

LICENSING COMMITTEE



Report subject	Hush Club Petition
Meeting date	12 December 2024
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	Following the submission of a petition signed by in excess of 2000 valid signatures to Full Council the matter was referred to the Licensing Committee for consideration.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: Members take note of the report contents.
Reason for recommendations	This matter was referred to the Licensing Committee for information following the submission of a petition to Council on 15 October 2024.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Kieron Wilson – Portfolio Holder for Housing, and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Jillian Kay – Corporate Director for Wellbeing
Report Authors	Nananka Randle – Licensing and Trading Standards Manager Sarah Rogers – Principal Licensing Officer
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

Background

1. Hush Club is a mobile disco which travels to various events and venues including Café Riva situated on Boscombe Overcliff Drive.
2. At the Council meeting held of 15 October 2024 a petition was presented by Mr Bob Smith-Thomas requesting that the biannual event held by Hush Club at Café Riva be preserved. The Council report item 6 stated the following :-

The Hush Club's annual events have long been a cornerstone of unity and charity in the Southbourne community. Held twice a year on the cliff top by the Riva Café, these family-friendly gatherings bring together locals, fostering strong community ties and providing a platform for fundraising efforts.

Regrettably, the continuation of these beloved events is under threat. We believe in the immense value of these events for our community and the charities they support. Hence, we urge the authorities to permit the continuation of the Hush Club's events, so that we may continue to unite, celebrate, and support our community together. By adding your signature, you are championing the cause of community togetherness and charity in Southbourne. Let's come together and show that Southbourne stands united in preserving this local event.

It is also worth bearing in mind that Cafe Riva host a weekly "Rendezvous at Riva" where a DJ plays Saturday and Sunday and I believe this may be the reason for the complaints rather than the twice a year Hush club events. I noted on a recent visit that their speakers were pointing inland facing Fishermans Walk.

The Hush Club speakers are aimed across the cliff top to limit the noise levels to local residents. In their last event Mr Andrew Hill from the Environmental department at BCP was in attendance who confirmed with Rob Green that the noise levels were satisfactory and well within BCP council regulations.

I would like the council to consider lifting the ban on The Hush Club for next year to host the two charity events as they have done for the past many years.

3. The petition can be viewed on line here [Petition · Preserve the Biannual Hush Club Event in Southbourne - Bournemouth, United Kingdom · Change.org](#)
4. At the Council meeting this petition was referred to Licensing Committee for consideration.

5. Over the last couple of years, the Environmental Health Team have investigated a number of noise complaints and have provided Cafe Riva and the event organisers with advice on the management and control of music noise.

Licensing Position

6. Café Riva hold a Premises Licence under the Licensing Act 2003, which permits them to sell
 - a. alcohol both on and off the premises Monday to Sunday 10:00 – 01:00
 - b. provide late night refreshment Monday to Sunday 23:00 – 01:30.
7. Café Riva have held this licence since 2005. (Copy of licence is attached at appendix A)
8. As referenced in the petition information, Café Riva hold *Rendezvous at Riva* events with DJs or a small live band, this is permitted under the Live Music Act. Where there is a premises licence which permits the on sales of alcohol, the Live Music Act permits live or recorded music between the hours of 08.00 – 23.00 for audiences of no more than 500 people.
9. Twice per year Hush Club host a music event, in association with Café Riva, on land adjacent to Café Riva which is not licensed. This event is held under a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) for the sale of alcohol both on and off the premises and the provision of recorded music.
10. TEN's are a notification of the organisers intention to hold an event. They are intended for small events for up to 499 people only and the event organiser is expected to ensure compliance.
11. Once submitted only Environmental Health or Dorset Police can object to a TEN.
12. Where an objection is made to a TEN the matter will be referred to a Licensing Sub Committee for determination within the statutory timescales.
13. Often mediation continues to take place following an objection and in the case of the latest TEN for the Hush Club event, which took place in August 2024, the police withdrew their objection following consultation and discussions with the event organisers.
14. Despite the information contained within the petition claiming the Hush Club events are under threat and urging the Council to permit the continuation of the Hush Club events, it does not appear that BCP Council has banned the event from taking place. As there is no premises licence in place, the events have been subject to the TEN process and as such the event may continue if future applications are submitted. Objections to such applications may be submitted by Dorset Police and/or Environmental Health at that time and reference may be made to any residual concerns from this year's events. Any application will include mediation.

Options Appraisal

15. This report is for information. Members must consider the contents bearing in mind that any future applications for a TEN or premises licence for this location/premises or event, if they are contested, will be referred to Committee for a decision as per the council's scheme of delegation.

16. The Committee are quasi-judicial, and members must not prejudice any outcomes or discussions which may be held at future meetings by expressing any predetermined views otherwise they will have to recuse themselves from any meeting on this matter.

Summary of financial implications

17. This report is for information only there are no financial implications.

Summary of legal implications

18. This report is for information only and there are no legal implications

Summary of human resources implications

19. There are no human resources implications.

Summary of sustainability impact

20. There is no sustainability impact.

Summary of public health implications

21. There are no public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

22. There are no equality implications.

Summary of risk assessment

23. There are no perceived risks associated with this information report

Background papers

[Temporary Events Notice \(England and Wales\) - GOV.UK](#)

BCP Council TEN webpage [Temporary event notice | BCP](#)

Appendices

Appendix A – Café Riva Premises Licence