

Licensing Act 2003 – Application for a new Premises Licence

'Goring Gap Ltd.'
Land at Marine Drive, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing (adjacent to Amberley Drive)
at OS Ref: TQ1001NW

Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That a Sub Committee of the Licensing & Control Committee considers and determines the application made by:

Goring Gap Ltd.

for a new Premises Licence to authorise the sale of alcohol at the above site.

2. Reasons for Hearing

- 2.1 The application has been the subject of formal representation by a responsible authority, 168 members of the public and a petition. It therefore falls to this sub-committee to determine.

3. Background

- 3.1 An application was made on behalf of Goring Gap Ltd. to the Licensing Authority, Worthing Borough Council, on 31 January 2024 for the grant of a new premises licence to authorise the sale of alcohol for consumption on & off the premises.
- 3.2 Goring Gap Ltd. are proposing to open a grassed fenced family entertainment area centred around a large covered sandpit with concessions for vendors selling from gazebos/trailers hot & cold food and drinks, snacks, sweets and a small bar selling alcohol. The plan includes toilet & car parking facilities.

- 3.3 Goring Gap Ltd. are currently in the process of obtaining the relevant planning consents to use this site to set up this business and an application for Certificate of Proposed Development was made on 21 January 2024. It should be noted that any licence granted under the Licensing Act 2003 does not override any planning restrictions that may be in place on the site.
- 3.4 The land Goring Gap Ltd. is proposing to use is an undeveloped rural site on the northside of Marine Drive adjacent to Amberley Drive on the Goring Greensward (also known as Goring Gap). It is situated opposite Goring Gap Beach. The area lies in the gap between Goring and Ferring and is part of a long stretch of beach, with a large 'village green', woodland area and farm land. The area is popular with beach goers, windsurfers and kitesurfers. Goring Gap can be very busy in the summer months but is also popular with dog walkers, horse riders and ramblers all year round.
- 3.5 The nearest residential premises is over 100 metres away in Aldsworth Avenue.
- 3.6 Attached to the report are:
- A plan & photos of the area (Appendix A)
 - A plan of the site (Appendix B)
 - A copy of the application (Appendix C)
 - The representation made by a Responsible Authority (Appendix D)
 - The representations received from the public (Appendix E)
 - Details of the mediation conducted (Appendix F)

4. The Application

- 4.1 The Application is attached at Appendix C. However, in summary, the application is seeking authorisation for:
- Sale of alcohol for consumption on & off the premises:
 - 08:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs Monday - Sunday incl.
 - Opening to the Public:
 - 08:00 hrs to 23:00 hrs Monday - Sunday incl.
- 4.2 As recommended by the Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 the applicant has completed an operating schedule as to how it is intended to address the Licensing Objectives if this application were granted.
- 4.3 The proposed designated supervisor (DPS) is Mr Christopher Dixon who is applying for a Personal Licence to Worthing Borough Council.

5. Promotion of the Licensing Objectives

- 5.1 The Licensing Act 2003 and regulations require that the Council, as local licensing authority, carries out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives:
- the prevention of crime and disorder;
 - public safety;

- the prevention of public nuisance;
- the protection of children from harm.

5.2 In carrying out its licensing functions, the licensing authority must also have regard to the Guidance issued by the Secretary of State and its own Statement of Licensing Policy. Members are advised that the following sections of the Worthing Borough Council's Policy may be particularly relevant to consideration of this matter, though of course the Policy in its entirety must be considered. Sections indicated relate to paragraph numbers in the Policy itself:

Prevention of Crime & Disorder

- 4.8 *The Council places huge importance on the prevention of crime and disorder. A high standard of control is, therefore, expected to be exercised over licensed premises.*
- 4.10 *In accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council is under a duty to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect on, and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its areas. The possible crime and disorder implications are clearly relevant factors in the consideration of all applications and this is re-emphasised by the Licensing Act 2003 itself, the Guidance issued under section 182 to the Act and this policy. The Council will give "due regard" to all possible implications and its Licensing & Control Committee will always consider all the information available and relevant representations made, including those from interested parties and the responsible authorities, particularly the Police.*
- 4.11 *In their role as a responsible authority, Sussex Police are an essential source of advice and information on the impact and potential impact of licensable activities in the borough, particularly on the crime and disorder objective. The police have a key role in managing the night-time economy and usually have good working relationships with those operating in the local area. The council recognises that Sussex Police are the licensing authority's main source of advice on matters relating to the promotion of the crime and disorder objective, but may also be able to make relevant representations with regards to the other licensing objectives if they have evidence to support such representations. The Council will accept all reasonable and proportionate representations made by the police unless the authority has evidence that to do so would not be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives. However, it remains incumbent on the police to ensure that their representations can withstand the scrutiny to which they would be subject at a hearing.*
- 4.16 *The Licensing Authority recognises that the Licensing Act is not the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from licensed premises. Nonetheless, it is a key aspect of such control and licensing law will always be part of a holistic approach to the management of the evening and night time economy in town centres.*

Public Safety

- 4.19 *The 2003 Act covers a wide range of premises that require licensing, including cinemas, concert halls, theatres, nightclubs, public houses, hotels, cafes/restaurants, shops and fast food outlets/takeaways.*
- 4.20 *Each of these types of premises present a mixture of risks, with many common to most premises and others unique to specific operations. It is essential that premises are constructed or adapted and operated so as to acknowledge and safeguard occupants against these risks.*
- 4.21 *The Licensing Authority also recognises that the provision of live music, discos and dancing within a premise can lead to potential flashpoints for violence and disorder. The Licensing Authority would expect all entertainment to be properly risk assessed in the Operating Schedule to ensure public safety.*
- 4.22 *Where an applicant identifies an issue in regard to public safety (including fire safety) which is not covered by existing legislation, the applicant should identify in their Operating Schedule and Fire Risk Assessment the steps, which will be taken to ensure public safety.*
- 4.23 *The Licensing Authority will expect Operating Schedules and Fire Risk Assessments to satisfactorily address these issues and new applicants are advised to seek advice, where necessary, from Council Licensing Officers and the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service before preparing their plans and Schedules.*
- 4.24 *The Licensing Authority will consider attaching conditions to licences and permissions to promote public safety. In attaching conditions the authority will seek to avoid duplication with the requirements of other regulatory regimes, for example legislation covering health and safety at work and fire safety*

Prevention of Public Nuisance

- 4.25 *Licensed premises, especially those operating late at night and in the early hours of the morning, can cause a range of disturbances impacting upon people living, working or sleeping in the vicinity of the premises or wider afield.*
- 4.26 *Noise disturbance can arise from entertainment or activities held within licensed premises and also from people or motor vehicles outside licensed premises. The Council will expect Operating Schedules to address these issues. Advice and guidance can be obtained from Licensing Officers or the Council's Environmental Protection Team. If representations are received the Council may utilise appropriate conditions to control noise disturbance and the use of such conditions will depend upon the activities/entertainment/hours of operation proposed; the nature of the locality; and existing background noise levels and ambient noise levels. Noise*

control conditions may include the satisfactory sound insulation of licensed premises; compliance with maximum noise levels; and limiting hours of operation.

- 4.27 *When addressing public nuisance the applicant should initially identify any particular issues (having regard to their particular type/construction of their premises, proposed activities and nature of locality) which are likely to adversely affect the promotion of the objective to prevent public nuisance. Such steps as are required to deal with these identified issues should be included within the applicant's Operating Schedule.*
- 4.28 *Anti-social behaviour such as excessive noise from access and egress or patrons littering should also be addressed in the Operating Schedule.*

Protection of Children from Harm

- 4.32 *The wide range of premises that require licensing means that children can be expected to visit many of these, perhaps on their own, for food and/or entertainment.*
- 4.33 *While the 2003 Act does not prohibit children from having free access to any licensed premises, the Licensing Authority recognises that limitations may have to be considered where it appears necessary to protect children from harm. In particular the following are examples of situations that will raise concern where:*
- *there have been previous convictions for serving alcohol to minors or with a reputation for underage drinking*
 - *there is a known association with drug taking or dealing*
 - *there is a strong element of gambling on the premises*
 - *entertainment of an adult or sexual nature is commonly provided*
 - *the supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises is the exclusive or primary purpose of the services provided at the premises.*
- 4.34 *Following relevant representations the Licensing Authority will consider any of the following options when dealing with a licence application where limiting the access of children is considered necessary to prevent harm to children:*
- *Limitations on the hours when children may be present*
 - *Age limitations (below 18)*
 - *Limitations or exclusion for all or part of the premises when certain activities are taking place*
 - *Requirements for an accompanying adult*
 - *Full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when particular licensable activities are taking place*
- 4.35 *No conditions will be imposed requiring that children be admitted to any premises and, where no limitation is imposed, this will remain a matter for the discretion of the individual licence holder. However, the Licensing Authority will liaise closely with West Sussex County Council Trading Standards and Sussex Police who monitor and prosecute the suppliers of alcohol to the "underage" population and will*

cooperate fully with the Adur & Worthing Safer Communities Partnership so that intelligence gathering exercise can inform strategic planning and action.

- 4.37 *Licence holders are required to consider carefully ways to ensure that the sale of alcohol is restricted to those over the age of 18. Popular schemes include the 'Challenge 25 scheme' whereby if the individual looks under 25; they are required to prove that they are over the age of 18 when buying alcohol or tobacco. Acceptable forms of proof are: a photo card driver's licence, passport or PASS. PASS is the national guarantee scheme for proof-of-age, which is fully supported by the Home Office. Applicants are encouraged to introduce such schemes and detail them in operating schedules. The council may impose conditions requiring such schemes if relevant representation is received. Special care should be exercised and the licensed trade should be alert to counterfeit IDs and their fraudulent use.*

DEMAND, SATURATION & HOURS

- 6.1 *In accordance with the Government's guidance the Council recognises that demand is not a relevant criterion in considering an application under the Act.*
- 6.4 *Consideration will be given to imposing stricter conditions in respect of noise control where premises are situated in mainly residential areas. This will particularly apply in circumstances where, having regard to the location, size and nature of the licensed premises, it is likely that disturbance will be caused to residents in the vicinity of the premises, or its environs, by concentrations of people either present or leaving during normal night-time sleeping periods (23.00hrs to 07.00hrs).*

SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Alcohol – On & Off Sales

- 7.1 *It is now a mandatory condition that all licence holders selling alcohol put in place an age verification policy for the premises. In some circumstances the Licensing Authority will impose, where necessary to promote the Licensing Objectives, implicit conditions on the checking of the age of those who appear under 21 or 25 to ensure that alcohol is not sold to those under 18 years of age.*
- 7.2 *Licence holders need to have sufficient day to day control of operations at their premises. They will be held responsible for breaches of the licence and ensuring there is adequate staffing and training. The authorities will continue to use young people for the 'test purchasing' of alcohol and CCTV evidence, which has proved its usefulness in prosecutions for unlawful sales of alcohol. The likely consequences of a Review of licence for underage sales include the imposition of additional conditions such as the attendance of a personal licence holder, licence suspensions and in some cases revocation to act as deterrence.*

6. Consultation

6.1 The application has been subject to the statutory consultation and statutory public advertisement arrangements in accordance with the provisions of the Act, in respect of which relevant representations were received from the following:

- Responsible Authorities
 - Sussex Police
- Other Persons
 - 168 from members of the public
 - 1 public petition

7. Relevant Representations

7.1 Detail of the relevant representation received is reproduced at Appendices D & E. They are considered to relate to the statutory licensing objectives as follows:

- Prevention of Crime & Disorder
- Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Public Safety
- Protection of Children from Harm

7.2 Sussex Police made a number of comments and listed a number of conditions that they consider are required to enable this premise to meet the licensing objectives if members were of a mind to grant a licence.

7.3 One hundred & sixty eight relevant representations were received from the public expressing concerns regarding possible crime & disorder, anti-social behaviour, public nuisance and safety concerns that can be associated with alcohol sales. These are relevant to the Licensing Authority's consideration. However, some of the information included in the representations, whilst of a serious nature, is regarded as not relevant to a licensing application. This includes representations regarding local amenity, congestion, parking, road safety, need or demand or, in this case, whether the use of this agricultural plot is appropriate to this area and other planning issues. These should not be considered. However, the representations have been reproduced in their entirety and it is for members to carefully decide how much weight, if any, should be attached to some of the information included.

7.4 The applicant and all those that made relevant representations have been formally notified of this hearing and invited to attend.

8. Mediation

8.1 The Licensing Act 2003 encourages mediation.

8.2 Sussex Police expressed some concerns regarding the application and sought a comprehensive set of conditions to address the licensing objectives. These have now been successfully mediated with the applicant agreeing that if a licence were to be granted the

conditions in the Police representation would be placed on any licence as enforceable conditions of licence in addition to those included in the operating schedule.

As a result Sussex Police have withdrawn their objections and confirmation of the agreement can be found at appendix F.

8.3 The Licensing Unit has been informed that the applicant has written to all the representors. However, no information regarding the progress of mediation between the applicant and other parties has been provided to date. Members will be informed if there are any developments.

9. Consideration

9.1 Members must take into consideration the following when determining this application:

- The four statutory licensing objectives.
- Worthing Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy
- Guidance issued by the Home Secretary
- The relevant representations from all parties and any mediated agreements reached.

9.2 These are the only matters to be addressed by the authority when considering this application. The statutory Licensing objectives are the only grounds on which representations can be made, and the only grounds on which an authority will be able to refuse an application or impose conditions in addition to statutory conditions and those proposed by the applicant in the Operating Schedule.

9.3 When considering this application for a premises licence the following options are available to the Sub-Committee:

- Grant the licence, as requested,
- Grant the licence, as requested, with additional conditions appropriate to the promotion of the specific licensing objectives on which relevant representations have been received.
- Reject the whole or part of the application.

Members may also:

- Grant the licence but exclude certain licensable activities from the licence,
- Refuse to specify a particular person as a premises supervisor,
- Approve different parts of the premises for different activities.

9.4 In determining an application for a new premises licence the following sections of the Home Secretary's Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (Amended – December 2023) should be taken into account:

Crime and disorder

2.1 *Licensing authorities should look to the police as the main source of advice on crime and disorder. They should also seek to involve the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP).*

Public safety

2.8 *Licence holders have a responsibility to ensure the safety of those using their premises, as a part of their duties under the 2003 Act. This concerns the safety of people using the relevant premises rather than public health which is addressed in other legislation. Physical safety includes the prevention of accidents and injuries and other immediate harms that can result from alcohol consumption such as unconsciousness or alcohol poisoning. Conditions relating to public safety may also promote the crime and disorder objective as noted above. There will of course be occasions when a public safety condition could incidentally benefit a person's health more generally, but it should not be the purpose of the condition as this would be outside the licensing authority's powers (be ultra vires) under the 2003 Act. Conditions should not be imposed on a premises licence or club premises certificate which relate to cleanliness or hygiene.*

2.9 *A number of matters should be considered in relation to public safety. These may include:*

- *Fire safety;*
- *Ensuring appropriate access for emergency services such as ambulances;*
- *Good communication with local authorities and emergency services, for example communications networks with the police and signing up for local incident alerts (see paragraph 2.4 above);*
- *Ensuring the presence of trained first aiders on the premises and appropriate first aid kits;*
- *Ensuring the safety of people when leaving the premises (for example, through the provision of information on late-night transportation);*
- *Ensuring appropriate and frequent waste disposal, particularly of glass bottles;*
- *Ensuring appropriate limits on the maximum capacity of the premises (see paragraphs 2.12-2.13, and Chapter 10; and*
- *Considering the use of CCTV in and around the premises (as noted in paragraph 2.3 above, this may also assist with promoting the crime and disorder objective).*

Safe capacities

2.18 *"Safe capacities" should only be imposed where appropriate for the promotion of public safety or the prevention of disorder on the relevant premises. For example, if a capacity has been imposed through other legislation, it would be inappropriate to reproduce it in a premises licence. Indeed, it would also be wrong to lay down conditions which conflict with other legal requirements. However, if no safe capacity has been imposed through other legislation, a responsible authority may consider it appropriate for a new capacity to be attached to the premises which would apply at any material time when the licensable activities are taking place and make representations to that effect. For example, in certain circumstances, capacity limits may be appropriate in preventing disorder, as overcrowded venues can increase the risks of crowds becoming frustrated and hostile.*

2.19 *The permitted capacity is a limit on the number of persons who may be on the premises at any time, following a recommendation by the relevant fire and rescue authority under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. For any application for a premises licence or club premises certificate for premises without an existing permitted capacity where the applicant wishes to take advantage of the special provisions set out in section 177 of the 2003 Act¹, the applicant should conduct their own risk assessment as to the appropriate capacity of the premises. They should send their recommendation to the fire and rescue authority which will consider it and decide what the “permitted capacity” of those premises should be.*

Public nuisance

2.21 *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.*

Protection of children from harm

2.28 *The protection of children from harm includes the protection of children from moral, psychological and physical harm. This includes not only protecting children from the harms associated directly with alcohol consumption but also wider harms such as exposure to strong language and sexual expletives (for example, in the context of exposure to certain films or adult entertainment). Licensing authorities must also consider the need to protect children from sexual exploitation when undertaking licensing functions.*

2.33 *Conditions, where they are appropriate, should reflect the licensable activities taking place on the premises. In addition to the mandatory condition regarding age verification, other conditions relating to the protection of children from harm can include:*

- *restrictions on the hours when children may be present;*
- *restrictions or exclusions on the presence of children under certain ages when particular specified activities are taking place;*
- *restrictions on the parts of the premises to which children may have access;*
- *age restrictions (below 18);*
- *restrictions or exclusions when certain activities are taking place;*
- *requirements for an accompanying adult (including for example, a combination of requirements which provide that children under a particular age must be*
- *accompanied by an adult); and*
- *full exclusion of people under 18 from the premises when any licensable activities are taking place.*

2.35 *Licensing authorities should give considerable weight to representations about child protection matters. In addition to the responsible authority whose functions relate directly to child protection, the Director of Public Health may also have access to relevant evidence to inform such representations. These representations may include, amongst other things, the use of health data about the harms that alcohol can cause to underage drinkers. Where a responsible authority, or other person, presents evidence to the licensing authority linking specific premises with harms to children (such as ambulance data or emergency department attendances by persons under 18 years old with alcohol-related illnesses or injuries) this evidence should be considered, and the licensing authority should also consider what action is appropriate to ensure this licensing objective is effectively enforced. In relation to applications for the grant of a licence in areas where evidence is presented on high levels of alcohol-related harms in persons aged under 18, it is recommended that the licensing authority considers what conditions may be appropriate to ensure that this objective is promoted effectively.*

Relevant, vexatious and frivolous representations

9.4 *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. For representations in relation to variations to be relevant, they should be confined to Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 the subject matter of the variation. There is no requirement for a responsible authority or other person to produce a recorded history of problems at premises to support their representations, and in fact this would not be possible for new premises.*

The role of responsible authorities

9.11 *Responsible authorities under the 2003 Act are automatically notified of all new applications. While all responsible authorities may make representations regarding applications for licences and club premises certificates and full variation applications, it is the responsibility of each responsible authority to determine when they have appropriate grounds to do so.*

9.12 *Each responsible authority will be an expert in their respective field, and in some cases it is likely that a particular responsible authority will be the licensing authority’s main source of advice in relation to a particular licensing objective. For example, the police have a key role in managing the night-time economy and should have good working relationships with those operating in their local area⁵. The police should usually therefore be the licensing authority’s main source of advice on matters relating to the promotion of the crime and disorder licensing objective.*

However, any responsible authority under the 2003 Act may make representations with regard to any of the licensing objectives if they have evidence to support such representations. Licensing authorities must therefore consider all relevant representations from responsible authorities carefully, even where the reason for a particular responsible authority's interest or expertise in the promotion of a particular objective may not be immediately apparent. However, it remains incumbent on all responsible authorities to ensure that their representations can withstand the scrutiny to which they would be subject at a hearing.

Hearings

9.37 *As a matter of practice, licensing authorities should seek to focus the hearing on the steps considered appropriate to promote the particular licensing objective or objectives that have given rise to the specific representation and avoid straying into undisputed areas. A responsible authority or other person may choose to rely on their written representation. They may not add further representations to those disclosed to the applicant prior to the hearing, but they may expand on their existing representation and should be allowed sufficient time to do so, within reasonable and practicable limits*

Determining actions that are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives

9.42 *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.*

9.43 *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.*

9.44 *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 any 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.

Imposed conditions

10.8 The licensing authority may not impose any conditions unless its discretion has been exercised following receipt of relevant representations and it is satisfied as a result of a hearing (unless all parties agree a hearing is not necessary) that it is appropriate to impose conditions to promote one or more of the four licensing objectives. In order to promote the crime prevention licensing objective conditions may be included that are aimed at preventing illegal working in licensed premises. This provision also applies to minor variations.

10.9 It is possible that in some cases no additional conditions will be appropriate to promote the licensing objectives.

Proportionality

10.10 The 2003 Act requires that licensing conditions should be tailored to the size, type, location and characteristics and activities taking place at the premises concerned. Conditions should be determined on a case-by-case basis and standardised conditions which ignore these individual aspects should be avoided. For example, conditions should not be used to implement a general policy in a given area such as the use of CCTV, polycarbonate drinking vessels or identity scanners where they would not be appropriate to the specific premises. Conditions that are considered appropriate for the prevention of illegal working in premises licensed to sell alcohol or late night refreshment might include requiring a premises licence holder to undertake right to work checks on all staff employed at the licensed premises or requiring that evidence of a right to work check, either physical or digital (e.g. copy of any document checked or a clear copy of the online right to work check) is retained at the licensed premises. Licensing authorities may also wish to consider placing additional conditions on licences to safeguard patrons against spiking, if deemed appropriate and proportionate for a specific venue where there is evidence to justify such action (a definition of spiking can be found in para 2.7). Licensing authorities and other responsible authorities should be alive to the indirect costs that can arise because of conditions. These could be a deterrent to holding events that are valuable to the community or for the funding of good and important causes. Licensing authorities should therefore ensure that any conditions they impose are only those which are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Hours of trading

10.13 The Government acknowledges that different licensing strategies may be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives in different areas. The 2003 Act gives the licensing authority power to make decisions about the hours during which premises can conduct licensable activities as part of the implementation of its licensing policy statement. Licensing authorities are best placed to make decisions

about appropriate opening hours in their areas based on their local knowledge and in consultation with responsible authorities. However, licensing authorities must always consider each application and must not impose predetermined licensed opening hours, without giving individual consideration to the merits of each application.

10.14 Where there are objections to an application to extend the hours during which licensable activities are to be carried on and the licensing authority determines that this would undermine the licensing objectives, it may reject the application or grant it with appropriate conditions and/or different hours from those requested.

9.6 In all cases members are required to give reasons for their decision.

10. Legal Implications

10.1 Under Section 181 and Schedule 5 of the Act, the following rights of appeal to the Magistrates' Court in respect of applications for a premises licence includes:

- (1) The applicant may appeal against any decision to modify the conditions of the licence.
- (2) The applicant may appeal against a rejection in whole or part of an application.
- (3) A person who has made relevant representations may appeal against a licence being granted, or against the modification or lack of modification of any conditions.

10.2 The Act allows for the local licensing authority to undertake a review following the grant of a premises licence, when requested to do so by a responsible authority, such as the police or the fire authority, or any other party, such as a resident living in the vicinity of the premises. The government's guidance states:

The proceedings set out in the 2003 Act for reviewing premises licences represent a key protection for the community where problems associated with licensing objectives are occurring after the grant or variation of a premises licence.

At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence, a responsible authority, or any other person, may ask the licensing authority to review the licence because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives.

10.3 In determining this application, the principles of the Human Rights Act 1998 must be taken into consideration and the convention rights of both individuals and businesses will be given due weight.

10.4 Members must consider each application on its own merits, and in accordance with the principles of natural justice, as well as the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003. All relevant factors must be taken into account, and all irrelevant factors must be disregarded.

- 10.5 All applications, before the Sub-Committee, must be considered against the backdrop of anti-discriminatory legislation, such as the Equality Act 2010 and also in accordance with the Council's stated policy on Equal Opportunities.
- 10.6 In accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 the Council is under a duty to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect on, and the need to do all it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its areas. The possible crime and disorder implications are clearly relevant factors in the consideration of all applications and this is re-emphasised by the Licensing Act 2003 itself. In giving "due regard" to these possible implications members will consider and weigh up all the information available and representations made, including those from interested parties and the responsible authorities particularly the Police.

11. Other Implications

- 11.1 Any decision taken will have regard for the local environment and, in particular, any conditions attached for the purposes of preventing public nuisance will take this principle into account. There are no significant direct race relations or equal opportunity implications that have been identified.

12. Recommendation

- 12.1 Members are requested to determine the application for a new Premises Licence made on behalf of Goring Gap Ltd. for the 'safe family friendly space' on the land adjacent to Marine Drive & Amberley Drive, Worthing and give reasons for that determination.**

**Director for Sustainability & Resources
Paul Brewer**

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Background Papers:

- Licensing Act 2003
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/17/contents>
- Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (revised 20 Dec 2022)
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a8f578ed27ca000d27b1f9/Revised_guidance_issued_under_section_182_of_the_Licensing_Act_2003_-_December_2023.pdf
- Worthing Borough Council's Statement of Licensing Policy
<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/licensing-and-permits/consultations-policy-forum/policy-and-forum/#policy>

Appendices:

- Appendix A - Plan & photos of the area
- Appendix B - Plan of the site.
- Appendix C - The Application Form.
- Appendix D - Representations received from the Responsible Authorities
- Appendices E - Representations received from the public objecting to the application
- Appendix F - Details of the mediation conducted

Town Hall, Worthing

Ref: SJ/Lic.U/LA03/NEW – Goring Gap Ltd.

Date: 11 March 2024.



