

Licensing and Gambling Act Sub-Committee

5 May 2026

Application for a New Premises Licence for Skyglow Dorset For Decision

Cabinet Member:

Cllr G Taylor, Health and Housing

Local Councillor(s):

Cllr. David Taylor

Senior Leadership Team:

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Statutory Authority: Licensing Act 2003

Report status: Public [Choose an item.](#)

Executive summary

An application has been made for a new Premises Licence for the Skyglow Dorset music festival at Dorchester Showground. The application has been out to public consultation and a representation has been received. A Licensing Sub-Committee must consider the application and representation at a public hearing.

1. Recommendation(s)

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 which are:

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

2. Reason for the recommendation(s)

The Sub-Committee must consider all the written representations, the oral representations made at the hearing, and any other information given at the hearing before making a decision.

3 Statutory Authority

3.1. Section 4 of the Licensing Act 2003 sets out the duties of the Licensing Authority. It states 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.

3.2. All applications and decisions must be 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 DC Policy).

4. Details of the review application

4.1. Nationwide Festivals Ltd have made an application for a new premises licence for a music festival at Dorchester Showground on 3rd to 5th July 2026. The application form is attached at Appendix 1.

4.2. The event is described as a "3-day, open-air food and music event taking place between 3rd July to 5th July 2026, inclusive. The family event will feature a diverse array of entertainment, including food, music (tribute bands), Kids entertainment area, funfair, stunt shows and hot air balloon displays. There will be a number of marquees and a temporary outdoor stage structure for the provision of regulated entertainment facilities. Within the licensed area there will be a number of mobile food outlets for the provision of refreshments and there will also be 2 bars, from which the sale of alcohol will take place"

4.3. The application is for: -

Live Music (outdoors)

Friday	16:00 – 21:45
Saturday	12:00 – 21:30
Sunday	12:00 – 20:00

Recorded Music (outdoors)

Friday	16:00 – 22:00
Saturday	12:00 – 22:00
Sunday	12:00 – 20:00

Supply of Alcohol on the premises only

Friday	16:00 – 21:30
Saturday	12:00 – 21:30
Sunday	12:00 – 19:30

4.4. The application contains the steps that the applicant intends to take to promote the Licensing Objectives, these steps would become conditions if a licence is granted. A copy of the offered conditions is attached at Appendix 2.

5. Representations to the Review from Responsible Authorities

- 5.1. 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 Service, Public Health Dorset, the Immigration Authority, Dorset Council Trading Standards, Dorset Council Children's Services, Dorset Council Planning, Dorset Council Licensing, Dorset Council Environmental Protection and Dorset Council Health and Safety have all been consulted.
- 5.2. Dorset Council Environmental Protection made a representation requesting the addition of nine extra conditions. The applicant has agreed to these and so the representation has been withdrawn. The extra conditions are attached at Appendix 3.
- 5.3. There were no representations from any of the other Responsible Authorities.

6. Representations from other people

- 6.1. The Safety Advisory Group (SAG), which is made up of representatives from a number of different bodies have made a representation which states: -

The SAG considers that the conditions offered within the licence application fail to provide sufficient detail to demonstrate how the licensing objectives will be promoted or how public safety will be ensured. Furthermore, the event management documents provided to the SAG contain many aspirational ideas but provide very little details as to how those ideas may be realised.

The SAG is also concerned that the event proposals do not reflect the fact that resources for all regulatory authorities and emergency services during that weekend may be under pressure from other well attended events that are also running.

The full representation is included at Appendix 4.

7. Guidance and Policy

- 7.1. Paragraphs 1.2 to 1.5 of the Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 issued in February 2026 (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 1.21 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 the written representations and any oral evidence from the hearing. They will take such steps as they consider 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

8.2. The steps that the Sub-Committee may take are; -

- a) to grant the licence subject to -
 - i. conditions consistent with the operating schedule accompanying the application modified to such extent as the authority considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives, and,,
 - ii. any mandatory conditions
- b) to exclude from the scope of the licence any of the licensable activities to which the application relates,
- c) to refuse to specify an individual as the premises supervisor, or,
- d) 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

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

Current Risk: Medium

Residual Risk: Medium

14. Equalities Impact Assessment

Not applicable

15. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Application

Appendix 2 – Conditions from Operating Schedule

Appendix 3 – Conditions from Environmental Protection

Appendix 4 – Representation

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](#)