

Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub Committee

31 March 2026

Application for a variation a premises licence for Slug and Lettuce, 56-57 St Thomas Street, Weymouth

For Decision

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr G Taylor, Health and Housing

Local Councillor(s):

Cllr J Orrell

Executive Director:

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary: An application has been made for a variation of the premises licence for the Slug and Lettuce, 56-57 St Thomas Street, Weymouth. The application has been out to public consultation. Representations have been received. A Licensing Sub-Committee must therefore consider the application and representations at a public hearing.

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee determines the application in the light of written and oral evidence and resolves to take such steps as it considers appropriate and proportionate for the promotion of the licensing objectives:

- a) The prevention of crime and disorder
- b) The prevention of public nuisance
- c) Public safety
- d) The protection of children from harm

Reason for Recommendation: The Sub-Committee must consider all the written representations, the oral representations, and any information given at the hearing before reaching a decision.

1. Background

1.1 Section 4 of the Licensing Act 2003 sets out the duties of the Licensing Authority, it sets out that a Council's licensing functions must be carried out with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives of:

- (a) the prevention of crime and disorder;
- (b) public safety;
- (c) the prevention of public nuisance; and
- (d) the protection of children from harm.

1.2 All applications and decisions are made with due regard to the [Licensing Act 2003](#) (the Act), the [Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003](#) (the Guidance) and the [Dorset Council Statement of Licensing Policy](#) (the Policy).

2. Details of the application

2.1 An application has been made for a variation of a premises licence for the Slug and Lettuce, 56-57 St Thomas Street, Weymouth and has been submitted to the Licensing Authority by Amber Taverns Ltd. The application form is attached at Appendix 1.

2.2 The description of the proposed variation given by the applicant is:

To alter the structure of the premises in accordance with the plans submitted, namely:

To re-orientate the bar servery.

To change/alter some of the existing conditions in the operating schedule.

To reduce the terminal hour for the sale of alcohol.

To reduce the commencement hour on opening times.

2.3 The current licence allows for the following:

Films (indoors)

Monday to Sunday

0800-0230 hours

New Years Eve

0800-2359 hours

New Years Day

0000-0800 hours

An additional hour to the standard and non-standard times on the day when British Summertime commences.

An additional hour to the terminal hour on the following notable days: St George's Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, St Andrew's Day, Burns Night, Valentine's Night, Halloween, on all bank holidays and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday preceding all bank holidays, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December, Bonfire Night and New Years Day.

Live music (indoors)

Monday to Sunday 0800-0230 hours

New Years Eve 0800-2359 hours

New Years Day 0000-0800 hours

An additional hour to the standard and non-standard times on the day when British Summertime commences.

An additional hour to the terminal hour on the following notable days: St George's Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, St Andrew's Day, Burns Night, Valentine's Night, Halloween, on all bank holidays and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday preceding all bank holidays, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December, Bonfire Night and New Years Day.

Recorded music (indoors)

Monday to Sunday 0800-0230 hours

New Years Eve 0800-2359 hours

New Years Day 0000-0800 hours

An additional hour to the standard and non-standard times on the day when British Summertime commences.

An additional hour to the terminal hour on the following notable days: St George's Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, St Andrew's Day, Burns Night, Valentine's Night, Halloween, on all bank holidays and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday preceding all bank holidays, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December, Bonfire Night and New Years Day.

Performance of dance (indoors)

Monday to Sunday 0800-0230 hours

New Years Eve 0800-2359 hours

New Years Day 0000-0800 hours

An additional hour to the standard and non-standard times on the day when British Summertime commences.

An additional hour to the terminal hour on the following notable days: St George's Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, St Andrew's Day, Burns Night, Valentine's Night, Halloween, on all bank holidays and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday preceding all bank holidays, Maundy Thursday,

Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December, Bonfire Night and New Years Day.

Entertainment of similar description E, F, G (indoors)

Monday to Sunday 0800-0230 hours

New Years Eve 0800-2359 hours

New Years Day 0000-0800 hours

An additional hour to the standard and non-standard times on the day when British Summertime commences.

An additional hour to the terminal hour on the following notable days: St George's Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, St Andrew's Day, Burns Night, Valentine's Night, Halloween, on all bank holidays and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday preceding all bank holidays, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December, Bonfire Night and New Years Day.

Late night refreshments (indoors)

Monday to Sunday 2300-0230 hours

New Years Eve 2300-2359 hours

New Years Day 0000-0500 hours

An additional hour to the standard and non-standard times on the day when British Summertime commences.

An additional hour to the terminal hour on the following notable days: St George's Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, St Andrew's Day, Burns Night, Valentine's Night, Halloween, on all bank holidays and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday preceding all bank holidays, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December, Bonfire Night and New Years Day.

Alcohol sales (consumption on the premises)

Monday to Sunday 0800-0230 hours

New Years Eve 0800-2359 hours

New Years Day 0000-0800 hours

An additional hour to the standard and non-standard times on the day when British Summertime commences.

An additional hour to the terminal hour on the following notable days: St George's Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, St Andrew's Day, Burns Night, Valentine's Night, Halloween, on all bank holidays and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday preceding all bank holidays, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December, Bonfire Night and New Years Day.

Opening hours

Monday Sunday	0700-0230 hours
New Years Eve	0700-2359 hours
New Years Day	0000-0700 hours

An additional hour to the standard and non-standard times on the day when British Summertime commences.

An additional hour to the terminal hour on the following notable days: St George's Day, St David's Day, St Patrick's Day, St Andrew's Day, Burns Night, Valentine's Night, Halloween, on all bank holidays and the Friday, Saturday and Sunday preceding all bank holidays, Maundy Thursday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December, Bonfire Night and New Years Day.

- 2.4 To amend the condition under Appendix 2, Protection of Children From Harm, from:

“ A proof of age scheme such as Challenge 21 will be operated at the premises where the only acceptable forms of identification are photographic identification cards such as a driving licence or passport.”

To be replaced with:

“Any person under the age of 25 wishing to purchase alcohol will be asked to produce ID before such a sale is made. Acceptable ID, picture driving licence, passport or PASS approve ID card and armed forces ID card”.

- 2.5 A copy of the current premises licence can be found at Appendix 2.
- 2.6 The Live Music Act 2012 allows any premises with a licence for the consumption of alcohol on the premises to have live amplified and recorded music between 08:00 and 23:00 without a licence. This only applies when the audience is under 500 people and takes place when the premises are open and being used for the sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises. The Legislative Reform (Entertainment Licensing) Order 2014 amended the Licensing Act and states that any conditions on a premises relating to any of this entertainment would not have any effect between 8am and 11pm or when the premises are open and selling alcohol for consumption on the premises.

3 Responsible Authorities

- 3.1 Section 13 of the Licensing Act contains the list of Responsible Authorities who must be consulted on each application. Dorset Police, Dorset and

Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service, Dorset Council Public Health, Trading Standards, Children's Services, Planning, Licensing, Environmental Protection, Dorset Council Health and Safety and the Immigration Authority have all been consulted.

- 3.2 There were no representations received from any of the Responsible Authorities.

4 Representations from other persons

- 4.1 The Licensing Act 2003 Section 182 Guidance (the Guidance) sets out at 8.13 the role of "other persons":

"As well as responsible authorities, any other person can play a role in a number of licensing processes under the 2003 Act. This includes any individual, body or business entitled to make representations to licensing authorities in relation to applications for the grant, variation, minor variation or review of premises licences and club premises certificates, regardless of their geographic proximity to the premises. In addition, these persons may themselves seek a review of a premises licence. Any representations made by these persons must be 'relevant', in that the representation relates to one or more of the licensing objectives. It must also not be considered by the licensing authority to be frivolous or vexatious. In the case of applications for reviews, there is an additional requirement that the grounds for the review should not be considered by the licensing authority to be repetitious. Chapter 9 of this guidance (paragraphs 9.4 to 9.10) provides more detail on the definition of relevant, frivolous and vexatious representations.

- 4.2 The Guidance states at paragraph 9.4 what a "relevant" representation is;

"A representation is "relevant" if it relates to the likely effect of the grant of the licence on the promotion of at least one of the licensing objectives. For example, a representation from a local businessperson about the commercial damage caused by competition from new licensed premises would not be relevant. On the other hand, a representation by a businessperson that nuisance caused by new premises would deter customers from entering the local area, and the steps proposed by the applicant to prevent that nuisance were inadequate, would be relevant. In other words, representations should relate to the impact of licensable activities carried on from premises on the objectives."

- 4.3 There was one relevant representation received from a member of the public. The representation was made on the licensing objective of the Prevention of Public Nuisance. Concerns were raised around noise from the premises.

5. Considerations

- 5.1 The premises fall within the cumulative impact zone. The part of the policy relating to the cumulative impact policy is available under Background papers. Paragraphs 7.17 and 7.22 puts the onus on the applicant to demonstrate how the new premises will not add to the anti-social behaviour or crime and disorder, and the types of premises that are likely to be considered as such: "Applications for premises situated within a designated cumulative impact area for new premises licences or variations that are likely to add to the existing cumulative impact will normally be refused if relevant representations are received. It is for the applicant to demonstrate that their application would not add to the cumulative impact of such licensed premises in the area and so give good reason for the council to depart from its own policy. When considering an application where the subject premises is in a cumulative impact area, the council will need to be satisfied that the grant of the licence or variation will not impact on the cumulative impact of existing licensed premises in the area and as the burden of proof is on the applicant, they will often suggest measures which they assert will demonstrate there will be no impact. Examples of factors the licensing authority may consider as demonstrating there will be no impact may include, though are not limited to:

- Small premises who intend to operate up to midnight.
- Premises which are not alcohol led and only operate during the day time economy.
- Instances where the applicant is relocating their business to a new premises but retaining the same style of business.
- Conditions which ensure that the premises will operate in a particular manner such as a minimum number of covers or waiter/waitress service to secure a food led operation.
- Premises which will bring a variety of cultural activities to the area and expand the range of activities on offer for customers."

6 Relevant Sections of the Licensing Act 2003

- 6.1 Section 4 sets out the general duties of the Licensing Authority;

(1) A licensing authority must carry out its functions under this Act ("licensing functions") with a view to promoting the licensing objectives.

(2) The licensing objectives are:

- (a) the prevention of crime and disorder;
- (b) public safety;
- (c) the prevention of public nuisance; and
- (d) the protection of children from harm.

(3) In carrying out its licensing functions, a licensing authority must also have regard to:

- (a) its licensing statement published under section 5, and
- (b) any guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182.

7 Relevant Sections of the Statutory Guidance issued under Section 182

7.1 Paragraphs 1.2, 1.4 and 1.5 of the Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 issued in December 2023 (The Guidance) sets out the Licensing Objectives and aims;

The legislation provides a clear focus on the promotion of four statutory objectives which must be addressed when licensing functions are undertaken.

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.

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.

7.2. Paragraph 1.16 of the Guidance sets out how conditions should be formulated;

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;
- 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.

7.3. Paragraph 1.19 states;

While licence conditions should not duplicate other statutory provisions, licensing authorities and licensees should be mindful of

requirements and responsibilities placed on them by other legislation.

7.4 Paragraphs 9.42 – 9.44 of the Guidance set out how the Licensing Authority will determine an application;

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.

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.

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 Options

8.1 The Sub-Committee will determine the application in the light of all of the written representations and any oral evidence from the hearing. They will take such steps as it considers appropriate and proportionate for the promotion of the licensing objectives of;

- a. The prevention of crime and disorder
- b. The prevention of public nuisance
- c. Public safety
- d. The protection of children from harm

The steps that the Sub-Committee may take are:

- a. modify the conditions of the licence, or
- b. to reject the application

9 Financial Implications

Any decision of the Sub Committee could lead to an appeal by any of the parties involved that could incur costs.

10 Environmental Implications

None.

11 Well-being and Health Implications

None.

12 Other Implications

None.

13 Risk Assessment

13.1 HAVING CONSIDERED: the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: Low

Residual Risk: Low

14 Equalities Impact Assessment

Not applicable

15 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Application form

Appendix 2 – Current premises licence

Appendix 3 – Representation from interested party

16 Background Papers

[Licensing Act 2003](#)

[Home Office Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003](#)

[Dorset Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2021](#)