

LICENSING ACT 2003 SUB-COMMITTEE (A) - THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2026

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 SUB-COMMITTEE (A) HELD HYBRID IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES,
ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON THURSDAY, 22 JANUARY 2026 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor M Lewis – Chairperson

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

J E Pratt

Present Virtually

Apologies for Absence

None

Officers:

Kirsty Evans

Andrea Lee

Nimi Chandrasena

Michael Pitman

Senior Licensing Officer

Senior Lawyer

Democratic Services Officer - Support

Technical Support Officer – Democratic Services

Invitees

Cllr Ian Williams – Elected Member and Ward

Councillor for Oldcastle - Bridgend County Borough

Fiona Colwill – Licensing Officer, South Wales Police

Matthew McDonald - Licensing Officer, South Wales Police

Mr Pirunthuja Satheeswaran – Applicant

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Mr Suresh Kanapati - Arka Licensing Representative

Declarations of Interest

Members of the committee declared a personal interest as they work alongside one of the objectors, Cllr Ian Williams, as elected members of Bridgend County Borough Council.

**28. Grant Of A Premises Licence Family Shopper - 16 Cowbridge Road
Bridgend CF31 3DA**

Decision Made	<p>At the outset of the hearing, the Sub-Committee had before it a report from the Council's Licensing Officer which included the application for the licence and the written objections of the Objectors.</p> <p>The Senior Licensing Officer outlined the report, the purpose of which, was to determine an application for the grant of a premises licence for Family Shopper 16 Cowbridge Road Bridgend CF31 3DA. submitted by Mr Pirunthuja Satheeswaran and Mr Suresh Kanapati .</p> <p>MATERIAL BEFORE THE SUB-COMMITTEE</p> <p>The Sub-Committee had before it a report from the Licensing Officer, together with objections received from Cllr Ian Williams and an anonymous local resident represented by South Wales Police. The applicant and South Wales Police reached agreement on the imposition of additional conditions should this licence be granted namely:-</p> <p>General Premises Licence Holder and Designated Premises Supervisor will positively engage with South Wales Police and Multi Agency Partners.</p> <p>Prevention of Crime and Disorder Alcohol shall not be sold to persons known to cause anti-social behaviour, or persons known to purchase alcohol for those persons causing anti-social behaviour within Bridgend Town Centre</p> <p>The Representative of ARKA Licensing stated that the shop, a family business was run by a husband, wife and a few members of staff they employ. They had been operating under a temporary license since 18/12/25 and had already been selling alcohol among other items. He referred to pages 17-18 where they had detailed their intentions under Licensing Objectives. The Representative went on to address the</p>
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objections raised stating that they can confirm there were no incidents that occurred due to their operation while operating under a temporary licence. He also stated that the applicant intended to work within operating schedules that would deter antisocial behaviour. He stated that the sale of alcohol was not the main part of their business and he understood that the main objection was with regards to the extended opening hours, thereby an extended time over which the public could purchase alcohol.

A member asked why alcohol was being sold during the extended hours of operation the business was applying for. The Representative of ARKA stated that their application was for extended operating hours during which they could sell all products, including alcohol.

A member asked for confirmation of current operating hours under the Temporary License and the Representative responded that the shop was open between 7am-11pm.

There was a further discussion between members and the representative with regards to serving individuals with ASB.

Representatives of Licensing for South Wales Police read out a letter from an objector stating that their concern was the extended operating hours and the consequences of granting the business a licence to operate during extended hours, which would result in loitering, littering, noise and nuisance. The objector also felt that granting of such a license would set precedent to other establishments selling alcohol in the area. They had concerns about where the establishment was located as was in a residential area with close proximity to a women's refuge and schools.

Objections were also received from the Elected Councillor/Ward Member for the Oldcaste ward where the premises are located. The Ward Member/ Councillor stated that he was representing the concerns of his community and wanted to challenge the application for the shop requesting to operate with extended hours, thereby selling alcohol after all other establishments had closed for business. He mentioned the impact this would have on the community which comprised of elderly residents, young families and HMO's. He asked that the adverse impact of allowing extended hours of operation to be considered when making a decision to grant the application.

A discussion took place about the operating hours of other shops nearby selling alcohol and also the operating hours of public houses in close proximity to the shop in the application. The applicant and the objectors then left the meeting allowing the committee to deliberate on the information presented to them.

RESOLVED

DETERMINATION

The Sub-Committee, in its decision-making, was required to promote the statutory licensing objectives and in particular, the prevention of crime and disorder and public safety. The Sub-Committee took into consideration all representations made both by the Applicant and the Objectors. The Sub-Committee also took into consideration, that the Police after negotiating with the Applicant and agreeing new conditions on the licence were now satisfied. The Sub-Committee also took into consideration that there were no representations from any other statutory body to include public protection.

The Sub-Committee did not take into consideration several matters raised by the objectors as they were not relevant representations under the Licensing Act. The following matters were not taken into consideration:-

Cumulative Impact Policy – the Council does not currently have a Cumulative Impact Policy, and the previous policy only related to a certain area within the town centre.

Commercial Demand - The question of need or commercial demand for licensed premises is not a relevant consideration under the Licensing Act 2003. The Authority can only consider matters that impact on the licensing objectives.

Parking issues- these are not relevant representations under the Licensing Act.

Commercial Waste - This is not a relevant representation under the Licensing Act

Reference to problems at other premises in the area- the Sub-Committee was required to determine the application on its merits and does not consider problems at other licenses premises.

While decisions must be grounded in evidence, the courts have clarified that this includes the authority's reasonable assessment of future risk based on available information.

The licensing Sub-Committees should not impose conditions based on mere speculation, but it does not prohibit consideration of prospective harm altogether.

Decisions were required be rational and proportionate, and it did not prohibit consideration of prospective harm altogether. The Sub-Committee took into consideration the close proximity to residential area and the nature of proposed licensable activities. This application is for shop and the requested time for opening was from 06:00 to 00:00 hours which has reduced by one hour at the commence of the Sub-Committee.

Licensing Authorities may therefore refuse an application or impose conditions if there is "good reason to suppose" that disorder or other harms may occur, even if no current issues exist. Residents have the right to enjoy their homes without undue disturbance.

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	<p>Applicants should ensure that proposed hours are appropriate for the specific locality. Where relevant representations are made, the Licensing Sub-Committee will determine whether they agree with the characterisation of the area, drawing on both the information presented and their own local knowledge. The Sub-Committee are aware that this premises is also situated close to a women's refuge.</p> <p>Having taken all the above into consideration the Sub-Committee determined to grant the licence subject to the additional conditions agreed with the Police and also determined that they would only grant the licence for the hours of 07:00 to 23:00 hours.</p> <p>This decision is based on the close proximity of the premises to a residential area and that there also a women's refuge in close proximity.</p>
Date Decision Made	22/01/26

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 10:57.