

Licensing and Gambling Acts Sub Committee

18 August 2026

Application for a new premises licence for The Community Centre, Station Road, Child Okeford, Blandford, DT11 8EL

For Decision

Cabinet Member and Portfolio:

Cllr M Bell, Public Health, Prevention and Communities

Local Councillor(s):

Cllrs S Jespersen

Executive Director:

S Crowe, Executive Director of Housing, Communities and Prevention

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary: An application has been made for a new premises licence for The Community Centre, Station Road, Child Okeford, Blandford, DT11 8EL. 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 new premises licence for The Community Centre, Station Road, Child Okeford, Blandford, DT11 8EL and has been submitted to the Licensing Authority by the Child Okeford Parish Council, Trustees of Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field Charitable Trust. The application form is attached at Appendix 1.

2.2 The description of the premises given by the applicant is:

The premises consists of Community Centre including a function room, kitchen, 2 toilets, 2 changing rooms and a deck area accessible from the function room, a recreation ground with a pétanque court and croquet lawn, a children's playground and car park.

It is situated in the village of Child Okeford in Dorset and is a charitable trust with a single trustee, Child Okeford Parish Council.

2.3 The application is for:

Alcohol sales (consumption on the premises)

Monday to Sunday 1200-2300 hours

2.4 The application proposes to include the pétanque court and croquet lawn within the licensable area.

3 Disapplication of certain mandatory conditions for community premises

- 3.1 The Licensing Act 2003 Section 182 Guidance (the Guidance) sets out at 4.85 the role of management committee and what defines a community premises:

4.85 The 2003 Act was amended in 2009 to allow certain community premises which have, or are applying for, a premises licence that authorises alcohol sales to also apply to include the alternative licence condition in sections 25A(2) and 41D(3) (“the alternative licence condition”) of that Act in the licence instead of the usual mandatory conditions in sections 19(2) and 19(3). Such an application may only be made if the licence holder is, or is to be, a committee or board of individuals with responsibility for the management of the premises (the “management committee”). If such an application is successful, the effect of the alternative licence condition will be that all alcohol sales will have to be made or authorised by the management committee. There will be no requirement for a DPS or for alcohol sales to be authorised by a personal licence holder.

- 3.2 The Guidance states at paragraph 4.86 states what is defined as a community premises;

4.86 Community premises are defined as premises that are or form part of a church hall, chapel hall or other similar building; or a village hall, parish hall or community hall or other similar building.

- 3.3 The Parish Council have applied to Disapply the Designated Premises Supervisor. The application can be found at Appendix 2.

4 Responsible Authorities

- 4.1 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 Food Safety and Port Health and the Immigration Authority have all been consulted.
- 4.2 There were no representations received from any of the Responsible Authorities.

5 Representations from other persons

5.1 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.

5.2 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.”

5.3 There were two relevant representations received from members of the public. The representations were made on all four of the licensing objectives of Public Safety, Protection of Children from Harm, Public Nuisance, and Prevention of Crime and Disorder. Concerns were raised around safety at the premises and alcohol related disturbance. These are attached at Appendix 3.

- 5.4 An email was sent by Licensing to the interested parties on behalf of the applicant, addressing the issues raised. The email can be found at Appendix 4.
- 5.5 Following the email to the interested parties from Licensing, both parties said that their concerns had not been alleviated. Their responses can be found at Appendix 5.

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. to grant the licence subject to such conditions as the authority considers appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and the 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 a person in the licence as the designated premises supervisor;
- 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

- 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 – Application to disapply the DPS

Appendix 3 – Original representations from the remaining interested parties

Appendix 4 – Email sent by Licensing on behalf of the Applicant

Appendix 5 – Responses from interested parties

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](#)