



**Licensing Act 2003**

**REPRESENTATION FORM FROM RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES**  
**Stevenage Borough Council LICENSING AUTHORITY**

**Responsible Authority:** Hertfordshire Constabulary

<b>Your Name</b>	Gillian Akroyd
<b>Job Title</b>	Senior Licensing Officer
<b>Postal address</b>	Stevenage Police Station Lytton Way Stevenage Herts, SG1 1HF
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:Gillian.akroyd@herts.police.uk">Gillian.akroyd@herts.police.uk</a>
<b>Contact telephone number</b>	077334496130

<b>Name of the premises you are making a representation about</b>	Oval Wines, application to vary DPS	
<b>Address of the premises you are making a representation about</b>	9 THE OVAL, VARDON ROAD STEVENAGE HERTFORDSHIRE SG1 5RA	
<b>Is this the first objection in respect of these premises</b>	No	Police applied for review of Oval Wines Premises licence on 29 <sup>th</sup> October ,2024. The licence was revoked at a Licensing Hearing at SBC on 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024. They have been given 21 days right of appeal.

Hertfordshire Constabulary, being a nominated Responsible Authority under the Licensing Act 2003, wish to make representation to this application.

Our representation(s) are made in consideration to the below licensing objectives, as we believe the operating schedule does not adequately demonstrate how you, the applicant will best support this.

### Licensing Objections

YES	Yes or No	Evidence supporting representation or reason for representation. Please use continuation sheet as required
To prevent crime and disorder	YES	<p>The proposed DPS is Premises Licence Holder for Oval Wines.</p> <p>Evidence of multiple incidents of breaches of licence including sales of illegal/illicit products, evidence of drugs paraphernalia and residue of cocaine in various areas of premises.</p> <p>The proposed DPS has been made aware of these breaches, has been warned in writing by SLO Akroyd, and has been viewed on video footage at the scene of crime and disorder. Police have access to this video footage for evidence.</p> <p>Disruption and violent disorder by customers around the vicinity of Oval Wines, regarding activities, including gang related fights, and believed drug exchanges and dealings.</p> <p>Members of the 'Oval gang' use this as their hub and constantly frequent the shop and gather in close proximity outside. Meeting in large numbers as many as 20 to 30 people, smoking and believed to be dealing drugs.</p> <p>There is evidence of drug use in the shop, due to residue being found within that shop, there is no chance of the prospective DPS/owner, who attends the shop on a daily basis, <b>not to being aware of this.</b></p> <p>There are various <b>Intelligence reports</b> which refer to drugs and young males attending the premises, some as young as 11 years of age and there is cause for concern. Knife carrying has also been mentioned.</p> <p>Local authority CCTV has shown recently suspects at the Oval in possession of large machetes chasing this group, (many of whom are children), and some have sought refuge in Oval Wines.</p>
Public safety	YES	<p>As above, the proposed DPS has been on scene when there has been disruption and violent disorder by customers in the vicinity of Oval Wines, including gang related fights, and suspected drug exchanges and dealing which has caused distress and alarm to other businesses and their customers.</p>
To prevent public nuisance	YES	<p>As stated in objections above, members of the 'Oval gang' use this premises as their hub and constantly frequent the shop and gather in close proximity outside.</p> <p>These males have, and are, causing distress to local businesses as well as anti-social behaviour in and around the Oval shopping precinct.</p>

		<p>These individuals are meeting in large numbers as many as 20 to 30 people, smoking drugs and suspected to be dealing drugs. They use foul and abusive language, intimidate people visiting the precinct and cause a nuisance to customers and other local businesses.</p> <p>This is evidenced in a statement from the local Neighbourhood Police Sergeant – PS Fathers.</p> <p>The proposed DPS/owner is aware of this and there is video footage of him on scene when the gang have entered and exited the premises, during an incident.</p>
<b>To protect children from harm</b>	<b>YES</b>	<p>With regard to the ‘protection of children from harm,’ as mentioned above, there is evidence of drug use in the shop in the form of residue being found in the premises. There is also evidence of gang related ASB linked to the premises.</p> <p>It is the belief of the police that it is <b>impossible that the prospective DPS/owner, who attends the shop on a daily basis, would NOT be aware of this.</b></p> <p>There are various <b>Intelligence reports</b> which refer to drugs and young males attending the premises, some as young as 11 years of age, which is a major cause for concern.</p> <p>Knife carrying has also been mentioned. Local authority CCTV has shown suspects at the Oval, in possession of large machetes, chasing another group, <b>(many of whom are children)</b>, and some have subsequently sought refuge in Oval Wines. When requested the licensee and owner/applicant, have been unable to provide footage that shows this incident.</p> <p>This CCTV would be vital in the fight against knife and gang violence AND protecting and safeguarding children from harm.</p> <p>It is also pertinent to add that a condition of the premises licence (Condition 1 of Annex 2) is that Oval Wines have CCTV in place which will record and retain unedited images for up to 30 days <b>and which will be made available to any Responsible Authority on request.</b></p> <p><b>No calls to Police were received from the premises at the time of this incident.</b></p>

The below additions to the Schedule as provided at Part 4 of the application, identifies those matters that we believe are necessary, to promote the licensing objectives.

<b>Suggested conditions that could be added to the licence to remedy your representation or other suggestions you would like the Licensing Sub Committee to take into</b>	<p>Hertfordshire Constabulary is of the view that the proposed DPS will not conform with the licence and has proven, by way of constant breaches of the conditions that he will not adhere to it.</p> <p>In addition, there is evidence of drug use within the shop and it is suspected that the premises is used for the purpose of</p>
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**account. Please use separate sheets where necessary and refer to checklist.**

selling illegal vapes, tobacco/cigarettes.

Police firmly do not believe that the proposed DPS/Management of the premises can be trusted to adhere to the four Licensing Objectives.

Therefore no conditions are suggested for consideration of the Licensing Sub Committee.

**OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:**

The attitude of the proposed DPS towards Police Officers and Police staff, on occasions, has been unacceptable.

The proposed DPS/owner, and staff are believed to be aware of these incidents and behaviours and do nothing to stop them.

The proposed DPS/PLH challenges police in support of the youths, indicating that the youths are not doing anything wrong.

Should you require clarification on any matter being made, please contact the named officer to discuss further.

Signed ...*Gillian Akroyd*.....

Date: ...16/07/2025.....

Note for Officers:

Please submit this form along with any additional sheets to: Licensing at Stevenage Borough Council or email to [licensing@stevenage.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@stevenage.gov.uk)

**This form must be returned within the Statutory Period.**