

Meeting Licensing Committee

Portfolio Area Communities, Community Safety and Equalities

Date 22nd October 2025

APPLICATION TO VARY THE PREMISES LICENCE, RITTYS PLACE, 6 BAKER STREET, STEVENAGE, SG1 3AL

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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To determine an application for the Grant of a variation to the Premises Licence for Rittys Place, 6 Baker Street Stevenage. SG1 3AL. Following three representations against this application from local residents.
- 1.2 In reaching its decision, the Committee must have regard to its obligation to promote the four licensing objectives:
- The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - The prevention of public nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm
- 1.3 Matters which do not relate to the four licensing objectives must be disregarded.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee considers all evidence submitted within the representations, as well as those provided by the applicant and/or their representatives, in order to determine the appropriate course of action in relation to this application. Following its assessment, the Committee may choose to:

- impose additional conditions,
- grant the variation, or
- refuse the application.

3 SUMMARY OF APPLICATION

Mr Moulton submitted an application for a variation to the premises licence for Rittys Place, located at 6 Baker Street, Stevenage, SG1 3AL. The premises intend to continue trading as both a restaurant and a takeaway, with customer access via the main entrance at the front of the property. The proposed variation includes the following amendments:

3.1 The provision of recorded music be amended from 07:00hrs to 23:00hrs- Monday to Sunday to 12:00-00:00 Monday to Sunday.

3.2 To replace Annex 2, Condition 5 “Music played at the premises will be for background purposes only” with the following two conditions:

a) Music shall be played at a level, so it does not cause a nuisance to the nearest noise sensitive premises, and

b) All doors and windows shall remain closed during regulated entertainment except for access and egress.

3.3 To allow for the sale of alcohol for consumption both on and off premises.

3.4 To amend the opening times from 07:00-00:00 Monday-Friday to 12:00 – 00:00hrs Monday to Friday.

3.5 The provision of late-night refreshment (the provision of hot food and drink provided between the hours of 11pm and 5am) to change from being provided inside the premises to both inside and outside for the purpose of delivery. There is no change to the timings on the existing premises licence.

3.6 This application was accepted by the Council as valid and duly made on 29th August 2025. **A copy of the application to vary the premises licence is attached at Appendix A**

4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 Rittys Place occupies a two-storey, end-of-terrace building situated on the northeastern side of Baker Street. The front of the premises faces a pedestrian walkway that connects to the High Street. To the east of the property, Church Lane runs in a north–south direction and features a loading bay and double yellow lines at the junction adjacent to the premises. **A map of the area is at Appendix C.**

- 4.2 The current Premises licence was issued to the applicant, Mr Moulton on 18th July 2019. **A copy of the current Premises Licence and Plan are attached at Appendix B.**
- 4.3 In accordance with statutory requirements, the applicant was required to display a public notice at the premises for the full 28-day consultation period, which concluded on 26th September 2025. Additionally, it is a requirement for the notice to be advertised in a local newspaper within 10 days of the application being accepted, both requirements were duly complied with.

5 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

- 5.1 A representation was received on 25th September 2025 by one of the responsible authorities. Environmental Health, under the licensing objective Prevention of Public Nuisance with concerns that the proposed changes with regards to the playing of recorded music and the opening hours increased the risk of public nuisance and suggested that the proposed condition 'Music shall be played at a level so it doesn't cause a nuisance to the nearest noise sensitive premises' only offers a control with regards to one property (i.e. the one specially closest to 6 Baker Street) and proposed the reworded condition 'Noise or vibration shall not emanate from the premises so as to cause a public nuisance which relates to all noise/vibration. Following successful mediation with the applicant, Mr Moulton agreed to amend his application to include the proposed condition and the representation made by Environmental Health was subsequently withdrawn. **The representation is attached at Appendix H.**

6 INTERESTED PARTIES

- 6.1 Three representations have been received from local residents residing on Grove Road, a residential street adjacent to the premises, submitted under the licensing objective of Prevention of Public Nuisance.
- 6.2 Residents have expressed concerns that the proposed variation to the premises licence will lead to an increase in public nuisance due to the close proximity of the premises to residential properties. Specific concerns include:
- The consumption of alcohol on and off the premises potentially encouraging anti-social behaviour and attracting larger crowds to an already busy area.
 - The removal of the condition restricting music to background only, with a proposal to allow recorded music up to midnight, raising concerns over noise levels and disturbance.
 - The premises is located in an older building, which residents suggest may lack adequate sound insulation to contain amplified music.
 - The delivery of hot food after 23.00hrs is perceived as likely to increase noise disturbance, particularly during late hours, and could contribute to issues such as littering and rowdy behaviour. **A copy of the representations received including mediation is attached at Appendix D, E and F.**
- 6.2 The Licensing Officer has liaised with the applicant to discuss all of the representations received. In addition to the condition agreed during meditation

with Environmental Health, the applicant has voluntarily amended their application to vary their premises licence to accept 13 additional premises licence conditions to address the concerns raised by local residents. **A copy of these conditions and the applicant's acceptance of those conditions are attached at Appendix G.**

- 6.3 Whilst the adding of additional conditions have been welcomed by two of the residents making representations the concern about the music causing nuisance until midnight, seven days a week, an increase in anti-social behaviour/public nuisance due to the delivery of hot food and the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises also remains a concern, therefore objections remain outstanding.
- 6.4 One of the residents who have made representations has not responded to mediation but has been invited to this hearing.

7 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial or resource implications arising from the content of this report.

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 The committee must consider Section 35 (4) of the Licensing Act 2003 whether to grant, vary or refuse the application.
- 7.2.2 The committee must be satisfied that the representations made are valid, Section 35 (6) Licensing Act 2003.
- 7.2.3 Section 36 Licensing Act 2003, supplementary provision about determination, should be referred to with the decision of the committee being subject to appeal at Magistrates court, set out in section 181 Licensing Act 2003.

7.3 Policy Implications

7.3.1 *Stevenage Borough Council Statement of Licensing Policy 2020 – 2025*

The following sections of the licensing authority's statement of licensing policy apply to this application:

- Licensing Hours – paragraphs 6.10 – 6.10.7
- Conditions – paragraphs 6.11 – 6.11.13
- Licensing Objectives – paragraphs 6.13 – 6.13.28

[Statement of Licensing Policy 2025-2030](#)

7.4 Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.4.1 Any decision made by the Committee is based solely on the evidence presented at the meeting, with no implications for equality and diversity.

7.5 Crime and Disorder

- 7.5.1 The Committee is reminded of their duty under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to consider the crime and disorder implications of their decisions and the authority's responsibility to co-operate in the reduction of crime and disorder in the Borough

8 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

BD1 Licensing Act 2003, Sections 34, 35 and 36.

BD2 Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 9.26-9.44, 10-10.15, and 10.25.

9 APPENDICES

- A Application to vary Premises licence
- B Current Premises Licence and Plan
- C Map of the location
- D Representation from Person Concerned 1
- D1 Notification of additional conditions and response
- E Representation from Person Concerned 2
- E1 Notification of additional conditions and response
- F Representation from Person Concerned 3
- F1 Notification of additional Conditions, with no reply acknowledged.
- G Additional Conditions
- G1 Applicants acceptance of additional conditions
- H Withdrawn Representation from Environmental Health