the representations.</li> <li>3. In addressing the prevention of public nuisance and the crime and disorder licensing objective, Members have taken a balanced approach and have considered the representations submitted. The Sub Committee is satisfied that the conditions noted in the operating schedule and that agreed between the Applicant and Environmental Protection &amp; Housing Officer will sufficiently promote the licensing objectives to minimise the concerns surrounding the prevention of public nuisance in respect of noise from the licensed premises. There was insufficient evidence before the Sub Committee to support the crime and disorder licensing objective being undermined.</li> <li>4. The Sub Committee had regard to the Other Persons' request for a condition to be added to the licence to limit the number of events held at the premises. There was, however, no evidence presented before the Sub Committee which indicated that such a condition was necessary to support the promotion of the licensing objectives.</li> </ol>
<b>COMMENCEMENT DATE</b>	<p>This decision will come into effect from the end of the period for appealing the decision (21 days starting tomorrow) or, if the decision is appealed, the point at which the appeal has been dealt with by the Magistrates' Court.</p>
<b>RIGHTS OF REVIEW</b>	<p>At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence, a responsible authority, such as the Police, or any other person, such as a resident living in the vicinity of the premises, may ask the licensing authority to review the licence because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives. The review is a request for the Council to look at the existing licence and decide</p>

	<p>whether its conditions are adequate to meet the four licensing objectives defined under the Licensing Act 2003.</p> <p>Ordinarily, a further review would need to focus on matters at the premises following this review, it should not be used to re-visit issues raised at today's hearing.</p> <p>The licensing authority can refuse a further review on the grounds that it is repetitious.</p>
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