
From: Andy Nation [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 July 2025 14:28
To: Sarah Jenkinson [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Have your say on local licensing policy

Well that was an easy read – not – but thanks for highlighting the changes in red.

I'm happy with all the changes.

Regards

Andy Nation

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 July 2025 10:16
To: Licensing <licensing@north-herts.gov.uk>
Subject: Amended Policy

Hello:

This is an easy to read and comprehensive policy so many thanks to the contributors.

My only suggestion is that I feel it would have been more "user friendly" if it had been divided into categories.

If I was applying for a specific license for a specific event, I would have to read 95 pages containing loads information that is totally irrelevant to my event.

I worry about the illegal "raves" that happen because we are rural (Wimpole/Orwell last year - I know this was Cambs. but it was a nightmare) and my concerns are that the local authority and police are often not able to stop these events once they are in "full swing" and they continue until they reach their own conclusion.

I believe that a 95 page policy could be a barrier to organisers applying for the license and following the guidelines. Could this be addressed?

Kind regards,

Barbara Maylor

-----Original Message-----

From: Anne Buckley [REDACTED]
Sent: 31 July 2025 08:32
To: Licensing <licensing@north-herts.gov.uk>
Subject: Draft policy

Speaking as a citizen who is rarely affected directly by this policy, I feel it's a good update especially with additions for drink spiking and environmental water concerns.

Regards,

Anne Buckley

Sent from my iPhone

Re: North Herts Council - Licensing Policy Consultation



Antonio Miceli
To Steven Cobb

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Wed 13/08/2025 12:12

This sender is from outside your organization.

Afternoon Steve

Thank you for your reply and for re-sending the consultation link. I will of course respond formally to the consultation.

However, I must stress that while “agent of change” and the recognition of hospitality zones may not yet be embedded in statute, they are already established as material considerations in licensing and planning decisions nationwide. Many councils are proactively reflecting these concepts in their local policy frameworks ahead of legislative change, both to give clarity to applicants and to ensure their town centres remain economically viable.

North Herts is no different in having areas where hospitality activity is concentrated and has long formed part of the night-time economy. Excluding any acknowledgement of this reality from the policy risks leaving both venues and residents without clear guidance, leading to unnecessary disputes, appeals, and inconsistent decision-making.

I would strongly urge the Licensing Committee to consider that:

1. The absence of explicit legislation does not prevent a council from recognising these principles in local policy.
2. Doing so now would future-proof the policy against imminent national changes.
3. The economic and cultural benefits of hospitality zones depend on proactive policy support, not reactive adjustment years later.

I trust my comments will be presented to the Committee in full alongside other consultation responses.

Kind regards,

Tony Miceli

HCC PUBLIC HEALTH

Hertfordshire County Council

County Hall

Pegs Lane

Hertford, Herts SG13 8DF

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk

Email: healthyplaces@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Date: 22 September 2025

Dear Mr Cobb

North Herts Statement of Licensing Policy Consultation

In North Hertfordshire, alcohol licences are reviewed in isolation and the cumulative impact of premises with alcohol licences is not considered. From a healthy places perspective, this raises concern as places which have a saturation of premises with alcohol licences can create harmful environments for residents and businesses with issues linked to crime, disorder and nuisance.

Cumulative Impact Policy (CIP) is a tool used by licensing authorities to help manage the growth of licensed premises in areas where there is a saturation of premises with alcohol licences.

HCC Public Health recommends that North Herts Council adopts a CIP to limit the number or type of applications granted in areas where there is evidence that the saturation of licensed premises is having a cumulative impact on residents or businesses. By adopting a CIP, it shows a statement of intent on the authority's approach to licence applications in accordance with the licensing objectives, under The Licensing Act 2003.

For more information on CIPs, please refer to the House of Commons paper (2025) 'Alcohol licensing: cumulative impact assessments' which can be found here: [CBP-7269.pdf](#)

In addition to the above recommendation, HCC Public Health is pleased to see that the Statement of Licensing Policy includes model licence conditions which includes a challenge 25 policy, staff training to prevent underage sales and to maintain a refusal log.

If you would like to discuss the points raised in our consultation response, please do not hesitate to contact me (HealthyPlaces@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Hollie Rawlings
Healthy Places Officer - Planning
Healthy Places and Communities
Hertfordshire Public Health

Mr Steve Cobb
The Licensing and Community Safety Manager
North Hertfordshire District Council

By email

Email: cldr.colegrave@bygraveparishcouncil.gov.uk

15 September 2025

Dear Mr Cobb

Statement of Licensing Principles – response to consultation exercise

I am writing in my capacity of Bygrave Parish Councillor to set out Bygrave Parish Council's comments on the updated version of the Statement of Licensing Policy (the "Policy") which North Herts Council (NHC) is currently consulting on.

As a small village, most of the areas covered by the Policy are not directly relevant to us. However, the areas of the Policy relating to premises licences are directly relevant, as a premises licence has been issued for Bygrave Woods (Plantation) which is less than 1 km from Bygrave. Our comments on the Policy are focused on the areas relevant to premises licences and are based on our experiences which, in the last year, have included our application to review the premises licence for Bygrave Woods, the Licence Holder's application to vary the licence, hearings to consider both applications and appeals by the Licence Holder of the decisions reached at those hearings.

We set out below our comments on the Policy.

Notification of applications

Section D1.9 states *“The Council will not solicit representations by distributing notification of applications to nearby residents; all applications are listed on the Council’s website and subject to the prescribed advertising requirements which the Council believes to be sufficient.”* Whilst we accept that the prescribed advertising requirements (namely that a notice be displayed at the premises and published in a local newspaper) are sufficient in many circumstances, for example an application for a licence for a restaurant on a town high street, there are some circumstances in which they clearly are not sufficient.

In the case of Bygrave Woods, the premises is a wooded area surrounded by agricultural fields; there are no adjacent public roads and no immediately adjacent houses. There is also no free newspaper automatically delivered to local homes. Consequently, when the Bygrave Woods premises licence was applied for, Bygrave Parish Council and Bygrave villagers were not aware of the application. Had Bygrave Parish Council been aware, it would have made a representation. Ashwell Parish Council was also unaware and has stated that it would also have made a representation. Both Parish Councils had raised concerns with NHC regarding events held at the site under a previous licence and have raised issues about events under the current licence, leading to Bygrave Parish Council’s application for the licence to be reviewed.

It is essential that people living close enough to remotely located premises to be adversely impacted by events held at the premises are aware of any applications for a licence or amendment to a licence. We believe that there should be a requirement to notify the Parish Councils local to the premises and also a requirement to notify people living within a suitable, specified radius which reflects the potential for disturbance, for example, 3 km for a large outdoor events site.

Approval of the Notice

We believe that where responsibility for preparing and issuing a Notice rests with the Licence Holder (rather than NHC), there should be a requirement for NHC to approve the Notice prior to it being issued.

Late last year, the Licence Holder for Bygrave Woods, issued a hugely misleading Notice which omitted details of the key changes which they wanted to make to the licence. A villager spent time tracking down the application, identified the issue and contacted the Ward Councillor who, in turn, made NHC aware. NHC then arranged for an amended Notice to be issued but did not extend the timeframe for representations to be made.

Police comments

We believe that if Hertfordshire Constabulary raise concerns about a premises licence, their comments should be given serious consideration by NHC, irrespective of whether they are framed as a formal representation.

Hertfordshire Constabulary raised concerns about the operation of the licence for Bygrave Woods in conjunction with both the application to review the licence and the application to vary the licence. As their comments were made just outside the consultation period and were not framed as a “representation”, the licensing officers informed the Licensing Sub-Committees that they must not take them into account when making their decisions on the applications. Whilst this might have been consistent with the Policy then in place, we consider it to be an inappropriate, and potentially dangerous, approach to take.

We believe that the Policy should be amended to provide for police comments submitted in any form to be taken into account in licensing decisions.

Appeals

The Policy sets out, in some detail, the procedures that are to be followed if there is an application to review or vary a premises licence. It is, however, silent on the procedures to be adopted if Decision Notices issued following hearings to consider applications are then appealed.

This is crucial information which is likely to influence a decision as to whether or not to appeal a Decision Notice.

We had this very situation in respect of the Bygrave Woods premises licence whereby the Licence Holder appealed both Decision Notices and we, despite being the applicant for the licence review, were excluded entirely from the negotiations between NHC and the Licence Holder to agree a new licence (which did not contain most of the changes set out in the Decision Notices). Despite a number of requests for information on the appeals process, no such information has been provided to us.

We believe that the procedures to be adopted following the lodging of an appeal should be clearly documented in the Policy covering matters such as:

- The requirement to notify interested parties of the appeal (we were only made aware of the appeals after persistently asking if an appeal had been lodged and, as far as we are aware, NHC has not informed any of the respondents to the applications)
- How any interested parties can be involved in the process
- How decisions will be reached and who will take the decisions
- How interested parties can object to any agreement reached between NHC and the Licence Holder

Interaction of licensing rules and planning rules

Some aspects of the operation of a licensed premises are overseen by NHC's Licensing Department, some by NHC's Environmental Health Department and others by NHC's Planning Department. We believe that there needs to be a clear framework for how these departments will work together for the benefit of residents of North Herts.

New paragraph (F5.8) in the Policy states that *"Where there is conflict between licensed hours and/or activities that conflicts with a planning restriction, the Council will put an informative on the licence explaining the need to comply with planning permission."* We do not consider that this hand-off of responsibility for compliance to the Licence Holder to be appropriate. It is more than reasonable to expect two NHC departments to work together to ensure full compliance with each of their requirements and this should be covered in the Policy.

In the case of the premises licence for Bygrave Woods, this permits unlimited events to be held for up to 7,500 people. However, planning rules require that that the premises must not be used for these purposes for more than 28 days (under the rules governing a temporary change of use). The days used must take account of the time taken to set up and take down the event site, as well as the days of the actual event. They also apply to any events held under a Temporary Event Notice. We understand that it is the responsibility of the Planning Department to ensure that the 28 day limit is not breached but as they have no involvement in the events on the site, this is difficult for them to do. One solution would be to require the Licence Holder to inform both the Licensing Department and the Planning Department, in advance of every event to be held at the premises, the number of days expected to be used for that event and to confirm the exact number of days used immediately after an event.

Impact of "large-scale" events on utility services used by local people

The numbers attending "large-scale" events can dwarf the local population, as is the case for Bygrave. Conditions should be imposed on Licence Holders to prevent a detrimental impact on services for local people, for example mobile phone service and water supply.

I would be very happy to discuss the above, if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Julie Colegrave

on behalf of Bygrave Parish Council