

Licensing Sub-Committee – 20 May 2025 at 10 am

Application for a licence variation at David Lloyd Leisure Centre, Ringwood

Purpose	To determine a licence variation application for David Lloyd Leisure Centre, submitted under the Licensing Act 2003
Classification	Public
Executive Summary	The report details information to be considered by Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee in determining the premises licence application.
Recommendation(s)	That members of the Sub-Committee determine the premises licence variation application submitted by David Lloyd Leisure Ltd under the Licensing Act 2003. This decision should be taken in the light of information contained in the report and at provided at the hearing.
Reasons for recommendation(s)	Information as contained in the report and offered by all parties in addition to the legal licensing framework and legislation.
Ward(s)	Ringwood South
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Dan Poole - Portfolio Holder for Community, Safety and Wellbeing
Strategic Director	Richard Knott – Strategic Director of Housing & Communities
Officer Contact	Christa Ferguson-Licensing Manager Environmental and Regulation 023 8028 5325 Christa.ferguson@nfdc.gov.uk

Introduction

1. The purpose of the report is to provide the Sub-Committee with information at the hearing to determine an application to vary the premises licence made under section 34 of the Licensing Act 2003 ("the Act") in respect of David Lloyd Leisure Centre, 242 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, BH24 3AS.

Background

2. The premises has held a premises licence issued under the Act since 24 November 2005. The licence was converted from the previous licensing regime at the implementation of the Licensing Act in that year.
3. The current licence is provided as **Appendix 1**.
4. Centre facilities currently provide a range of sporting activities and there is a bar on site for members to use.
5. Premises licence number 1418 permits the following licensable activities:

Exhibition of films, Indoor sporting events, live music, recorded music, performance of dance, anything similar

Sunday to Thursday 10:00 hrs to 00:00 hrs

Friday and Saturday 10:00 hrs to 01:00 hrs

Late night refreshment on the premises

Sunday to Thursday 23:00 hrs to 00:30 hrs

Friday and Saturday 23:00 hrs to 01:30 hrs

Sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises

Sunday to Thursday 10:00 hrs to 00:00 hrs

Friday and Saturday 10:00 hrs to 01:00 hrs

Opening times of the premises

Monday to Thursday 06:30 hrs to 00:30 hrs

Friday and Saturday 06:30 hrs to 01:30 hrs

Sunday 07:30 hrs to 00:30 hrs

6. Although the licence permits the hours above, the Centre Manager has confirmed that these times are only used for one off events. Normal opening hours for the clubroom are provided below, as advertised on the premises. A copy of the notice displayed in the bar area is provided as **Appendix 2**.

Monday to Friday

Deli and drinks - 7:00am to 9:45pm

Kitchen - 8:00am to 8:30pm

Weekends and Bank Holidays

Deli and drinks - 8:00am to 7:45pm

Kitchen - 8:00am to 6:30pm.

7. The premises is located on a main road in Ringwood. There are a number of outside facilities including tennis courts, padel courts, a swimming pool and an outside seating area to the rear of the premises of the premises. A location plan is provided at **Appendix 3**. There are residential houses on the main road, either side of the entrance to the car park on the main road and to the rear is a lake, mature trees and lawns.
8. Inside, the centre provides sporting facilities, changing rooms, a children's area and a clubroom bar, providing food, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks during the day and early evening.

The application

9. The Licensing Authority have received an application from David Lloyd Leisure Ltd to vary the premises licence (number 1418) for the leisure centre. The application is provided at **Appendix 4**.
10. The variation application seeks "a modest expansion" to the outside terraced area and minor changes to the inside licensed area. The relevant sections of the current plan together with the proposed extensions to the licensed area are provided at **Appendix 5**. The highlighted areas indicate the additional licensed area outside the clubhouse on the patio and the internal change to the bar area.
11. Photographs at **Appendix 6** show the outside seating area. The new area is covered by decking whilst other areas are flagged.
12. The proposed extension to the bar area will include the current backstage kitchen area where partition walls and cupboards will be removed. The current bar area is shown on the photographs.
13. There are other changes proposed to non-licensed areas, but there is no proposal to extend the hours that alcohol or other licensable activities are provided on site.
14. The application is required under the Act due to the small increase to the licensed area, a change that is not suitable to be considered by way of a minor variation application.
15. Public consultation has been carried out, as required under the Act and officers have confirmed that the application has been advertised both at the site and in a newspaper that covers the New Forest area.
16. All Responsible Authorities were consulted and provided with the application and full plan. They include NFDC planning, NPA development control, Hampshire Police and NFDC Environmental Health.

17. No comments or objections were received from any Responsible Authority and since the licence was granted in 2005, there have been no complaints received as a result of any licensable activity.

Requirements for a hearing

18. The Licensing Authority must hold a hearing to determine the application where relevant representations addressing the licensing objectives are made. These objectives being:
 - The prevention of crime and disorder,
 - Public safety,
 - The prevention of public nuisance, and
 - The protection of children from harm.
19. Members are referred to statutory guidance issued by the Home Office under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 dated February 2025, in particular the sections on the licensing objectives and determining applications.
[Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003](#)
20. In determining the application, the Licensing Sub-Committee must give appropriate weight to:
 - the steps that are appropriate to promote the licensing objectives,
 - The relevant representations presented by all parties,
 - Home Office guidance,
 - The Council's own Statement of Licensing Policy.

Representations received

21. During the 28-day representation period, the Licensing Authority received 13 representations from members of the public who are Members of the centre and use their facilities. These representations are provided as **Appendix 7**.
22. There were initially a further 21 representations received, and although each one was considered, they did not relate to the Licensing Act 2003, and therefore are not relevant to this application under the Act. The points made related to the general use of the premises and the proposed changes to sporting facilities and the implications for members, but not to the licensable activities carried on at the site.

23. A number of representations in Appendix 7 also refer to proposed changes to sporting areas and courts at the site, but as these areas do not provide licensable activities, they cannot be considered under the remit of this hearing. However, for completeness, as the applicant has referred to them on the application form and objectors have also referred to them, they are presented within the representations.
24. Comments in the representations have referred to the proposal to add a television screen outside. Any points raised regarding potential additional users of the site and health and safety implications, would require reviewing under health and safety legislation and internal risk assessments, and are therefore not a consideration under the Act.
25. It should be noted that the determination of this application, can only consider the implications of the proposed variation in relation to the licensing objectives; that being, the extension to the licensed area, as highlighted in **Appendix 5**.
26. Matters that cannot be considered at this hearing include planning, traffic, car parking and loss of amenity through changes to the internal layout, particularly in relation to sporting facilities.

Options appraisal

Option 1

27. Grant the application as applied for.

Option 2

28. Grant the application and add further conditions.

Option 3

29. Refuse the application as applied for.

Legal implications

30. This hearing is governed by the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005. These Regulations provide that hearings should be held in public unless the Licensing Authority considers that the public interest in excluding the public outweighs the public interest in the hearing taking place in public.
31. The applicant and those parties making representations have been invited to this meeting and have been provided with this report and the procedures to be followed at the hearing.

32. The applicant and those who have made relevant representations are entitled to address the Sub-Committee and to ask questions of the other party, with the consent of the Sub-Committee.

Right of appeal

33. It should be noted that the applicant and those who have made relevant representations may appeal the decision made by the Licensing Sub-Committee to the Magistrates' Court. The appeal must be lodged with the Magistrates' Court within 21 days of the notification of the decision.
34. In the event of an appeal being lodged, the decision made by the Licensing Sub-Committee remains valid until any appeal is heard and the decision made by the Magistrates' Court.

Equalities implications

35. Each application is treated on its own merits.

Crime and disorder implications

36. Licensable activities must be provided under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003

Conclusion

37. The Licensing Sub-Committee must, having regard to the application and any relevant representations, consider which measures are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Current premises licence
Appendix 2- Bar Notice with opening hours
Appendix 3- Location plan
Appendix 4- Variation application
Appendix 5- Section of plans highlighting the proposed change to the licensed areas
Appendix 6- Photographs of the site
Appendix 7- Representations

Background papers

NFDC Licensing Act 2003 Policy
Licensing Act 2003