

LICENSING AND APPEALS SUB-COMMITTEE
Wednesday 18 April 2018

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

AGENDA ITEM No.

LICENSING ACT 2003

**APPLICATION BY RICHARD MASKELL
FOR THE GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF
POPLARS FARM, ROE GREEN, SANDON, HERTFORDSHIRE, SG9 0QG.**

REPORT OF THE LICENSING OFFICER

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 No premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003 ("the Act") is currently in place for the proposed venue.
- 1.2 The applicant ran a smaller version of the proposed event in September 2017 under the use of three temporary events notices.

2. APPLICATION

- 2.1 The application is for the grant of a premises licence under section 17 of the Act.
- 2.2 The original licensable activities, hours applied for and supporting documentation are attached as **Appendix A**.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

- 3.1 On 21 February 2018, Richard Maskell made an application for the grant of a premises licence.
- 3.2 The application was received electronically so copies were served by the Council to Hertfordshire Constabulary and the other responsible authorities.
- 3.3 A public notice was displayed on the premises for a period of not less than twenty-eight (28) consecutive days in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
- 3.4 A newspaper advertisement was placed in The Hertfordshire Mercury in accordance with the requirements of the Act.
- 3.5 Hertfordshire Constabulary had initial concerns with the application and entered into negotiations with the applicant during the consultation period. The applicant subsequently amended the application to include additional operating schedule conditions which resolved the officer's concerns. The amendments made following negotiations with Hertfordshire Constabulary are attached as **Appendix B**.
- 3.6 NHDC Environmental Protection had initial concerns with the application and entered into negotiations with the applicant during the consultation period. The applicant subsequently amended the application to include additional

operating schedule conditions which resolved the officer's concerns. The amendments made following negotiations with the environmental protection officer are attached as **Appendix C**.

- 3.7 NHDC Environmental Health had initial concerns with the application and entered into negotiations with the applicant during the consultation period. The applicant subsequently amended the application to include additional operating schedule conditions which resolved the officer's concerns. The amendments made following negotiations with the environmental health officer are attached as **Appendix D**.
- 3.8 Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue had initial concerns with the application and entered into negotiations with the applicant during the consultation period. The applicant subsequently amended the application to include additional operating schedule conditions which resolved the officer's concerns. The amendments made following negotiations with Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue are attached as **Appendix E**.
- 3.9 Due to some overlap in conditions from the different responsible authorities, to assist the sub-committee, a summary of all agreed conditions is attached as **Appendix F**. The sub-committee should consider the relevant representations against the original application including all of these conditions.

4. REPRESENTATIONS

- 4.1 No representation was received from Hertfordshire Constabulary following amendments to the application to incorporate additional conditions.
- 4.2 No representations were received from any other responsible authorities following amendments to the application to incorporate additional conditions.
- 4.3 Seventy-nine (79) representations objecting to the application were received from 'other persons' but five (5) were deemed as not relevant in their entirety. The remaining seventy-four (74) are attached as **Appendix G**.
- 4.4 A petition was received containing one hundred and fifty eight (158) signatures in objection to the application based on a list of relevant reasons listed at the top of each page. Ten (10) of the signatures have been deemed not relevant as no specific address has been included and five (5) signatures have been deemed not relevant as there were no relevant reasons at the top of that page. The remaining one hundred and forty three (143) signatures are relevant however the sub-committee should have regard to how much weight they apportion to these signatures (see licensing officer comments). The petition is included within **Appendix G**.
- 4.5 Eighty-seven (87) representations supporting the application were received from 'other persons' but sixteen (16) were deemed as not relevant in their entirety. The remaining seventy-one (71) are attached as **Appendix H**.
- 4.6 The Councils Scheme of Delegation requires the licensing officer to determine whether a representation is relevant as specified within the Act. Where representations include paragraphs that are not relevant to the Act, these paragraphs have been clearly crossed through and marked as '*not relevant*' by the licensing officer and should not be considered as part of the determination process. **Other persons must not refer to these paragraphs in any oral presentation at the hearing.**

- 4.7 Where the licensing officer has determined that the representations are relevant, it is for the sub-committee to determine what weight to apportion to each representation.
- 4.8 The applicant has been served with a copy of all representations by way of this report.
- 4.9 The applicant, and the 'other persons' making relevant representations have been invited to attend the hearing to present their cases respectively. They have been advised that they may be legally represented and of the hearing procedure.

5. OBSERVATIONS

- 5.1 In determining this application, the sub-committee must have regard to the representations and take such steps, as it considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 5.2 In making its decision, the sub-committee must act with a view to promoting the licensing objectives. It must also have regard to the licensing authority's Statement of Licensing Policy and National Guidance.
- 5.3 The sub-committee has the following options when issuing the Decision Notice:
- i) Grant the application as made
 - ii) Grant the application with conditions and/or amendments to the licensable activities and/or timings (conditions should only be added where they are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives).
 - iii) Refuse the application.

6. LICENSING POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The following paragraphs from the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2016 may be relevant to this application. This section does not prevent the sub-committee from considering other paragraphs of the Statement of Licensing Policy where they deem it appropriate:

B6

Our vision is:

"To ensure that North Hertfordshire continues to offer a diverse range of well managed entertainment venues and community and cultural activities within a safe and enjoyable environment."

B7

The Council is committed to the continued promotion of the diverse cultural and community activities within the district and providing a safe and sustainable night-time economy for residents and visitors alike. Licensing Policy will be approached with a view to encouraging new and innovative forms of entertainment that promote this vision and are consistent with the four licensing objectives.

B8

The Council encourages greater live music, dance, theatre and other forms of entertainment for the benefit of the community. Where activities require a licence, the Council will seek to balance the potential for disturbance of local residents and businesses against the wider community and cultural benefits.

D1.5

The Council expects applicants to address the licensing objectives in their operating schedule and have due regard to this Policy. To achieve this, the Council supports the principles set out in sections 8.33 – 8.36 of the Statutory Guidance which state:

8.33

In completing an operating schedule, applicants are expected to have regard to the statement of licensing policy for their area. They must also be aware of expectations of the licensing authority and the responsible authorities as to the steps that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, and to demonstrate knowledge of their local area when describing the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives. Licensing authorities and responsible authorities are expected to publish information about what is meant by the promotion of the licensing objectives and to ensure that applicants can readily access advice about these matters. However, applicants are also expected to undertake their own enquiries about the area in which the premises are situated to inform the content of the application.

8.34

Applicants are, in particular, expected to obtain sufficient information to enable them to demonstrate, when setting out the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives, that they understand:

- the layout of the local area and physical environment including crime and disorder hotspots, proximity to local residential premises and proximity to areas where children may congregate;
- any risk posed to the local area by the applicants' proposed licensable activities; and
- any local initiatives (for example, local crime reduction initiatives or voluntary schemes including taxi-marshalling schemes, street pastors and other schemes) which may help to mitigate potential risks.

8.35

Applicants are expected to include positive proposals in their application on how they will manage any potential risks. Where specific policies apply in the area (for example, a cumulative impact policy), applicants are also expected to demonstrate an understanding of how the policy impacts on their application; any measures they will take to mitigate the impact; and why they consider the application should be an exception to the policy.

8.36

It is expected that enquiries about the locality will assist applicants when determining the steps that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. For example, premises with close proximity to residential premises should consider what effect this will have on their smoking, noise management and dispersal policies to ensure the promotion of the public nuisance objective. Applicants must consider all factors which may be relevant to the promotion of the licensing objectives, and where there are no known concerns, acknowledge this in their application.

D1.6

Applicants should be aware that if they fail to have due regard to this Policy it is more likely that the licensing authority or responsible authorities may deem it appropriate to make a representation. If representations are made as a result of the applicants' failure to address this Policy in its operating schedule, the Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee may take this into consideration when determining the application.

D1.8

Whilst there is no requirement for applicants to consult with the responsible authorities prior to submitting an application the Council encourages pre-application dialogue to take place.

D2.1

Each licence application will be decided by reference to this Policy, the National Guidance issued by the Secretary of State, relevant legislation and to the individual circumstances of the particular application. The Council may depart from the Policy

where the individual circumstances of any application merit such a decision in the interests of the promotion of the Licensing Objectives. Full reasons will be given for decisions taken by the Council when undertaking its licensing functions.

D2.4

In determining applications, the Council will focus primarily on the direct impact of the proposed activities on persons that may be adversely affected in relation to the licensing objectives. The scope of those persons that may be affected will be determined on a case by case basis taking into account all relevant factors.

D2.5

The Council acknowledges that the licensing process can only seek to impose conditions that are within the direct control of the licence holder. The Council does not consider that the term 'direct control' can be generically defined and will consider its definition relative to the specific circumstances of each application. For example, licensed premises at the end of road leading to a car park may be able to control its patrons leaving the premises and using the car park. In general terms, to be considered to be under the 'direct control' of a licence holder, there will need to be a direct causal link between the problems or likely problems and the specific premises.

D2.6

Where problems with a direct causal link to premises exist in relation to the promotion of the licensing objectives but they cannot be mitigated by the imposition of appropriate conditions, a Licensing Sub-Committee will seriously consider refusal of the application. For example, patrons from a licensed premise that are causing disorder in a town centre after leaving the premises cannot be controlled by conditions, however the problem may be resolved by the refusal of the application or revocation of the licence.

D2.8

The Council recognises that the exercise of its licensing function is only one of a number of means of securing the promotion of the licensing objectives. The exercise, by the Council, of its licensing function should not be seen as a panacea for all problems within the community. The Council will encourage co-operation between its licensing function, planning function and environmental health functions to ensure that any problems are addressed using the most appropriate means and that its licensing function does not duplicate any other statutory responsibilities.

D2.9

The Council will carry out its licensing functions in the promotion of the licensing objectives and, in addition, will support the stated aims of the Act which are as follows:

- (i) protecting the public and local residents from crime, anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance caused by irresponsible licensed premises;
- (ii) giving the police and licensing authorities the powers they need to effectively manage and police the night-time economy and take action against those premises that are causing problems;
- (iii) recognising the important role which pubs and other licensed premises play in our local communities by minimising the regulatory burden on business, encouraging innovation and supporting responsible premises;
- (iv) providing a regulatory framework for alcohol which reflects the needs of local communities and empowers local authorities to make and enforce decisions about the most appropriate licensing strategies for their local area; and
- (v) encouraging greater community involvement in licensing decisions and giving local residents the opportunity to have their say regarding licensing decisions that may affect them.

D6.2

The Council recognises that each application must be considered on its own merits and any conditions attached to licences and certificates must be tailored to the individual style and characteristics of the premises and activities concerned. This is

essential to avoid the imposition of disproportionate and overly burdensome conditions on premises. A standardised approach to imposing conditions must be avoided and conditions will only be lawful where they are deemed appropriate to promote the licensing objectives in response to relevant representations.

D6.3

Conditions will only be imposed when they are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and will focus upon matters within the control of the individual licensee such as the premises, places or events being used for licensable activities or the surrounding areas of the premises, places or events. Conditions are likely to be focused towards the direct impact of those activities on persons living in, working in or visiting areas affected by, or likely to be affected by, those activities.

D6.7

The Council strongly believes that a carefully considered operating schedule that fully considers the impact of the proposed activities in relation to the promotion of the licensing objectives, having regard to this Policy and the Guidance, is less likely to result in the imposition of conditions by a Licensing Sub-Committee following representations.

D6.8

It is the Council's view that the imposition of conditions should be restricted to those that are proportionate in addressing any concerns in relation to the promotion of the licensing objectives. Conditions should not be used as a tool to attempt to mitigate every possible scenario; this will serve only to place undue burden on applicants and is not consistent with the general principles of the Guidance.

D6.9

Operating schedules and licence conditions should be drafted in such a way that it is clear to licence holders exactly what is required of them and these requirements should be concise and well-worded to assist the licence holder in managing their premises. The Council is strongly of the view that the imposition of a substantial list of conditions in order to grant an application calls into question the suitability of the applicant to hold a licence. Where a Licensing Sub-Committee determines that it is appropriate to impose a substantial list of conditions to the extent that they are effectively determining the day-to-day management of the premises, they will give serious consideration to refusing the application.

D8.1

The Council recognises the need to encourage and promote live music, dancing and theatre for the wider cultural benefit of the community.

D8.2

Only appropriate, proportionate and reasonable licensing conditions will be imposed on licences so as not to discourage the promotion of entertainment. Conditions will relate to the minimum needed to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives.

D8.3

The Council will ordinarily avoid any measure which deters live music, dancing and theatre by imposing indirect costs of a substantial nature (for example, noise limiting devices for smaller or community premises). The Council acknowledges, however, that on occasions the imposition of appropriate conditions with cost implications may be the only alternative to refusing an application where there is sufficient evidence in relation to the effect, or likely effect on the licensing objectives.

E2.1

The Council recognises that the public safety objective is concerned with the physical safety of the people using the relevant premises and not with public health, which is dealt with in other legislation. Physical safety includes the prevention of accidents and injuries and other immediate harms that can result from alcohol consumption such as unconsciousness or alcohol poisoning.

E2.4.1

"Safe capacities" should only be imposed on licences where necessary for the promotion of public safety or the prevention of disorder. If a capacity has been imposed through other legislation it would be unnecessary to reproduce it as a licence condition. It would also be wrong to impose conditions that conflict with other legislation. If no safe capacity has been imposed by other legislation, however, a responsible authority may consider it necessary for a new capacity to be attached. For example, a capacity limit may be necessary to prevent disorder as overcrowded premises can increase the risk of crowds becoming frustrated and hostile.

E2.7.1

The Council expects premises licence holders and applicants to undertake a public safety risk assessment to ensure the safety of persons using their premises. The assessment should consider issues such as, but not limited to:

- safe capacities in identifiable areas of the premises that can be evacuated quickly in the case of an emergency*
- policies in relation to persons wishing to smoke at the premises, including provision of identified areas and separation from admission queues*
- policies in relation to admission and readmission particularly control of capacity and queuing*
- policies in relation to the safe dispersal of patrons from the premises and locality*
- sufficient basic first aid provision and responsibilities for contacting the emergency services.*

E3.1.1

Licensed premises may have significant potential to impact adversely on communities through public nuisances that arise from their operation. The Council interprets 'public nuisance' in its widest sense and takes it to include such things as noise, light, odour, litter and anti-social behaviour, where matters arising at licensed premises impact on those living, working or otherwise engaged in activities in the locality. Ordinarily, the Council's Environmental Protection & Housing Team, in their role as a responsible authority, would take the lead in respect of nuisance issues.

E3.3.1

This may include noise and disturbance from customers on the premises and customers in outdoor areas such as terraces, beer gardens and smoking areas. It will also include noise, disturbance and obstruction from customers in the vicinity of premises smoking and/or drinking and customers arriving at, leaving or queuing outside premises. Measures to prevent a public nuisance may include, but are not limited to:

- use of time restrictions on specified areas of the premises (different times can apply to different areas);*
- cessation of the use of certain areas of the premises;*
- supervision of outdoor areas, entrances and exits;*
- suitably worded, clear and prominent signage;*
- restriction of seating in outdoor areas of the premises;*
- restriction of times that drinks can be taken in specified outdoor areas of the premises;*
- restriction of the number of customers permitted in specified outdoor areas of the premises, including time.*

E3.8.1

Measures to prevent a public nuisance may include:

- entering into a waste contract agreement;*
- provision of external litter bins for customers;*
- regular litter picks in the immediate surrounding area of the premises.*

E3.8.2

The Council is aware that it would be unreasonable and disproportionate to require licence holders to be responsible for littering associated with their products when patrons have gone beyond their control. The Council will, however, expect licence holders to take responsibility for ensuring that the immediate surrounding area is regularly cleared of litter associated with their business operation.

E3.9.1

The Council is fully aware of the nuisance that can be caused by poorly managed or inappropriately located premises, however will seek to strike an appropriate balance with its vision of promoting a diverse and vibrant night-time economy.

E3.9.2

The provision of well-managed and controlled entertainment will be encouraged to promote the vision, however the potential disturbance to residents and businesses will need to have been adequately considered by applicants as part of their operating schedule

E4.1

The Council recognises that the protection of children from harm objective relates primarily to children accessing or using licensed premises, or being exposed to activities taking place without having to access the premises (for example, underage alcohol sales, exposure to performances or advertising of an adult nature whether within or outside a premises).

F4.1

In order to avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes the Council will not, as far as reasonably possible, attach conditions to licences unless they are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and inadequately covered by other legislation. Ordinarily, conditions will be considered unnecessary if they are already adequately covered by other legislation.

F4.2

Notwithstanding the above, it is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure that they have all necessary consents, whether statutory or otherwise, and it should not be assumed that an authorisation under the Licensing Act 2003 removes this responsibility.

F4.3

The decision of one statutory authority (for example, the licensing authority or the planning authority) is no indication of the likely decision of the other. Indeed, statutory authorities may make representations to each other under each authority's legislation.

F8.1

The Council acknowledges that conditions cannot be imposed on an authorisation where it would be either impracticable or impossible for the licence holder to comply with such conditions when customers have left the premises and are beyond the control of the licence holder.

F8.2

That said, if behaviour of customers beyond the control of the licence holder can be causally linked to a specific premises and it is causing crime and disorder or a nuisance it is wrong to assume that the Act cannot address this; section 4 of the Act gives the Council a positive duty to deal with it proportionately. Whilst conditions would be inappropriate in these scenarios, the Council is strongly of the view that activities and/or operating times of an authorisation should be restricted, or an authorisation refused or revoked, where appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

F8.3

The Council recognises that initiatives are available that assist with calming or reducing the incidences of disorder or nuisance as customers leave a premises and expects these to be fully considered in the operating schedule.

G1.1

This section of the Policy deals with events with an intended capacity of five hundred and above. Capacities below that figure can be dealt with ordinarily by way of a temporary event notice which applies a 'light touch' approach to licensing, however, this does not preclude an application for a premises licence/club premises certificate.

G1.2

This section is to be read in conjunction with and supplementary to all others sections of the Policy.

G1.3

This section of the Policy is designed to assist applicants, responsible authorities, the public and Licensing Sub-Committees with applications in relation to large-scale events provided outdoors. Events such as music festivals, community fun days, etc. which take place on land open to the air but with the use of temporary demountable structures are considered to be outdoor events for the purposes of this Policy.

G2.2

These events have significant potential to considerably undermine the promotion of the licensing objectives, due to their sheer size, complexity and the potential implications for the planning of a safe event. The Council strongly believes that this risk can only be adequately mitigated by the early submission of an up to date and detailed operating schedule that is specific to the proposed event on each separate occasion.

G2.3

The Council acknowledges that it is inherent in the Act that responsible authorities and other persons should be given the opportunity to make representations related to the nature of the individual event which is planned. The potential for adverse effects on the promotion of the licensing objectives can vary significantly between events, even when similar events are held on a regular basis. In order to support the promotion of the licensing objectives, the Council believes that responsible authorities have a role in ensuring the safety of every large scale event, in particular when annual or multiple events are held under a single permanent premises licence.

G2.6

Sites for large occasional events are not usually purpose built for the variety of licensable activities that can take place, therefore there is considerable work involved before, during and after such events in planning and organising the event as well as co-ordinating and ensuring the full involvement of all the emergency services to ensure a safe and well managed event. The Council believes that this can only be adequately achieved by the full and ongoing involvement of the licensing authority and responsible authorities in liaising with the applicant, whilst they are compiling the operating schedule for each individual event.

G2.11

The Council has therefore adopted the following policy that will apply to large scale events when relevant representations have been made and the application is referred to a Licensing Sub-Committee for determination:

- (i) In respect of an application for a one-off, time-specific or permanent licence/certificate for the holding of occasional and/or large scale events the Council will consider, amongst other matters, whether the operating schedule:
 - (a) defines the events proposed with sufficient certainty to enable responsible authorities and the Council to adequately consider the risks to the licensing objectives arising from the event; and**

- (b) *defines the measures proposed to avert those risks with sufficient certainty to enable responsible authorities and the Council to make a balanced judgment as to whether the measures will be sufficient to mitigate those risks.*
- (ii) *The Council will generally require a high degree of certainty before deciding that the operating schedule fulfils this requirement, but will decide that matter on the individual merits of each case.*
- (iii) *In cases where the Council determines that the operating schedule is not drafted with sufficient certainty, the application will normally be refused, save in exceptional circumstances. It is unlikely that the circumstances will be considered exceptional unless the applicant gives assurances and safeguards that the licensing objectives will be met despite the lack of certainty in the operating schedule and suitable conditions can be imposed on the licence to mitigate this risk.*
- (iv) *In cases where the Council determines that the operating schedule is drafted with sufficient certainty then, in determining the application, the Council will consider any relevant risks arising from the temporary nature of the events proposed in the application in relation to the promotion of the licensing objectives.*

G4.1

The Council is aware that responsible authorities, and sometimes other persons, often engage with applicants prior to submission of an application until sometimes after an event has taken place. This concept is referred to in the Guidance, as it would assist in promoting the licensing objectives by fostering a partnership approach. The Council supports this concept, but with an additional caveat. Prior to such engagement, applicants are expected to consider, and to make reference in their operating schedule to:

- (i) *relevant technical advice from any professionals they employ/involve in the planning of the event (such as Health & Safety Consultants, Event Management Companies, etc.);*
- (ii) *relevant National Guidance (such as The Event Safety Guide, MUTA's Best Practice Guide, etc.); and*
- (iii) *relevant professional advice from agencies that are not responsible authorities under the Act (such as the Highways Authority, local transport providers, medical service providers, etc.)*

G4.2

The Council's reasons for this policy principle are the following:

- (i) *The demands on the responsible authorities can be disproportionate to their resources, particularly in light of the Council's policy of encouraging cultural activities such as music, dancing and theatre. This may place undue pressure on such bodies, undermining the level of scrutiny of such applications.*
- (ii) *It must be considered that the legal responsibilities connected to holding such events rests primarily with the organiser and land owner. Where an application does not contain reference to such guidance and expertise, statutory bodies may be placed in an untenable position where they may be open to litigation due to the level of input/advice they may have to provide, and by implication may have taken an inappropriate degree of legal responsibility/liability in connection with the event. The Council believes it is pertinent, therefore, to attempt to avoid such a problem arising.*

- (iii) *Where an applicant does not consider such advice and guidance before making an application, this can place responsible authorities and/or other persons in a difficult position due to the fact that many aspects of an application may be lacking and it may not allow full and proper consideration of the proposals during the consultation period. This may undermine their full and proper consideration of an application.*

G5.1

In addition to encouraging applicants for occasional/annual events to apply for a permanent premises licence, the Council actively encourages applicants to build flexibility into their operating schedules. This allows for the event to evolve and incorporate best practice without undo restrictions on the management of the event and the site layout.

G5.2

The Council recommends an operating schedule that contains basic management control conditions that would apply from event to event but with the majority of event management details to be incorporated into an Event Management Plan (EMP). One of the basic management control conditions can then link the final EMP to the operating schedule making it an enforceable operating schedule condition.

G5.3

The content of the EMP can be defined by an operating schedule condition, ordinarily under generic headings, with any specific requirement of a responsible authority included as sub-headings. Varying timescales for each responsible authority and the provision of specified information can be incorporated within the EMP ensuring flexibility for the licence holder to develop the event and react to evolving issues such as ground/weather conditions or the availability of products/service providers.

G5.4

The Council encourages an applicant to include an operating schedule condition stating required timescales for the issue of a draft EMP and the final EMP, ideally a specified number of days prior to the commencement of event build-up on site or the opening of the event to the public. This condition should also include any consequence of the failure to meet this requirement, for example, certain licensable activities are not permitted until compliance has been achieved or the event will not be permitted without the express approval of the licensing authority.

G5.5

This type of EMP operating schedule condition (in effect a 'promise to provide' licence) allows the applicant flexibility to amend the details and layout for each event without the need to vary the premises licence whilst maintaining suitable control measures for the responsible authorities and the Council to ensure the promotion of the licensing objectives. As the EMP would be attached as a licence condition, failure to comply with its content would render the licence holder liable for operating otherwise than under an authorisation (section 136 of the Act).

G5.6

The Council has encouraged this type of event premises licence for a number of years leading to successful annual events at venues such as Knebworth Park and recommends applicants to enter into pre-application discussions at the earliest opportunity to explore the suitability of this option.

G6.1.1

Large scale events, in particular music festivals, have the potential to significantly impact on the prevention of crime and disorder objective for reasons such as, but not limited to:

- *a significant number of event attendees being attracted to North Hertfordshire and the creation of 'an event community', often the size of small town;*
- *disorder associated with travel to and from the venue;*

- *potential criminal elements being attracted to the event, particularly multi-day events; and*
- *the additional pressures on police resources associated with the event.*

G6.1.2

In preparing an application, applicants are encouraged to have early discussions with the police about the potential for crime and disorder associated with or at the event in order that any concerns can be addressed in the operating schedule.

G6.3.1

The Council is strongly of the view that it is not the responsibility of the police to provide a free security service for event organisers. The responsibility for security at events rests solely with the event organiser.

G6.3.2

Whilst it can be reasonably expected that the police will undertake their normal duties in support of an event, this service would be in addition to on-site security deployed by the event organiser.

G6.3.3

The Council is aware of existing case law in regard to the payment for policing resources at events and recognise the financial impact for event organisers. That said, if a police presence at an event is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, the Council accept that, save for exceptional circumstances, the need to secure the promotion of the licensing objectives outweighs the financial burden on the applicant.

G6.3.4

Where appropriate based on the evidence and/or any perceived risk, the Council may consider the imposition of conditions requiring a formal resourcing agreement with the police, including the advanced payment for such resourcing, to be entered into and complied with in order for the event to proceed.

G6.5.1

The Council is aware that the provision of on-site camping for multi-day events increases the risk of crime and disorder, predominately through organised criminal elements that target festivals and festival campsites.

G6.5.2 Applicants are expected to liaise with local police to establish any perceived risk or intelligence associated with an event and address these concerns in the operating schedule or EMP. Control measures may include:

- *24hr campsite security patrols and car park stewarding;*
- *security fencing around the campsite;*
- *controlled entry points to campsites including identification wristbands (or similar);*
- *secure storage for campers (campsites and arenas); and*
- *raised security observation points.*

G6.6.1

Large numbers of event attendees give rise to pressures on local transport networks, particularly main and local roads, railway stations and taxi provision. The Council expects applicants to liaise with local transport providers, having assessed their target audience profile, and address any transport concerns within the operating schedule or EMP.

G6.6.2

For events that will have a significant impact on the local road/railway network, applicants should give serious consideration to including a Transport Management Plan (TMP) as part of their operating schedule or EMP. Where appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, the Council may consider imposing a condition requiring a TMP to be agreed with the police in advance of the event.

G6.6.3

Where large numbers are expected to use local transport venues, such as railway stations, the Council considers these venues as areas that are causally linked to the event and within the licence holder's control. Where appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, the Council may consider imposing conditions in relation to the provision of security at local transport venues to control event patrons.

G6.6.4

If the event venue is a considerable distance from key transport providers, such as railway stations, the Council expects the applicant to consider the implications of a significant number of pedestrians attending the event. This is particularly relevant for venues adjacent to main arterial routes such as Knebworth Park.

G6.6.5

Where appropriate to promote the licensing objectives the Council may consider imposing conditions requiring the provision of an additional transport provision between the venue and the main transport provider (such as railway stations), for example shuttle buses or organised taxi provision within the venue.

G6.6.6

Additionally, due to the causal link between the venue and the large number of pedestrians attending, the Council may consider imposing conditions relating to the stewarding of pedestrian routes where appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

G7.6.1

The Council expects premises licence holders and applicants to undertake a public safety risk assessment to ensure the safety of persons using their premises. The assessment should consider issues such as, but not limited to:

- (i) safe capacities in identifiable areas of the event site, including camping and car parking, that can be evacuated quickly in the case of emergency;
- (ii) policies in relation to ingress, re-admission and egress, particularly control of
- (iii) policies in relation to securing the safety of patrons whilst at the event, including camping and car parking; and
- (iv) sufficient on-site medical provision, including procedures for contacting the emergency services.

H2.1

Whilst the Council accepts that NH SAG has no statutory role within the licensing regime and the responsibility for organising and managing a safe event lies with the event organiser, it strongly believes that NH SAG can provide invaluable experience and advice to applicants.

H2.2

This Policy encourages early discussions between applicants and the responsible authorities prior to the submission of an application and the NH SAG offers applicants access to a wide range of experience and knowledge. This facility is of particular assistance to applicants where an EMP is required as a licence condition. NH SAG can meet regularly with the applicant to review an EMP throughout its development, offering further advice and support where appropriate.

H2.3

No consent or approval of any proposals concerning event management or infrastructure, implied or otherwise, is to be taken from applicant attendance at NH SAG.

O1.1

The Council accepts that it can only consider matters in relation to the four licensing objectives when determining licensing applications, however as a public body it also has a statutory duty to consider the following legislative requirements:

- (i) Crime and Disorder Act 1998
Local authorities are required to have due regard to the crime and disorder implications of any decision it makes.
- (ii) Human Rights Act 1998
Local authorities are required to implement the Act in a manner consistent with the Human Rights Act 1998 by giving due consideration to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.
- (iii) Equality Act 2010
Local authorities are required to implement the Act in a manner consistent with its responsibilities to consider the equality implications of any decision it makes.

7. RELEVANT EXTRACTS OF STATUTORY GUIDANCE

7.1 The following paragraphs from the Guidance issued by the Home Office under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (April 2017 version) may be relevant to this application. This section does not prevent the sub-committee from considering other paragraphs of the Guidance where they deem it appropriate and the determination should be based upon consideration of the full document:

1.3

The licensing objectives are:

- *The prevention of crime and disorder;*
- *Public safety;*
- *The prevention of public nuisance; and*
- *The protection of children from harm.*

1.4

Each objective is of equal importance. There are no other statutory licensing objectives, so that the promotion of the four objectives is a paramount consideration at all times.

1.5

However, the legislation also supports a number of other key aims and purposes. These are vitally important and should be principal aims for everyone involved in licensing work.

They include:

- *protecting the public and local residents from crime, anti-social behaviour and noise nuisance caused by irresponsible licensed premises;*
- *giving the police and licensing authorities the powers they need to effectively manage and police the night-time economy and take action against those premises that are causing problems;*
- *recognising the important role which pubs and other licensed premises play in our local communities by minimising the regulatory burden on business, encouraging innovation and supporting responsible premises;*
- *providing a regulatory framework for alcohol which reflects the needs of local communities and empowers local authorities to make and enforce decisions about the most appropriate licensing strategies for their local area; and*
- *encouraging greater community involvement in licensing decisions and giving local residents the opportunity to have their say regarding licensing decisions that may affect them.*

1.16

Conditions on a premises licence or club premises certificate are important in setting the parameters within which premises can lawfully operate. The use of wording such as "must", "shall" and "will" is encouraged. Licence conditions:

- *must be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives;*

- must be precise and enforceable;
- must be unambiguous and clear in what they intend to achieve;
- should not duplicate other statutory requirements or other duties or responsibilities placed on the employer by other legislation;
- must be tailored to the individual type, location and characteristics of the premises and events concerned;
- should not be standardised and may be unlawful when it cannot be demonstrated that they are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in an individual case;
- should not replicate offences set out in the 2003 Act or other legislation;
- should be proportionate, justifiable and be capable of being met, (for example, whilst beer glasses may be available in toughened glass, wine glasses may not);
- cannot seek to manage the behaviour of customers once they are beyond the direct management of the licence holder and their staff, but may impact on the behaviour of customers in the immediate vicinity of the premises or as they enter or leave; and
- should be written in a prescriptive format.

1.17

The licensing authority should only impose conditions on a premises licence or club premises certificate which are appropriate and proportionate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. If other existing law already places certain statutory responsibilities on an employer at or operator of a premises, it cannot be appropriate to impose the same or similar duties on the premises licence holder, or club. It is only where additional and supplementary measures are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives that there will be a requirement for appropriate, proportionate conditions to be attached.

2.1

Licensing authorities should look to the police as the main source of advice on crime and disorder. They should also seek to involve the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

2.3

Conditions should be targeted on deterrence and preventing crime and disorder including the prevention of illegal working in licensed premises. For example, where there is good reason to suppose that disorder may take place, the presence of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras both inside and immediately outside the premises can actively deter disorder, nuisance, anti-social behaviour and crime generally. Some licence holders may wish to have cameras on their premises for the prevention of crime directed against the business itself, its staff, or its customers. But any condition may require a broader approach, and it may be appropriate to ensure that the precise location of cameras is set out on plans to ensure that certain areas are properly covered and there is no subsequent dispute over the terms of the condition.

2.7

Licence holders have a responsibility to ensure the safety of those using their premises, as a part of their duties under the 2003 Act. This concerns the safety of people using the relevant premises rather than public health which is addressed in other legislation. Physical safety includes the prevention of accidents and injuries and other immediate harms that can result from alcohol consumption such as unconsciousness or alcohol poisoning. Conditions relating to public safety may also promote the crime and disorder objective as noted above. There will of course be occasions when a public safety condition could incidentally benefit a person's health more generally, but it should not be the purpose of the condition as this would be outside the licensing authority's powers (be ultra vires) under the 2003 Act. Conditions should not be imposed on a premises licence or club premises certificate which relate to cleanliness or hygiene.

2.8

A number of matters should be considered in relation to public safety. These may include:

- *Fire safety;*
- *Ensuring appropriate access for emergency services such as ambulances;*
- *Good communication with local authorities and emergency services, for example communications networks with the police and signing up for local incident alerts (see paragraph 2.4 above);*
- *Ensuring the presence of trained first aiders on the premises and appropriate first aid kits;*
- *Ensuring the safety of people when leaving the premises (for example, through the provision of information on late-night transportation);*
- *Ensuring appropriate and frequent waste disposal, particularly of glass bottles;*
- *Ensuring appropriate limits on the maximum capacity of the premises (see paragraphs 2.12-2.13, and Chapter 10; and*
- *Considering the use of CCTV in and around the premises (as noted in paragraph 2.3 above, this may also assist with promoting the crime and disorder objective).*

2.10

Licence holders should make provision to ensure that premises users safely leave their premises. Measures that may assist include:

- *Providing information on the premises of local taxi companies who can provide safe transportation home; and*
- *Ensuring adequate lighting outside the premises, particularly on paths leading to and from the premises and in car parks.*

2.12

“Safe capacities” should only be imposed where appropriate for the promotion of public safety or the prevention of disorder on the relevant premises. For example, if a capacity has been imposed through other legislation, it would be inappropriate to reproduce it in a premises licence. Indeed, it would also be wrong to lay down conditions which conflict with other legal requirements. However, if no safe capacity has been imposed through other legislation, a responsible authority may consider it appropriate for a new capacity to be attached to the premises which would apply at any material time when the licensable activities are taking place and make representations to that effect. For example, in certain circumstances, capacity limits may be appropriate in preventing disorder, as overcrowded venues can increase the risks of crowds becoming frustrated and hostile.

2.15

The 2003 Act enables licensing authorities and responsible authorities, through representations, to consider what constitutes public nuisance and what is appropriate to prevent it in terms of conditions attached to specific premises licences and club premises certificates. It is therefore important that in considering the promotion of this licensing objective, licensing authorities and responsible authorities focus on the effect of the licensable activities at the specific premises on persons living and working (including those carrying on business) in the area around the premises which may be disproportionate and unreasonable. The issues will mainly concern noise nuisance, light pollution, noxious smells and litter.

2.16

Public nuisance is given a statutory meaning in many pieces of legislation. It is however not narrowly defined in the 2003 Act and retains its broad common law meaning. It may include in appropriate circumstances the reduction of the living and working amenity and environment of other persons living and working in the area of the licensed premises. Public nuisance may also arise as a result of the adverse effects of artificial light, dust, odour and insects or where its effect is prejudicial to health.

2.18

As with all conditions, those relating to noise nuisance may not be appropriate in certain circumstances where provisions in other legislation adequately protect those living in the area of the premises. But as stated earlier in this Guidance, the approach of licensing authorities and responsible authorities should be one of prevention and when their powers are engaged, licensing authorities should be aware of the fact that

other legislation may not adequately cover concerns raised in relevant representations and additional conditions may be appropriate.

2.19

Where applications have given rise to representations, any appropriate conditions should normally focus on the most sensitive periods. For example, the most sensitive period for people being disturbed by unreasonably loud music is at night and into the early morning when residents in adjacent properties may be attempting to go to sleep or are sleeping. This is why there is still a need for a licence for performances of live music between 11 pm and 8 am. In certain circumstances, conditions relating to noise emanating from the premises may also be appropriate to address any disturbance anticipated as customers enter and leave.

2.22

The protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm. This includes not only protecting children from the harms associated directly with alcohol consumption but also wider harms such as exposure to strong language and sexual expletives (for example, in the context of exposure to certain films or adult entertainment). Licensing authorities must also consider the need to protect children from sexual exploitation when undertaking licensing functions.

2.27

Conditions, where they are appropriate, should reflect the licensable activities taking place on the premises. In addition to the mandatory condition regarding age verification, other conditions relating to the protection of children from harm can include:

- restrictions on the hours when children may be present;*
- restrictions or exclusions on the presence of children under certain ages when particular specified activities are taking place;*
- restrictions on the parts of the premises to which children may have access;*
- age restrictions (below 18);*
- restrictions or exclusions when certain activities are taking place;*
- requirements for an accompanying adult (including for example, a combination of requirements which provide that children under a particular age must be accompanied by an adult); and*
- full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place.*

8.38

In completing an operating schedule, applicants are expected to have regard to the statement of licensing policy for their area. They must also be aware of the expectations of the licensing authority and the responsible authorities as to the steps that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, and to demonstrate knowledge of their local area when describing the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives. Licensing authorities and responsible authorities are expected to publish information about what is meant by the promotion of the licensing objectives and to ensure that applicants can readily access advice about these matters. However, applicants are also expected to undertake their own enquiries about the area in which the premises are situated to inform the content of the application.

8.39

Applicants are, in particular, expected to obtain sufficient information to enable them to demonstrate, when setting out the steps they propose to take to promote the licensing objectives, that they understand:

- the layout of the local area and physical environment including crime and disorder hotspots, proximity to residential premises and proximity to areas where children may congregate;*
- any risk posed to the local area by the applicants' proposed licensable activities; and*

- any local initiatives (for example, local crime reduction initiatives or voluntary schemes including local taxi-marshalling schemes, street pastors and other schemes) which may help to mitigate potential risks.

8.41

It is expected that enquiries about the locality will assist applicants when determining the steps that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. For example, premises with close proximity to residential premises should consider what effect this will have on their smoking, noise management and dispersal policies to ensure the promotion of the public nuisance objective. Applicants must consider all factors which may be relevant to the promotion of the licensing objectives, and where there are no known concerns, acknowledge this in their application.

8.43

While applicants are not required to seek the views of responsible authorities before formally submitting their application, they may find them to be a useful source of expert advice on local issues that should be taken into consideration when making an application. Licensing authorities may wish to encourage co-operation between applicants, responsible authorities and, where relevant, local residents and businesses before applications are submitted in order to minimise the scope for disputes to arise.

8.44

Applicants are expected to provide licensing authorities with sufficient information in this section to determine the extent to which their proposed steps are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives in the local area. Applications must not be based on providing a set of standard conditions to promote the licensing objectives and applicants are expected to make it clear why the steps they are proposing are appropriate for the premises.

9.12

In their role as a responsible authority, the police are an essential source of advice and information on the impact and potential impact of licensable activities, particularly on the crime and disorder objective. The police have a key role in managing the night-time economy and should have good working relationships with those operating in their local area. The police should be the licensing authority's main source of advice on matters relating to the promotion of the crime and disorder licensing objective, but may also be able to make relevant representations with regard to the other licensing objectives if they have evidence to support such representations. The licensing authority should accept all reasonable and proportionate representations made by the police unless the authority has evidence that to do so would not be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. However, it remains incumbent on the police to ensure that their representations can withstand the scrutiny to which they would be subject at a hearing.

9.38

In determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community, the licensing authority must give appropriate weight to:

- the steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives;
- the representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties;
- this Guidance;
- its own statement of licensing policy.

9.42

Licensing authorities are best placed to determine what actions are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in their areas. All licensing determinations should be considered on a case-by-case basis. They should take into account any representations or objections that have been received from responsible authorities or other persons, and representations made by the applicant or premises user as the case may be.

9.43

The authority's determination should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve.

9.44

Determination of whether an action or step is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives requires an assessment of what action or step would be suitable to achieve that end. While this does not therefore require a licensing authority to decide that no lesser step will achieve the aim, the authority should aim to consider the potential burden that the condition would impose on the premises licence holder (such as the financial burden due to restrictions on licensable activities) as well as the potential benefit in terms of the promotion of the licensing objectives. However, it is imperative that the authority ensures that the factors which form the basis of its determination are limited to consideration of the promotion of the objectives and nothing outside those parameters. As with the consideration of licence variations, the licensing authority should consider wider issues such as other conditions already in place to mitigate potential negative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives and the track record of the business. Further advice on determining what is appropriate when imposing conditions on a licence or certificate is provided in Chapter 10. The licensing authority is expected to come to its determination based on an assessment of the evidence on both the risks and benefits either for or against making the determination.

10.10

The 2003 Act requires that licensing conditions should be tailored to the size, type, location and characteristics and activities taking place at the premises concerned. Conditions should be determined on a case-by-case basis and standardised conditions which ignore these individual aspects should be avoided. For example, conditions should not be used to implement a general policy in a given area such as the use of CCTV, polycarbonate drinking vessels or identity scanners where they would not be appropriate to the specific premises. Licensing authorities and other responsible authorities should be alive to the indirect costs that can arise because of conditions. These could be a deterrent to holding events that are valuable to the community or for the funding of good and important causes. Licensing authorities should therefore ensure that any conditions they impose are only those which are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

8. LICENSING OFFICER COMMENTS

- 8.1 The comments within this section of the report are provided by the licensing officer to assist the sub-committee with the interpretation of the Act, the Guidance and existing case law. It is for the sub-committee to determine what weight they attach to this advice.

Definition of 'appropriate'

- 8.2 The previous Statutory Guidance first issued in July 2004 and subsequently updated up until April 2012, specifically required Licensing Sub-Committees to ensure that their decisions were based on measures that were 'necessary' for the promotion of the licensing objectives. This placed a burden on the licensing authority to demonstrate that no lesser steps would satisfy the promotion of the licensing objectives and any conditions imposed on a licence would only be those necessary for the promotion of the licensing objectives with no opportunity to go any further.

8.3 The revised Statutory Guidance issued on 25th April 2012 and subsequently amended in October 2012, June 2013, October 2014, March 2015 and April 2017 has amended the 'necessary' test to one of 'appropriate'. This has changed the threshold which licensing authorities must consider when determining applications by requiring that they make decisions which are 'appropriate' for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

8.4 The Guidance explains 'appropriate' as:

9.43

The authority's determination should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve.

9.44

Determination of whether an action or step is appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives requires an assessment of what action or step would be suitable to achieve that end. While this does not therefore require a licensing authority to decide that no lesser step will achieve the aim, the authority should aim to consider the potential burden that the condition would impose on the premises licence holder (such as the financial burden due to restrictions on licensable activities) as well as the potential benefit in terms of the promotion of the licensing objectives. However, it is imperative that the authority ensures that the factors which form the basis of its determination are limited to consideration of the promotion of the objectives and nothing outside those parameters. As with the consideration of licence variations, the licensing authority should consider wider issues such as other conditions already in place to mitigate potential negative impact on the promotion of the licensing objectives and the track record of the business. Further advice on determining what is appropriate when imposing conditions on a licence or certificate is provided in Chapter 10. The licensing authority is expected to come to its determination based on an assessment of the evidence on both the risks and benefits either for or against making the determination.

8.5 It is anticipated that, in due course, case law will provide clarity on the meaning of 'appropriate' as referred to in paragraphs 9.42 and 9.44 of the Guidance. The sub-committee is therefore advised to give 'appropriate' its ordinary meaning, as expanded upon by paragraph 9.44 of the Guidance, subject to the over-riding requirement on all local authority decisions of reasonableness.

8.6 This approach, of allowing the courts to provide clarity, is reflected in the following paragraphs of the Guidance:

1.9

Section 4 of the 2003 Act provides that, in carrying out its functions, a licensing authority must 'have regard to' guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182. This Guidance is therefore binding on all licensing authorities to that extent. However, this Guidance cannot anticipate every possible scenario or set of circumstances that may arise and, as long as licensing authorities have properly understood this Guidance, they may depart from it if they have good reason to do so and can provide full reasons. Departure from this Guidance could give rise to an appeal or judicial review, and the reasons given will then be a key consideration for the courts when considering the lawfulness and merits of any decision taken.

1.10

Nothing in this Guidance should be taken as indicating that any requirement of licensing law or any other law may be overridden (including the obligations placed on any public authorities under human rights legislation). This Guidance does not in any way replace the statutory provisions of the 2003 Act or add to its scope and licensing authorities should note that interpretation of the 2003 Act is a matter for the courts.

Licensing authorities and others using this Guidance must take their own professional and legal advice about its implementation.

- 8.7 The sub-committee should also be aware that their decision must be proportionate to the evidence received in respect of the application and representation. Proportionality is a key factor in assisting with the definition of 'appropriate'.

Case law

- 8.8 As paragraph 2.16 of the Guidance confirms, public nuisance under the Licensing Act 2003 has a wide interpretation and it is for the sub-committee to determine, based on the evidence, whether they consider these issues to be a public nuisance.
- 8.9 The Guidance states at paragraph 2.21 that conditions relating to public nuisance beyond the vicinity of the premises are not appropriate and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy supports that view. Conditions that it would be either impracticable or impossible for the licence holder to control would clearly be inappropriate.
- 8.10 That said, if behaviour beyond the premises can be clearly linked to a premises and it is causing a public nuisance, it is wrong to say that the Licensing Act 2003 cannot address this. Whilst conditions may well be inappropriate, if the evidence deems it necessary, times and/or activities under the licence could be restricted or, indeed, the application could be refused, suspended or revoked.
- 8.11 The magistrates court case of *Koultis v London Borough of Enfield*, 9th September 2011 considered this issue.
- 8.12 In a summary of the case provided by the Institute of Licensing it is reported that District Judge Daber considered an appeal against a decision of the local authority to restrict the hours of musical entertainment of a public house to mitigate the noise from patrons as they left the premises in response to representations from local residents. The appellant relied on the sections of the Guidance that state that "beyond the vicinity of the premises, these are matters for personal responsibility of individuals under the law. An individual who engages in anti-social behaviour is accountable in their own right" (para 2.24). It was also suggested that, given that certain residents were not disturbed, this did not amount to public nuisance within the meaning of para 2.19 of the Guidance as approved by Burton J in the Hope and Glory case.
- 8.13 The District Judge held that there was ample evidence of public nuisance relating to the specific premises, and that section 4 of the Act gave the licensing authority a positive duty to deal with it proportionately. In this case, no less interventionist way of dealing with the nuisance had been suggested. He held that not only was the authority not wrong, but that it was in fact right to reduce the hours as it had. The appeal was therefore dismissed.

Evidence not to consider

- 8.14 Some representations have made reference to having not been formally informed of the application. All prescribed means of advertising the application were complied with in accordance with the Act; there is no requirement to consult directly with residents although the applicant may do so if they so wish.

- 8.15 Some representations have made reference to the fact that the granting of this licence would set a precedent. This is not a relevant consideration as every application is considered on its own individual circumstances.
- 8.16 There are comments made in some representations regarding the financial gain of the event for the event organisers. Financial gain is not a relevant consideration under the Act.
- 8.17 Equally, the suggestion that the applicant will make a donation towards local causes, specifically the school, as part of this application is not a relevant consideration under the Act.
- 8.18 Some representations made reference to a number of other events within North Hertfordshire and that there is no demand for another event of a similar nature. This is not a relevant consideration as every application is considered on its own individual circumstances in relation to the licensing objectives; demand is not a relevant consideration under the Act.
- 8.19 Some representations have made reference to the impact that the event would have on animals, in particular horses, and referenced that the area is a conservation area and is home to a number of endangered species. The licensing objectives prescribed by the Act do not include the impact on the welfare of animals; this is a matter which is considered separately under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The Act does not seek to reproduce control measures available under other legislation. If a licence was granted, the licence holder would have a responsibility under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to consider what impact this event would have on animals in the area. The licence holder would also need to have regard to environmental legislation. Council responsibility for conservation areas rests with the planning authority not the licensing authority.
- 8.20 There are comments made in some representations regarding a future variation on the licence if it is granted. This is not a relevant consideration as every application is considered on its own individual circumstances and any future variation application would be subject to a full public consultation.
- 8.21 Some representations have made reference to information that is factually incorrect, the appendices to this report contain all of the correct information received and agreed as part of this application and it is this that sub-committee should consider.
- 8.22 A number of the representations make reference to a previous application that was refused for a similar event. This is not a relevant consideration as that application was a separate matter based on the documentation and representations specifically related to that application. Each application should be determined on its own merits.
- 8.23 A number of representations supporting the event refer to matters such as how much people are looking forward to the event, the need for village events and the lack of opportunities within rural areas. None of these matters are relevant; the sub-committee can only consider representations supporting the event that address the impact or likely impact on the licensing objectives.
- 8.24 A petition objecting to the application was received whereby persons signed their name and address and commented on which of the five listed reasons for objection were relevant to themselves. The sub-committee can consider

this petition as relevant as it does address the licensing objectives however they need to consider what weight to attach to it. The sub-committee should consider whether a signature on a petition should carry the same weight as an individually written representation detailing specific individual concerns and/or experiences. The sub-committee should also consider whether the petition was an appropriate means for persons to make representations that would not otherwise have done so, either due to busy lives or lack of confidence in drafting their own representation. It is for the sub-committee alone to determine what weight to attach to the petition in the same way as they attach weight to each written representation.

New evidence

- 8.25 Other persons must restrict their oral submissions to the relevant issues raised within their representations, although they can expand on the representations by way of examples, further information, etc.. They cannot raise new issues not mentioned within the written representation, for example if they have only raised issues of crime and disorder, they cannot introduce issues of public safety orally at the hearing.
- 8.26 Any new documentation not circulated in advance to all parties within the hearing paperwork cannot be introduced at the hearing or presented to the sub-committee without all party consent.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix A Original application
9.2 Appendix B Conditions agreed with Hertfordshire Constabulary
9.3 Appendix C Conditions agreed with Environmental Protection
9.4 Appendix D Conditions agreed with Environmental Health
9.5 Appendix E Conditions agreed with Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue
9.6 Appendix F Summary of all conditions agreed
9.7 Appendix G Representation from other persons objecting the application
9.8 Appendix H Representation from other persons supporting the application

10. CONTACT OFFICERS

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