

Meeting	Licensing Committee
Portfolio Area	Communities, Community Safety and Equalities
Date	22nd December 2025

APPLICATIONS FOR FOUR TEMPORARY EVENT NOTICES AT THE ROYAL OAK PUB, STEVENAGE SG1 3RA.

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1 PURPOSE

To determine a Temporary Event Notices applied for by the Tenant of The Royal Oak PH, 24 Walkern Road, Stevenage.

1.1 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

Matters which do not relate to the four licensing objectives must be disregarded.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee reviews the evidence submitted within the representation submitted by the responsible authorities and applicant (and/or representatives) and determines what action should be taken in respect of the temporary event notice.
- 2.2 That the Committee considers all evidence submitted within the representation, as well that 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 decide to:
- allow the licensable activities to proceed as set out in the notice.
 - to impose one or more of the existing Premises Licence conditions on the Temporary event Notice (TEN), insofar as those conditions are not inconsistent with the proposed events; or
 - conclude that the events would undermine the licensing objectives and therefore should not take place, in which case a counter notice may be issued. **A copy of the current Premises Licence and Plan are attached at Appendix 1**

3 SUMMARY OF APPLICATION

- 3.1 This report relates to a Temporary Event Notice (TEN) submitted by Mr. Paul Gould, tenant of The Royal Oak PH, located at 24 Walkern Road, Stevenage, which were duly processed by the licensing authority on 11th December 2025. The first of these notices pertains to a proposed event described as a "DJ in the main bar of the premises" scheduled for 31st December extending the licensable activities attached to the premises licence from 11pm until 01:30am on 1st January 2026. This event is intended to accommodate a maximum of 120 persons and requires authorisation for the sale of alcohol for consumption both on and off the premises, the provision of regulated entertainment, and the provision of late-night refreshments. The applicant has also included with his application a full list of Conditions from Annex 2 and 3 of the existing premises licence which they wish to adopt for this event. **A full copy of the TEN is attached at Appendix 2**

4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Royal Oak PH was built in 1866 and is situated in Walkern Road, Stevenage, **A Location Map is attached at Appendix 3.** The premises has a long regulatory history concerning noise complaints, resulting in ongoing engagement between the local authority, environmental health, the tenant and the premises licence holder, Details of which are outlined in the supporting evidence provided by Environmental Health. This is attached at **Appendix 5, A to E.**
- 4.2 On 10th January 2024 a Stevenage Borough Council Environmental Health Officer served a noise abatement notice to the then DPS Karl Crunkhurn, and

the occupier of the premises under Section 79.(1)(g) of the Environmental protection act 1990.

- 4.3 A Minor Variation to the Premises Licence was granted to the licence holder, McMullen & Sons Ltd, on 17 November 2025. The variation was approved following an application submitted by the licence holder to voluntarily add and amend specific conditions to the premises licence. The intention behind the variation was to address reports of noise nuisance from local residents and to introduce additional measures aimed at managing noise nuisance more effectively. These changes were proposed in alignment with the licensing objective, prevention of public nuisance, and was a result of proactive engagement with both the Licensing Authority and Environmental Health. This variation was granted on 17 November 2025.
- 4.4 On 9th December 2025 the licensing committee determined, to direct licensing to serve a counternotice for a previous TEN submitted by the same applicant, also for 31st December 2025 between 19:00hrs and 01:00hrs as it was concerned that the licensing objectives would not be promoted and conditions not complied with. The Final Decision Notice 10.12.25 is attached at **Appendix 6**
- 4.5 The applicant has provided some additional documents which they wish to be shared with the committee ahead of the hearing, these are attached at **Appendix 7**

5 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

- 5.1 An objection was received from environmental health for this TEN for failing to promote the licensing objective of preventing of public nuisance. A copy of the objection is attached at **Appendix 4**.
- 5.2 In summary environmental health's core concern is that granting the TEN would disapply the existing public nuisance safeguards under the Premises licence. This is further supported by the fact that the licence holder recently sought to impose tighter controls relating to noise indicating recognition of existing issues relating to noise nuisance.
- 5.3 No objections were received from Police in respect of this TEN application.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

- 6.1.1 Whilst the application for a TEN itself has a relatively low fee (£21 per notice), the process of responding to an objection can lead to increased costs to the Council, e.g. administration and legal costs.
- 6.1.2 If the objection results in the event being prevented or delayed, this can lead to significant financial losses. The event organiser may have already made commitments for staffing, equipment rental/booking of entertainment, marketing, and ticket sales. Depending on the type of event, the cancellation could result in lost revenue and potentially damage the reputation of the organiser

6.2 Legal Implications

- 6.2.1 Local authorities can only object to a TEN on specific, legally defined grounds, as outlined in the Licensing Act 2003. The grounds for objection are limited to:
 - **Public Nuisance:** The event could result in noise, disturbance, or other impacts that affect local residents or businesses.
 - **Public Safety:** The event may pose a risk to the safety of attendees, staff, or the general public.
 - **Protection of Children from Harm:** The event may involve activities that are unsuitable for children or that could put them at risk.
 - **Prevention of Crime and Disorder:** There may be concerns about the event facilitating illegal activities or public order issues.
- 6.2.2 A local authority must demonstrate that it has a reasonable belief that one or more of these criteria will be violated if the event proceeds as applied for. The council's objection must be evidence-based, not simply subjective or arbitrary. If the objection is not based on these legal grounds, it could be legally challenged.
- 6.2.3 The Licensing Act 2003 states that only the licensing authority can impose conditions to a TEN from the existing conditions on the premises licence or club premises certificate at the venue. The licensing authority can only do so:
 - if the police or Environmental Health have objected to the TEN;
 - if that objection has not been withdrawn;
 - if there is a licence or certificate in relation to at least a part of the premises in respect of which the TEN is given;
 - and if the licensing authority considers it appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives to impose one or more conditions. The conditions must be notified to the premises user on the form prescribed by regulations.
- 6.2.5 Should the Committee decide that the event should not go ahead, a counter notice must be issued

- 6.2.6 The committee must under Section 106A (3) notify the premises user and provide a notice to each relevant party.
- 6.2.7 An applicant has the right to appeal the decision of the Licensing Committee should they issue a counter notice in response to an objection from police or environmental health.

6.3 Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

6.4 Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.4.1 Any decision by the Committee is based on evidence before it at the meeting; there are no equalities and diversity implications.

7 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

BD1 [Licensing Act 2003](#) (Section 100 – 106)

BD2 [Revised guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 \(November 2025\) \(accessible version\) - GOV.UK](#) (Section 7)

BD3 <https://www.stevenage.gov.uk/documents/licensing/statement-of-licensing-policy-2025-2030.pdf>

8 APPENDICES

- 1 Premises Licence and Plan
- 2 Temporary Event Notice for 31st December
- 3 Location Map
- 4. Environmental Health Representation 16.12.2025
- 5. Environmental Health Supporting Evidence Pack including:
 - A. *Environmental Health Officer Investigation Summary Apr-May 2023*
 - B. *Noise Abatement Notice to Occupier 10.01.24*
 - C. *Noise Abatement Notice to Named Person 10.01.24*
 - D. *Noise Abatement Order to Tenant at a different Venue 26.09.17*
 - E. *Anti-Social Behaviour Log 20th, 27th Nov and 1st Dec*
- 6. Decision Notice 10.12.25
- 7. Supplementary Information from the Applicant