

Public Document Pack



Regulatory Sub Committee

**Tuesday, 19 August 2025 2.00 p.m.
The Board Room - Municipal Building,
Widnes**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Young'.

Chief Executive

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Pamela Wallace (Chair)
Councillor Colin Hughes
Councillor Kath Loftus

*Please contact Kim Butler on 0151 511 7496 or
kim.butler@halton.gov.uk for further information.*

The next meeting of the Committee is on Thursday, 28 August 2025

**ITEMS TO BE DEALT WITH
IN THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Part I

| Item No. | Page No. |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. MINUTES - 5 JUNE 2025 | 1 - 6 |
| 2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (INCLUDING PARTY WHIP DECLARATIONS) Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or Other Disclosable Interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda, no later than when that item is reached or as soon as the interest becomes apparent and, with Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, to leave the meeting during any discussion and voting on the item. | |
| 3. APPLICATION TO VARY THE DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR - BLUNDELL ARMS, HALE ROAD, WIDNES, WA8 8SX | 7 - 28 |

REGULATORY SUB COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Sub Committee on Thursday, 5 June 2025 at The Board Room - Municipal Building, Widnes

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott and Bramwell

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Hesketh, E. Wilson-Lagan and C. Ward

Also in attendance: L. Halliday, H. Durkin, C. O'Hara and Councillor Begg

**ITEM DEALT WITH
UNDER DUTIES
EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD**

REGS1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18 March 2025 having been circulated were signed as a correct record.

REGS2 APPLICATION FOR TO VARY A PREMISES LICENCE - RED LION INN, RUNCORN ROAD, MOORE, WA4 6UD

This is the formal notification of a decision made by Halton Borough Council's Regulatory Sub-Committee at a hearing held under the Licensing Act 2003 ("the Act") on 5 June 2025 in the Boardroom at Municipal Building, Widnes at 10 am.

The hearing was held to determine an application under section 34 of the Act for a variation of a premises licence for the Red Lion Inn ("the Premises") in Runcorn. The application sought to amend the licensing plan in accordance with the drawing which accompanied the application, to permit the sale of alcohol from an external bar area and to remove the provisions of facilities for dancing and making music as these are no longer licensable activities.

Action

The hearing has been held as relevant representations have been received from Ward Councillor Neil Connolly, and one local resident.

In attendance were:-

- Members of the Regulatory Sub-Committee comprising Councillor Wallace, Councillor Abbot and Councillor Bramwell (the Sub-Committee);
- Mr George Domleo from Flint Bishop Solicitors, acting on behalf of the Premises Licence Holder, Star Pubs & Bars Limited;
- Mr Andrew Rogers who is the Designated Premises Supervisor at the Red Lion Inn;
- Ms Becky Rogers, from the Red Lion Inn;
- Councillor Neil Connolly; and
- In addition, there were a number of observers, including Councillor Victoria Begg.

The one local resident who objected to the application informed the Council that they did not intend to attend or be represented at the hearing and the matter proceeded in their absence in accordance with Regulation 20 of the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005. The Sub-Committee were advised that the relevant representation was still to be considered despite the residents non-attendance.

After the chair of the Sub-Committee, Councillor Wallace, had introduced the parties, the Legal Adviser, Elizabeth Wilson-Lagan, outlined the procedure to be followed.

Licensing Manager, Kim Hesketh, took the Sub-Committee through the contents of her reports and accompanying appendices, explaining the nature of the application and the relevant representations that had been received.

The Hearing

The applicant's Solicitor explained that the Premises Licence holder, Star Pubs & Bars Limited, was a wholly owned subsidiary of Heineken UK, and there was a lease agreement in place between Mr Rogers and Heineken UK, with the family living on the premises. Star Pubs & Bars had owned the premises since 2011 and since then there had been no issues with the premises. The premises had been licensed under the Act since 2005 and probably had some form of licence before then.

The building itself is from the 17th century and acts as a village pub and community hub. It offers both food and drinks, with a 50/50 split. It holds open mic nights, summer fairs and wellness and holistic events. There had been significant investment from the current owners and employed over 40 members of staff. It was explained that there would be a need to employ more members of staff should the application be granted.

The purpose of the external bar was also explained. The internal bar area was not the biggest given the character of the building and could not cope with demand. The external bar would alleviate this pressure and would also mean that parents would not have to leave children in the garden area to get drinks from inside. The applicants have also found that customers still prefer to sit outside following the impact of Covid.

It was also explained that there would be staff stationed outside so they would be monitoring what is going on. There was no intention to increase timings and nothing usual about the application. The applicant is aware of the location and did not want to cause noise nuisance, particularly as they were living in the premises with their baby.

The applicant's Solicitor explained that none of the responsible authorities had objected to the application, with conditions being agreed with the Police on CCTV and Environmental Health on not operating the external bar area after 11pm. To alleviate the concerns of the Councillor and residents, however, the applicant was prepared to offer 2 x additional conditions on providing the contact details of the DPS/ manager to residents on request for them to make complaints and on maintaining a record of complaints.

Following questions from the Sub-Committee, the Applicant's Solicitor explained that there would be no increase in capacity and that the external bar would be stocked with alcohol which would stay in the bar after it had closed at 11pm. The bar itself is a self-secured unit that would be locked and there would be no transporting of bottles or banging of crates once it had closed. The applicant does not allow bottle bins to be emptied after 8 pm but was happy to agree a condition to this affect if members thought it was necessary.

To questions about the complaints on lighting, the Applicant confirmed that there was no strobe lighting and that there were fairy lights but that they have not received

any complaints about lighting.

Councillor Connolly explained that the 11pm curfew for the external bar changed the position and that many of his concerns had been alleviated. He still had issues with planning related matters, which he appreciated were not a matter for this Sub-Committee, parking, capacity for open and ticketed events, lighting from discos and vendors using the car park for events.

In response to questions from the Sub-Committee, Councillor Connolly confirmed that he had received complaints from residents about noise but that these had related to New Years Eve and that since then there had been no further issues. The residents ongoing concerns were more anxiety about potential noise. The applicant clarified that the New Years Eve event had not taken place in the teepee outside but inside the building.

Decision

The Sub-Committee resolved to grant the application subject to the additional conditions agreed with the Police and Environmental Health and the following 2 conditions:-

- 1) A dedicated telephone number and email address for the Designated Premises Supervisor or Manager shall be given to any resident on request to allow for complaints to be made directly and at times when the premises is open;
- 2) A record of complaints shall be maintained to record details of any complaints received. The information to be recorded shall include:-
 - The date and time of the complaint;
 - Any subsequent remedial action undertaken;
 - Where disclosed, the complainants name and location;

The record of complaints shall be kept for 12 months following the complaint and shall be made available to the responsible authorities as and when required.

Reasons

In making its decision, the Sub-Committee had regard to the licensing objectives, the statutory guidance and the Council's own Statement of Licensing Policy as well as all representations made to the Sub-Committee (including the 1

resident representation) and the licensing report.

The Sub-Committee considered as follows:-

1. The Sub-Committee noted that many of the issues that were raised by Councillor Connolly were matters pertaining to planning or matters outside the control of the licensing regime and, having taken legal advice on this matter, these matters were disregarded by the Sub-Committee;
2. The applicant is a very responsible licence holder and they have reassured the Sub-Committee that they will work with residents on any issues brought to their attention. The Sub-Committee also noted the comments of Councillor Connolly that the new landlords are to be commended for they have reinvigorated a county pub and that it is a vibrant destination;
3. In respect of the licensing objectives, the Sub-Committee placed great weight on the fact that none of the responsible authorities had objected to the application and that they were the experts in their respective fields. The agreed conditions that both the Police and Environmental Health had imposed promoted the licensing objectives and were proportionate and reasonable;
4. The Sub-Committee considered that the main issue was the potential for noise nuisance from the external bar, particularly after 11pm, with Councillor Connolly accepting that there were no issues before this time;
5. The concerns of noise nuisance related mainly to one incident on New Years Eve and that since then there had been no further issues;
6. The Sub-Committee considers that the condition imposed by Environmental Health restricting the use of the external bar after 11 pm adequately deals with the concerns of noise and the Sub-Committee notes that Councillor Connolly also agreed that this condition dealt with many of his concerns;
7. The Sub-Committee does not consider that there would be an issue with noise from bottling up given the applicants reassurances that bottle bins would not be emptied past 8pm and therefore they determined not to attach the condition offered by the Applicant to

this affect;

8. The Sub-Committee, being conscious that this was not a review of the current licence, also considered that the issues that had been raised on lighting were of a speculative nature so were the concerns raised on public safety. The applicant had confirmed there would be no increase in capacity and significant weight was placed on the fact that there had been no representations from the Health and Safety Authority or Cheshire Fire; and
9. Overall, the Sub-Committee considers the application promotes the licensing objectives.

The Sub-Committee reminded residents that should any issues arise, there were powers to deal with premises, if a licence leads to the licensing objectives being undermined. The power for residents or responsible authorities to bring review proceedings, where steps could be taken to restrict the licence, impose further conditions, or in extreme circumstances, revoke the licence when evidence showed issues resulted from a licensable activity. Action could also be taken separately by Environmental Health in relation to statutory noise nuisance, if reported. The Sub-Committee hoped that this brought some reassurance to the residents.

Time that the determination shall take effect

Forthwith.

Meeting ended at 11.42 a.m.

REPORT: Regulatory Sub-Committee

DATE: 19 August 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Director – Legal and Democratic Services

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Application to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor – Blundell Arms, Hale Road, Widnes, WA8 8SX

WARDS: Ditton, Hale Village and Halebank

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To assist the Members of the Regulatory Sub-Committee in their consideration for an application to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor made by Cheshire Retail Ltd for the Blundells Arms, Hale Road, Widnes.

2. RECOMMENDATION that

The Sub-Committee considers the contents of the report and makes a determination on the application.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 An application has been made by Cheshire Retail Ltd (Premises Licence Holder) to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor at the Blundell Arms, Hale Road, Widnes.
- 3.2 An application has been made under Section 37 of the Licensing Act 2003 to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor into Mr Ben Longman's name for the Blundell Arms, Hale Road, Widnes on the 15th July 2025.
- 3.3 The premises has held a licence since the 8th November 2021, there has been a previous licence in place at this premises since the 24th November 2005 until the 8 June 2021.

4. THE APPLICATION

- 4.1 An application was submitted to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor on the 15th July 2025 into the name of

Mr Ben Longman. A copy of the application can be found at **Appendix A** of this report.

- 4.2 The current Designated Premises Supervisor at the Blundell Arms is Steven Hewitt.
- 4.3 Attached for completeness at **Appendix B** of this report, is a copy of the licence for the Blundell Arms which includes the conditions attached to the licence.

5. REQUIREMENT FOR A HEARING

- 5.1 The application to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor is normally straight forward and dealt with as an administrative matter. As part of the application process, the applicant is required to give notice to the Chief Officer of Police where an application has been made under Section 37 of the Act.
- 5.2 Under the Act, where a Chief Officer of Police is satisfied that the exceptional circumstances of the case are such that granting the application would undermine the crime prevention objective, he must serve notice on the licensing authority and, where such a notice has been served and not withdrawn, a hearing must be held to determine the application.
- 5.3 The application to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor was submitted on the 15 July 2025 and was sent to the responsible authority (which are the Police) on the same day. There is a 14 days representation period which expired on the 29 July 2025.
- 5.4 During the 14 days representation period, the Licensing Authority received a relevant objection from the Responsible Authority, namely Cheshire Police to the application to Vary Designated Premises Supervisor.
- 5.5 As stated above, where relevant representations have been made and not withdrawn, the licensing authority must hold a hearing to consider them (unless otherwise agreed by the parties).
- 5.6 The hearing is held in accordance with the Act and the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005. The procedure to be followed has been circulated to all parties and will be repeated at the beginning of the hearing.
- 5.9 The hearing is solely concerned with those aspects of the application, which has been the subject of the relevant representation as defined in the Act. These are the representation made by Cheshire Police.

- 5.10 At the time of writing this report I have not received any indication from the Cheshire Police, if they will be making any submissions to the Sub-Committee at the hearing. All parties have all been informed of the hearing.

6. THE REPRESENTATIONS

6.1 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

Relevant representations have been received from Cheshire Police.

Attached at **Appendix C** is a copy of the objection to the Vary of Designated Premises Supervisor. The objection is on the ground that it would undermine the licensing objectives on the prevention of crime and disorder.

7. OPTIONS

- 7.1 The Sub-Committee has the following options under Section 39 of the Act;

- (1) Grant the application to vary the designated premises supervisor,
- (2) Reject the application to vary the designated premises supervisor if it considers it appropriate for the promotion of the crime prevention objective.

9. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None

10. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no special financial considerations to the Authority which need to be highlighted at this stage. However, it should be noted that the decision of the sub-committee is subject to appeal to the Magistrates' Court. If an appeal is made, there will be costs associated with this.

11. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 11.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

None

11.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

None

11.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

None

11.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

None

11.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

None

11.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

None

12. RISK ANALYSIS

- 12.1. The Council is required to hold the hearing in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. Failure to do so, may mean that the Council is acting in breach of its obligations under that Act.

13. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 13.1 There are no equality and diversity issues to highlight.

14. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no climate change implications since the decision will have no effect on the environment.

15. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

| Document | Place of Inspection | Contact Officer |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Application Documents | Legal Services | Kim Hesketh |

Application to vary a premises licence to specify an individual as designated premises supervisor under the Licensing Act 2003

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

Before completing this form please read the guidance notes at the end of the form. If you are completing this form by hand please write legibly in block capitals. In all cases ensure that your answers are inside the boxes and written in black ink. Use additional sheets if necessary.

You may wish to keep a copy of the completed form for your records.

I/we CHESHIRE RETAIL LTD

(full name(s) of premises licence holder)

being the premises licence holder, apply to vary a premises licence to specify the individual named in this application as the premises supervisor under section 37 of the Licensing Act 2003

Premises licence number

~~PA2288~~ LPA 0445

Part 1 – Premises details

Postal address of premises or, if none, ordnance survey map reference or description

BLUNDELL ARMS, HALE ROAD, WIDNES
WA8 8SX

Post town

WIDNES

Post code (if known)




WA8 8SX


Telephone number (if any)

Description of premises (please read guidance note 1)

PUBLIC HOUSE.

Part 2

| |
|---|
| Full name of proposed designated premises supervisor BEN LONGMAN Nationality  Place of birth  Date of birth  |
|---|

| |
|---|
| Personal licence number of proposed designated premises supervisor and issuing authority of that licence (if any)  |
|---|

| |
|---|
| Full name of existing designated premises supervisor (if any) STEVEN HEWITT |
|---|

Please tick yes

I would like this application to have immediate effect under section 38 of the Licensing Act 2003 ☒

I have enclosed the premises licence or relevant part of it ☐

(If you have not enclosed the premises licence, or relevant part of it, please give reasons why not)

| |
|---|
| Reasons why I have failed to enclose the premises licence or relevant part of it |
|---|

Please tick yes

- I have made or enclosed payment of the fee ☐
- I will give a copy of this application to the chief officer of police ☐
- I have enclosed the consent form completed by the proposed premises supervisor ☐
- I have enclosed the premises licence, or relevant part of it or explanation ☐
- I will give a copy of this form to the existing premises supervisor, if any ☐
- I understand that if I do not comply with the above requirements my application will be rejected ☐

IT IS AN OFFENCE, UNDER SECTION 158 OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003, TO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT IN OR IN CONNECTION WITH THIS APPLICATION. THOSE WHO MAKE A FALSE STATEMENT MAY BE LIABLE ON SUMMARY CONVICTION TO A FINE OF ANY AMOUNT.

IT IS AN OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 24B OF THE IMMIGRATION ACT 1971) FOR A PERSON TO WORK WHEN THEY KNOW, OR HAVE REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE, THAT THEY ARE DISQUALIFIED FROM DOING SO BY REASON OF THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS. THOSE WHO EMPLOY AN ADULT WITHOUT LEAVE OR WHO IS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS AS TO EMPLOYMENT WILL BE LIABLE TO A CIVIL PENALTY UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE IMMIGRATION, ASYLUM AND NATIONALITY ACT 2006 AND, PURSUANT TO SECTION 21 OF THE SAME ACT, WILL BE COMMITTING AN OFFENCE WHERE THEY DO SO IN THE KNOWLEDGE, OR WITH REASONABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE, THAT THE EMPLOYEE IS DISQUALIFIED.

Part 3 – Signatures (please read guidance note 2)

Signature of applicant or applicant's solicitor or other duly authorised agent (See guidance note 3). If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.

Signature

[Redacted Signature]

Date

15/7/2025

Capacity

For joint applicants signature of 2nd applicant 2nd applicant's solicitor or other authorised agent (please read guidance note 4). If signing on behalf of the applicant please state in what capacity.

Signature

Date

Capacity

| | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Contact name (where not previously given) and postal address for correspondence associated with this application (please read guidance note 5) BEN LONGMAN [Redacted Address] | |
| Post town [Redacted] | Post Code [Redacted] |
| Telephone number (if any) | |
| If you would prefer us to correspond with you by e-mail your e-mail address (optional) | |

Consent of individual to being specified as premises supervisor

I BEN LONGMAN
[full name of prospective premises supervisor]

of

hereby confirm that I give my consent to be specified as the designated premises supervisor in relation to the application for

BLUNDELL ARMS
[type of application]

by

BEN LONGMAN
[name of applicant]

relating to a premises licence LPA 0445
[number of existing licence, if any]

for

BLUNDELL ARMS, HALE ROAD, WIDNES
[name and address of premises to which the application relates]

and any premises licence to be granted or varied in respect of this application made by

BEN LONGMAN
(name of applicant)

concerning the supply of alcohol at

BLUNDELL ARMS, HALF ROAD, WA8 8SX
(name and address of premises to which application relates)

I also confirm that I am entitled to work in the United Kingdom and am applying for, intend to apply for or currently hold a personal licence, details of which I set out below.

Personal licence number


(insert personal licence number, if any)

Personal licence issuing authority

STHELENS, LICENSING + LAND CHARGES, WESLEY HOUSE,
(insert name and address and telephone number of personal licence issuing authority, if any) WA10 1HF

Signed

Name (please print)

BEN LONGMAN

Date

15/07/2025



Licensing Act 2003

Premises Licence

LPA0445

Part 1 - Premises Details

POSTAL ADDRESS OF PREMISES, OR IF NONE, ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCE OR DESCRIPTION

BLUNDELL ARMS

Hale Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 8SX.

WHERE THE LICENCE IS TIME LIMITED THE DATES

Not applicable

LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED BY THE LICENCE

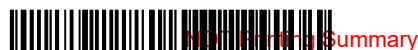
- an indoor sporting event
- a performance of live music
- any playing of recorded music
- a performance of dance
- the sale by retail of alcohol

THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

| Activity (and Area if applicable) | Description | Time From | Time To |
|--|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| C. Indoor sporting event | Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | Midnight |
| | Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |
| | Sunday | Noon | 11:30pm |
| E. Performance of live music (Indoors) | Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | Midnight |
| | Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |
| | Sunday | Noon | 11:30pm |
| F. Playing of recorded music (Indoors) | Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | Midnight |
| | Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |
| | Sunday | Noon | Midnight |
| G. Performance of dance (Indoors) | Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | Midnight |
| | Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |
| | Sunday | Noon | 11:30pm |
| M. The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises | Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | 12:30am |
| | Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |
| | Sunday | Noon | 11:30pm |

THE OPENING HOURS OF THE PREMISES

| Description | Time From | Time To |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | 12:30am |
| Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |





Licensing Act 2003

Premises Licence

LPA0445

THE OPENING HOURS OF THE PREMISES continued ...

| Description | Time From | Time To |
|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Sunday | Noon | 11:30pm |

WHERE THE LICENCE AUTHORISES SUPPLIES OF ALCOHOL WHETHER THESE ARE ON AND / OR OFF SUPPLIES

- M. The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises

Part 2

NAME, (REGISTERED) ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER AND EMAIL (WHERE RELEVANT) OF HOLDER OF PREMISES LICENCE

Cheshire Retail NW Ltd

135 Higher Parr Street, St.Helens, Merseyside, WA9 1DA.

REGISTERED NUMBER OF HOLDER, FOR EXAMPLE COMPANY NUMBER, CHARITY NUMBER (WHERE APPLICABLE)

Cheshire Retail NW Ltd

06653474

NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Steven William HEWITT

[REDACTED]

PERSONAL LICENCE NUMBER AND ISSUING AUTHORITY OF PERSONAL LICENCE HELD BY DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES FOR THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Licence No. [REDACTED]

Issued by [REDACTED]

ANNEXES

Definitions:

"Act" means the Licensing Act 2003

"Application" means the Application for this Licence submitted by or on behalf of the Holder

"Holder" means the Licence Holder named on this Licence

"Licensing Authority" means Halton Borough Council

"Operating Schedule" means the Operating Schedule accompanying the Application

THIS LICENCE CONSTITUTES A NEW LICENCE AS DEFINED IN THE ACT

The Holder shall comply with the following conditions:

A Alteration of details relating to this Licence

No details set out on this Licence shall be altered without the consent of the Licensing Authority

B Compliance with the Operating Schedule





Licensing Act 2003

LPA0445

Premises Licence

ANNEXES continued ...

The Holder shall comply with the Operating Schedule and the details set out in the Application except as varied or inconsistent with anything set out in this Licence

C Conditions agreed by the Holder during the Licence application process

TRADING STANDARDS

Protection of Children from Harm;

- All children to be accompanied by an identified responsible adult at all times.
- All children off premises by 20.00.
- Premises to operate a 'Challenge 25' system operating a refusals register.

REFUSALS REGISTER

An alcohol sales refusal register shall be kept at the premises, in either written form or electronically, and be maintained to include

details of all alcohol sales refused. The register will include:

- i. the date and time of refusal
- ii. the reason for refusal
- iii. details of the person refusing the sale
- iv. description of the customer
- v. any other relevant observations.

The refusals register will be made available for inspection and copying on request of an authorised officer of a Responsible Authority.

The refusals register to be examined and signed off by DPS at least on a monthly basis.

Any corrective action to be noted in register.

CHESHIRE POLICE

Prevention of Crime & Disorder

A CCTV system shall be used and shall be designed and installed in accordance with the Cheshire Constabulary's CCTV guidance document called 'CCTV in Licensed Premises - An Operational Requirement'. This system shall be in operation at all times when licensable activities are taking place.

Recorded CCTV images will be maintained and stored for a period of twenty-eight days,

A staff member from the premises who is conversant with the operation of the CCTV system shall be on the premises at all times when the premises are open to the public. This staff member shall be able to show/provide footage to a Police officer or an authorised officer of the licensing authority data or footage upon request.



Licensing Act 2003

LPA0445

Premises Licence

ANNEXES continued ...

Designated supervisors will need to demonstrate that their CCTV system complies with their Operational requirements. They will need to be able to demonstrate the following:-

- Recordings are fit for their intended purpose,
- Good quality images are presented to the officer in a format that can be replayed on a standard computer
- The supervisor has an understanding of the equipment/training,
- Management records are kept,
- Maintenance agreements and records are maintained,
- Data Protection principles and signage are in place.

The applicant has not offered any age verification scheme, so in order to enhance the conditions already offered under the protection of children from harm, the following conditions are to apply:

Protection of Children from Harm

A "Challenge 25" policy shall be operated at the premises at all times.

The only forms of ID that shall be accepted (at the discretion of the Management) as proof of age are a valid passport, a valid photographic driving licence, a PASS approved proof of age card, HM Services Warrant Card or other reliable photo ID (that has been approved for acceptance by the Police or an Officer of the Local Authority)

Publicity materials notifying customers of the operation of the "Challenge 25" scheme shall be displayed at the premises.

The Designated Premises Supervisor or Premises Licence Holder shall operate and maintain an up-to-date Register of Refusals of Sale of Alcohol, indicating the date, time and reason for refusal which shall be made available for inspection by Local Authority Officers and the Police.

The DPS or other responsible person shall check and sign the register once a week.

Alternatively an electronic point of sale refusals log shall be kept.

A documented training programme shall be introduced for all staff in a position to sell, serve or deliver alcohol. A written record for each member of staff shall be kept of the content of such training and shall be made available for inspection at the request of Local Authority Officers and Police.

The DPS or Premises Licence Holder shall conduct six monthly training reviews with all members of staff authorised to sell, serve or deliver alcohol in order to reinforce the training and to promote best practice. A written record for each member of staff shall be kept of the content of such reviews and shall be made available for inspection at the request of Local Authority Officers and Police.

A list of persons authorised to sell alcohol shall be kept on site and made available for inspection at the



Licensing Act 2003

LPA0445

Premises Licence

ANNEXES continued ...

request of Local Authority Officers and Police.

Clearly visible signage is to be displayed at the entrances and at points of sale indicating it is illegal to sell alcohol to people under the age of 18.

D Conditions consistent with the Operating Schedule

D - Display of Licence

D1 The Summary Licence or a certified copy of that summary must be prominently displayed at the premises whenever the premises are being used for one or more licensable activities authorised by the licence.

D2 A notice specifying the position held at the premises by any person nominated for the purposes S 57 (2) of the LA 2003 (which relates to the keeping at the premises of the premises licence or a certified copy of it) must be prominently displayed at the premises whenever the premises are being used for one or more licensable activities authorised by the licence.

D3 Whenever the premises are being used for one or more licensable activities authorised by the licence a constable or an authorised officer may require any person referred to in D2 as the person nominated for the purposes of S 57 (2) L A 2003 to produce the premises licence or a certified copy of it.

E Mandatory Conditions

1. No supply of alcohol may be made under the premises licence-

(a) at a time when there is no designated premises supervisor in respect of the premises licence, or

(b) at a time when the designated premises supervisor does not hold a personal licence or his personal licence is suspended.

Every supply of alcohol under the premises licence must be made or authorised by a person who holds a personal licence.

2. (1) The responsible person must ensure that staff on relevant premises do not carry out, arrange or participate in any irresponsible promotions in relation to the premises.

(2) In this paragraph, an irresponsible promotion means any one or more of the following activities or substantially similar activities carried on for the purpose of encouraging the sale or supply of alcohol for consumption on the premises-

(a) games or other activities which require or encourage, or are designed to require or encourage, individuals to -

(i) drink a quantity of alcohol within a time limit (other than to drink alcohol sold or supplied on the premises before the cessation of the period in which the responsible person is authorised to sell or supply



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ANNEXES continued ...

alcohol) or

(ii) drink as much alcohol as possible (whether within a time limit or otherwise)

(b) provision of unlimited or unspecified quantities of alcohol free or for a fixed or discounted fee to the public or to a group defined by a particular characteristic in a manner which carried a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective.

(c) provision of free or discounted alcohol or any other thing as a prize to encourage or reward the purchase and consumption of alcohol over a period of 24 hours or less in a manner which carried a significant risk of undermining a licensing objective.

(d) selling or supplying alcohol in association with promotional posters or flyers on, or in, the vicinity of, the premises which can reasonably be considered to condone, encourage, or glamorise anti-social behaviour or to refer to the effects of drunkenness in any favourable manner:

(e) dispensing alcohol directly by one person into the mouth of another (other than where that other person is unable to drink without assistance by reason of disability).

3. The responsible person must ensure that free potable water is provided on request to customers where it is reasonably available.

4. (1) The premises licence holder or club premises certificate holder must ensure that an age verification policy is adopted in respect of the premises in relation to the sale or supply of alcohol.

(2) The designated premises supervisor in relation to the premises licence must ensure that the supply of alcohol at the premises is carried on in accordance with the age verification policy.

(3) the policy must require individuals who appear to the responsible person to be under 18 years of age (or such older age as may be specified in the policy) to produce on request before being served alcohol identification bearing their photograph, date of birth and either-

- (a) A holographic mark, or
- (b) An ultraviolet feature

5. The responsible person must ensure that-

(a) Where any of the following alcoholic drink is sold or supplied for consumption on the premises (other than alcoholic drinks sold or supplied having been made up in advance ready for sale or supply in a securely closed container) is available to customers in the following measure-

- (i) Beer or cider, ½ pint
- (ii) Gin, rum, vodka or whisky: 25ml or 35ml, and
- (iii) Still wine in a glass: 125ml



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ANNEXES continued ...

(b) These measures are displayed in a menu price list or other printed material which is available to customers on the premises, and

(c) Where a customer does not in relation to a sale of alcohol specify the quantity of alcohol to be sold, the customer is made aware that these measures are available.

6. A relevant person shall ensure that no alcohol is sold or supplied for consumption on or off the premises for a price which is less than the permitted price.

F Miscellaneous conditions

N/A

G Pre-existing conditions

N/a

H Plans

The unreferenced plan submitted with the application form dated 20th September 2021 form part of this licence.

Conditions consistent with Operating Schedule on the application dated 20 September 2021

General

Making sure staff & customer are aware of rules and kept safe at all times. Personal Licence Holder on site at all times. H & S and risk assessments completed with staff first aid equipment on site.

Prevention of Crime and disorder

- CCTV on all public areas
- Join pub watch
- Work with other pubs & landlords
- Regular contact with local police
- External lighting
- Be aware of customers drinking habits
- Zero tolerance on drugs
- CCTV notice displayed
- Equipment on at all times

Public Safety

- External lights





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ANNEXES continued ...

- Car park lights
- Fire safety notices
- Allergy notices
- Active fire alarm
- Emergency exit lighting
- Wet floor signs/trip hazards
- Be aware of capacity and make sure enforced
- Complete fire risk assessments
- Event of fire notices displayed
- Fire drill
-

Prevention of Public Nuisance

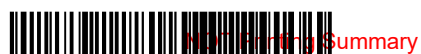
- Notices informing customers to respect neighbours keeping noise down
- Closing smoking areas at reasonable times
- Remove bottles & glasses removed from public area

Protection of children from harm

- No children on site after 20:00
- No children on site unless with responsible adult
- Children must be accounted for during all time
- Special effects inc smoke, dry ice not used when children on site

NON STANDARD / SEASONAL TIMINGS

None





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Premises Licence Summary

Premises Details

POSTAL ADDRESS OF PREMISES, OR IF NONE, ORDANCE SURVEY MAP REFERENCE OR DESCRIPTION

BLUNDELL ARMS

Hale Road, Widnes, Cheshire, WA8 8SX.

WHERE THE LICENCE IS TIME LIMITED THE DATES

Not applicable

LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED BY THE LICENCE

- an indoor sporting event
- a performance of live music
- any playing of recorded music
- a performance of dance
- the sale by retail of alcohol

THE TIMES THE LICENCE AUTHORISES THE CARRYING OUT OF LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

| Activity (and Area if applicable) | Description | Time From | Time To |
|--|---------------------|-----------|----------|
| C. Indoor sporting event | Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | Midnight |
| | Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |
| | Sunday | Noon | 11:30pm |
| E. Performance of live music (Indoors) | Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | Midnight |
| | Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |
| | Sunday | Noon | 11:30pm |
| F. Playing of recorded music (Indoors) | Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | Midnight |
| | Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |
| | Sunday | Noon | Midnight |
| G. Performance of dance (Indoors) | Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | Midnight |
| | Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |
| | Sunday | Noon | 11:30pm |
| M. The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises | Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | 12:30am |
| | Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |
| | Sunday | Noon | 11:30pm |

THE OPENING HOURS OF THE PREMISES

| Description | Time From | Time To |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Monday to Thursday | 11:00am | 12:30am |
| Friday and Saturday | 11:00am | 1:00am |





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Premises Licence Summary

THE OPENING HOURS OF THE PREMISES continued ...

| Description | Time From | Time To |
|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Sunday | Noon | 11:30pm |

WHERE THE LICENCE AUTHORISES SUPPLIES OF ALCOHOL WHETHER THESE ARE ON AND / OR OFF SUPPLIES

- M. The sale by retail of alcohol for consumption ON and OFF the premises

NAME, (REGISTERED) ADDRESS OF HOLDER OF PREMISES LICENCE

Cheshire Retail NW Ltd

135 Higher Parr Street, St.Helens, Merseyside, WA9 1DA.

REGISTERED NUMBER OF HOLDER, FOR EXAMPLE COMPANY NUMBER, CHARITY NUMBER (WHERE APPLICABLE)

Cheshire Retail NW Ltd

06653474

NAME OF DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR WHERE THE PREMISES LICENCE AUTHORISES THE SUPPLY OF ALCOHOL

Steven William HEWITT

STATE WHETHER ACCESS TO THE PREMISES BY CHILDREN IS RESTRICTED OR PROHIBITED

Not applicable



Halton Borough Council

Notice under Section 37 (5) Licensing Act 2003

Following an application to vary a licence to specify an individual as a premises supervisor under Section 37 of the Licensing Act 2003.

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Your Name | Lesley Halliday |
| Job Title | Police Licensing Officer |
| Postal and email address | Warrington Police Station, Charles Stewart House, 55 Museum Street, Warrington WA1 1NE |
| Contact telephone number | [REDACTED] |

| | |
|---|--|
| Name of the person the notice refers | Ben Longman |
| Address of the person the notice refers | [REDACTED] |
| Name and address of premises subject to the application to vary the DPS | Blundell Arms, Hale Road Widnes WA8 8SX |

The chief officer of police is satisfied that the exceptional circumstances of the case are such that granting the application to vary the designated premises supervisor would undermine the crime prevention objective.

The broad grounds for such an objection are inter-alia: -

Cheshire Police would like to object to the application to vary the DPS in respect of the above premises.

The grounds for the objection are that police enquiries with St Helens Council and Merseyside police where Mr Longman has run licensed premises has identified a number of concerns.

Mr Longman has run a number of licensed premises in St Helens where serious concerns have arisen, resulting in the premises licences being reviewed.

Mollies Bar – PLH/Manager and DJ – Sept 2020 to Oct 2021

There were numerous incidents at the premises relating to the sale of alcohol to underage persons, proxy sales, violence and disorder and a sexual assault relating to a 16 year old who had been drinking at the premises, assault on police, robbery where a drug user arranged to meet at the premises for a drug deal and assaulted the male to steal the money and make good his escape, all of this with a drunken undertone.

Mr Longman was issued a fixed penalty notice by the Council on 23/12/2021 for Breach of COVID Regs.

In Oct 2021 a standard review of the premises was completed and the committee determined to revoke the licence, however an appeal was lodged within the 21 days allowing the premises to continue to trade.

In January 2022 there were further incidents at the premises including an alleged rape of a 17-year-old girl in the beer garden and a further assault where a male had his nose broken in the toilets.

Following meetings with management, Mr Longman informed the council and the police that the appeal was being withdrawn and therefore the licence was revoked.

Duke of Cambridge – DPS & DJ March 2022 to December 2023

Within 2 weeks of the premises opening the police were receiving intel of drug dealing at the premises, various reports received throughout 2022 with [REDACTED] named as dealing but this was never substantiated.

In 2022 there were 19 incidents reported at the premises including assaults, fights in progress, drunk and disorderly people being ejected due to intoxication and being dumped behind the premises.

In 2023 there were 35 incidents reports attributed to the premises. With further intel on drug dealing, various levels of assault, complaints from neighbours regarding ASB in the street, fighting outside the premises. The door team refused to work there any longer. Allegations of assaults by the door staff.

The police and council had numerous meetings with the management and tried various interventions and then in November 2023 there was a serious incident with a number of males fighting over a substantial period of time, the door staff were useless and one male was hit over the head with a bottle, large amounts of blood, other people also assaulted, no call to the police to report the matter, staff mopped up the blood and no first aid given.

The police requested a summary review of the licence and initial measures resulted in the premises licence being suspended.

Mr Longman was the tenant at the premises and there was a clause in the tenancy agreement, that made the tenancy void when the review application was made, the licence was transferred back to the landlord who was a reputable licensee who had to attend the committee hearing, fighting to try and retain his premises licence.

Given all of this information Cheshire police have very serious concerns regarding Mr Longman's ability to manage the premises, especially given that this premises has already had incidents where an underage person was found very intoxicated on the premises, there have also been numerous noise complaints from local residents resulting in noise equipment being seized and when police have attended and carried out drugs wipes in the toilets they have all tested positive for cocaine use at the premises.

The police believe that should this application be granted it would seriously undermine the licensing objective of prevention of crime and disorder and would therefore ask the licensing committee to refuse the application.

Signed:

Lesley Halliday

Date: 29/07/2025

This form must be returned within the Statutory Period. Generally, 14 days from the date of the application was given to the responsible authority.