

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE



Report subject	Cliff Top Music Festival, Wharncliffe Road, Christchurch, BH23 5JA
Meeting date	7 January 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>Stir Events CIC have made an application to vary the premises licence for the Cliff Top Music Festival which is held on the grassed overflow car park at Wharncliffe Road, Christchurch.</p> <p>The current premises licence permits the following licensable activities –</p> <p>Live Music: (Outdoors) Saturday - 11:00 to 19:00</p> <p>Recorded Music: (Outdoors) Saturday - 11:00 to 19:00</p> <p>Performances of Dance: (Outdoors) Saturday – 11:00 to 19:00</p> <p>Supply of Alcohol: Saturday - 11:00 to 19:00 (on sales)</p> <p>Application has been made to increase the terminal hour until 22:00 and increase the number of events from one day per year to a 3-day event, twice a year.</p> <p>Mediation has taken place, and the applicant has agreed to amend the application to request a single 2-day event per year.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>Members are asked to decide whether to: -</p> <p>a) Grant the application for variation as made;</p> <p>b) Refuse the application, or part of, for variation to the premises licence;</p> <p>c) Grant the application, or part of, subject to additional conditions.</p> <p>Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee are asked to make a decision at the end of the hearing after all relevant parties</p>

	<p>have been given the opportunity to speak.</p> <p>Members must give full reasons for their decision</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>The licensing authority has received 16 representations from other persons on the grounds that the application does not uphold the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and protection of children from harm licensing objectives. Most representations are concerned over the prevention of public nuisance.</p> <p>S182 Guidance deals with public nuisance at paragraph 2.21 stating –</p> <p><i>“The 2003 Act enables licensing authorities and responsible authorities, through representations, to consider what constitutes public nuisance and what is appropriate to prevent it in terms of conditions attached to specific premises licences and club premises certificates. It is therefore important that in considering the promotion of this licensing objective, licensing authorities and responsible authorities focus on the effect of the licensable activities at the specific premises on persons living and working (including those carrying on business) in the area around the premises which may be disproportionate and unreasonable. The issues will mainly concern noise nuisance, light pollution, noxious smells and litter.”</i></p> <p>Paragraph 2.25 continues to state -</p> <p><i>“Where applications have given rise to representations, any appropriate conditions should normally focus on the most sensitive periods. For example, the most sensitive period for people being disturbed by unreasonably loud music is at night and into the early morning when residents in adjacent properties may be attempting to go to sleep or are sleeping. This is why there is still a need for a licence for performances of live music between 11 pm and 8 am. In certain circumstances, conditions relating to noise emanating from the premises may also be appropriate to address any disturbance anticipated as customers enter and leave.”</i></p> <p>Through the course of mediation 6 representations were withdrawn from an original 22 representations received in total.</p> <p>11 representations in support of the application have also been received.</p> <p>The Licensing Authority may only consider aspects relevant to the application that have been raised in the representation.</p> <p>Where representations have been received from a responsible authority or any other person, and the concerns have not been resolved through mediation between all parties, the Scheme of Delegation, set out in the Council’s Constitution states that the</p>

	application should be dealt with by the Licensing Sub-Committee.
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Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Kieron Wilson – Housing and Regulatory Services
Corporate Director	Glynn Barton – Operations
Report Authors	Sarah Rogers – Principal Licensing Officer
Wards	Highcliffe & Walkford
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. An application to vary the premises licence, under Section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003, was made by Stir Events CIC on 10 November 2025. A copy of the application is attached at Appendix 1.
2. A plan showing the location of the premises is attached at Appendix 2.
3. The premises have had the benefit of a premises licence since 24 May 2023. The events which have taken place at the premises since that time have not resulted in any issues or complaints on the day. BCP Council's Event Team are on call throughout the event and have confirmed that they have not received any complaints. A copy of the current premises licence is attached at Appendix 3.
4. The application is to extend the duration of the event. Originally the application requested an extension from a one-day event to a 3-day event, twice a year. Through mediation with environmental health the applicant has agreed to amend the application and is requesting a single 2-day event per year.

Consultation

5. The application was served on all responsible authorities and the applicant confirmed that the statutory notices were displayed on the premises and published in the local newspaper.
6. Dorset Police and Environmental Health have agreed the conditions at Appendix 4 and therefore have no representation.
7. As a result of the consultation 16 representations have been made by other persons against the application and 11 representations have been received in support of the application. A copy of the representations received are attached at Appendix 5. This document contains additional comments received in response to the applicant's mediation document.
8. 6 representations against the application were withdrawn from 22 received in total following concerns addressed by the applicant in a document. A copy of the document is attached at Appendix 6.
9. No other representations were received from any of the other responsible authorities.

Options Appraisal

10. Before making a decision, Members are asked to consider the following matters: -

- The representations made by other persons, for and against the application.
- The submissions made by or made on behalf of the applicant.
- All four licensing objectives are relevant to this application namely the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and protection of children from harm.
- The Licensing Act 2003, Regulations and Council's Statement of Licensing Policy.
- Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 updated and published on 26 November 2025. This guidance is provided to licensing authorities in relation to carrying out their function under the 2003 Act.

The updates relate to clarifying licensing authority discretion (case-by-case decisions).

A spokesperson for the Home Office said:

"The update to the Section 182 Guidance has been added to help ensure that, when determining licence applications and considering any conditions that may apply, Licensing Authorities have in mind the need to support the development of a thriving hospitality sector while still upholding the existing statutory licensing objectives.

The new line in the guidance is 1.18, when making licensing decisions, all licensing authorities should consider the need to promote growth and deliver economic benefits".

Summary of financial implications

11. An appeal may be made against the decision of members by the applicant or any of the other persons to the Magistrates' Court which could have a financial impact on the Council.

Summary of legal implications

12. If members decide to refuse the application, or attach conditions to the licence which the applicant, or any other person, does not agree to, the applicant or any other person may appeal to the Magistrates' Court within a period of 21 days beginning with the day that all parties were notified, in writing, of the decision.

Summary of human resources implications

13. There are no human resource implications.

Summary of sustainability impact

14. There are no sustainability impact implications.

Summary of public health implications

15. There are no public health implications.

Summary of equality implications

16. There are no equality implications.

Summary of risk assessment

17. There is no requirement for a risk assessment.

Background papers

BCP Council's Statement of Licensing Policy

[Statement of licensing policy | BCP](#)

Hearing Regulations

[The Licensing Act 2003 \(Hearings\) Regulations 2005](#)

Revised Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (November 2025)

[Revised guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 \(November 2025\) \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK](#)

Appendices

1 – Copy Application

2 – Location Plan

3 – Current Premises Licence

4 – Conditions agreed with Dorset Police and Environmental Health

5 – Representations Received and Additional Comments

6 – Applicant's Response to Representations