



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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LICENSING ACT 2003

APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE

PREMISES NAME	CHALFEST
PREMISES ADDRESS	PLEASURE GARDEN, BURCOMBE WAY, CHALFORD HILL
APPLICANT NAME/S	CHALFEST COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY
APPLICATION TYPE	APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE
APPLICATION REFERENCE	25/01338/LAPRNW
DATE OF HEARING	28 JANUARY 2026
DATE OF DECISION	28 JANUARY 2026
DECISION	APPLICATION GRANTED SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS

BACKGROUND

Chalfest is a community music festival which is held at the France Lynch Pleasure Ground in Burcombe Way, Chalford. The Pleasure Ground is a community area with a large playing field and children's play area situated between France Lynch and Chalford Hill.

Chalfest has been running for several years and started in 2017. The festival has been held annually since then and is a 2-day event held in July.

The applicant applies for a time limited licence, for a 3 year period, to hold the festival on a Friday and Saturday in July. The previous licence has now expired.

This application is a new premises licence application for a 2 day festival in July 2026, July 2027 and July 2028, for sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises, live and recorded music and performance of dance. The application is for a consecutive Friday and Saturday in July over the 3 year period. The dates for 2026 are 17th and 18th July. The application is for up to 7500 people to attend the event.

The licensable activities and times requested are:

On Sales of Alcohol	Friday Saturday	16:00 to 21:30 11:00 to 21:30
Live Music, Recorded Music and Performance of Dance	Friday Saturday	16:00 to 21:30 11:00 to 21:30
Opening Hours	Friday Saturday	16:00 to 22:00 11:00 to 22:00

Conditions were agreed with the Police as well as further conditions volunteered by the applicant within the application.

The conditions summarised below were agreed with the Police:

- **Event Management Plan (EMP)**

The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) will, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that each event will operate in accordance with an event specific Event Management Plan (EMP). The EMP shall contain detailed policies and plans to promote all the licensing objectives. At a minimum, the EMP will include (either as part of a single document or a series of documents) the following:

- a) Overall description of the event with anticipated number of attendees and detailed plan/s of the event site. (The plan/s will include emergency exits, temporary structures, bars, stalls, toilets, car parking and fire precautions)
- b) Details of event hierarchy and specific responsibilities for ensuring the smooth running and safety of the event.
- c) Security and Stewarding Plan (to include Crowd Management Policy, Searching Policy & Drug Policy)
- d) Emergency and Contingency Plan (to include Emergency Evacuation Procedures and Major Incident / Terrorism Plan)
- e) Communications Plan
- f) Alcohol Management Plan (to include Challenge 25 Policy, Staff Training, Drink Spiking Awareness and Glass Policy)
- g) Noise Management Plan
- h) First Aid and Welfare Plan (to include Safeguarding, Ask for Angela, Missing Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy)
- i) Traffic Management Plan (where applicable)
- j) Adverse Weather Plan
- k) Risk Assessment

A Final Draft EMP (save for any necessary reasonable amendments) will be submitted to the Licensing Authority and Gloucestershire Constabulary Licensing Team (Licensing@gloucestershire.police.uk) at least two weeks prior to the first date on which licensable activities are due to take place in any given year.

• Safety Advisory Group (SAG)

The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) will engage with the local Safety Advisory Group (SAG) prior to the event in any year in which it takes place and will comply with all reasonable requests of the SAG membership.

• Tickets

The Premises Licence holder will ensure that only festival attendees who have a valid ticket are allowed to gain entry to attend the event.

• Security

Security Industry Authority (SIA) licensed Door Supervisors will always be on duty whilst licensable activities are taking place. Sufficient security numbers in relation to tickets sales will be reflected in the EMP for each event year.

• Incident Log

An incident log (written or electronic) shall be in operation throughout each event and made available for inspection upon request of an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or Police. Entries must be made as soon as reasonably practicable, but in any case, within 24 hours of the relevant incident occurring. The log will include:

- a) all crimes reported
- b) all ejections of patrons
- c) all incidents of disorder
- d) all seizures of drugs or offensive weapons
- e) all refusals of the sale of alcohol

• Children

Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

• CCTV

Should any CCTV be in operation during an event (including Body Worn Video of any Security personnel), footage will be retained for at least 28 days after each event has concluded and made available to Police without delay upon reasonable request.

Summary of conditions volunteered by the applicant within the application:

- The Premises Licence holder will ensure that a Challenge 25 policy is in place.
- Stewards will patrol the surrounding area to ensure that people are not causing a nuisance.
- The Premises Licence holder will ensure that the event will finish promptly at 21:30 and that the site is cleared of the public by 2200hrs.
- The Music Noise Level when assessed or measured during sound checks or concerts shall not exceed 65 dB LAeq,15min at 1 metre from the facade of any noise sensitive premises throughout the duration of the event.

- Furthermore, the Music Noise Level shall not exceed 70 dB in either of the 63 Hz or 125 Hz octave frequency bands at 1 metre from the facade of any noise sensitive premises throughout the duration of the event.
- The licensee shall appoint a suitably qualified and experienced noise control consultant (NCC), to the approval of the Licensing Authority, no later than 6 weeks prior to the event. The NCC shall liaise between all parties including the Licensee, Promoter, sound engineer, Environmental Protection and the Licensing team on all matters relating to noise control prior to and during the event.

The previous licence also included a further two conditions in respect of noise management as below, these were omitted from this application, but may still be considered applicable:

- The control limits set at the mixer position shall be adequate to ensure compliance with conditions above throughout the duration of the event and throughout any rehearsal or sound check for the event.
- The appointed NCC shall continually monitor noise levels at the mixer position and advise the sound engineers accordingly to ensure that the noise limits are not exceeded. An authorized officer of the Council shall have access to the results of the noise monitoring at any time.

The Council received one representation against the application; this was from a local resident.

The Council received one representation in support of the application; this was from a ward councillor.

HEARING

The Licensing Panel consisted of Cllr Martin Brown (Chair), Cllr Ian Hamilton and Cllr Paul Turner. No interests were declared.

The Applicant was in attendance, together with one party in support of the application.

There were no apologies.

The Senior Licensing Officer took the Panel through her report summarising the application being made. Reference was also made to the attached event management plan as well as the location plans.

The Senior Licensing Officer confirmed that the Applicant had agreed conditions with the Police as well as volunteering other conditions. These included an Event Management Plan that would be reviewed and amended as appropriate annually. As these conditions had already been agreed there were no further representations from the Responsible Authorities.

The Senior Licensing Officer summarised the representations received as follows:

The main relevant concerns raised against the application relate to noise disturbance from music at previous festivals and parking issues.

Points raised in support of the application include the festival being a community event with organisers spending time to minimise disruption to nearby residents.

OTHER PERSONS' REPRESENTATIONS

The objector(s) were not present at the hearing, but their written representations were summarised as above and taken into account by the panel when making their decision as well as when raising questions to the applicant.

The panel then heard from one person in attendance who was in support of the application. The supporter spoke very positively about the event and that it was an amazing intergenerational community event which is safe for children to venture out, incredibly well run, offering opportunities to local groups to perform and fosters interests that lead to further studies and even careers. Furthermore, the supporter as a district councillor had not received noise complaints about the event.

There were no questions raised by the panel to the persons in attendance.

APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIONS

The panel heard from the applicant particularly in response to the issues raised within the objections. The applicant confirmed the following:

Consideration had been given to the issue of noise management and there was a dedicated phone number for any issues to be raised with the organisers. Leaflets are delivered to the local residents with the number as well as using social media to provide information about the event. Regular noise checks are carried out around the area. A noise barrier is used on the younger stage where the music can have a strong bass and could be more of a problem.

The event has close to 100 volunteers. A community meeting is held every year – this was held this Monday. This allows local residents to come and raise any concerns. Only had support, people are excited for the event and asking how they can get involved. Plans are amended where possible if concerns are raised. As a community run event, efforts are made to include everyone. Reference was made to local groups who are able to perform and benefit from the event, including local children's dance groups, the scouts, Chalford brass band, night angels, and the food bank.

Local residents receive discounted tickets. The applicant confirmed that they work with the Parish Council to meet their stipulations as well as listening to the views of the community. Approx 4,000 people come from the Chalford area and so the representation suggesting the event is not wanted would not be fair to say.

The panel raised questions about previous licence conditions that appear to have been omitted from this application in respect of noise management. The applicant confirmed this was not a deliberate omission and was omitted by mistake and confirmed that they would agree to these being included as before. The applicant confirmed that the sound is checked before the event and levels are set at the mixer desk and if any artist tries to exceed these

they are brought back down. The Applicant also confirmed that the control limits would apply and a consultant would be appointed.

Questions were also raised by the panel around the positioning of the music stages and whether these were in the best location considering the noise representations. The applicant confirmed this had been considered. It was stated that the residents nearest the stage had not complained. The use of sound barriers together with the other steps in place in the noise management plan were put in place to mitigate the noise.

The panel also asked for examples of consultation and adaptations following any representations. The applicant was able to give examples in respect of changes for disabled access as well as traffic and parking issues. In respect of traffic management, it was confirmed that there will be a Marshall employed (as last year) to monitor traffic and parking particularly around Tylers Way and Down View. Only local residents will be allowed to use and will have a ticket so can access their properties.

The panel asked about parking for attendees and the applicant advised that there was dedicated parking at Chalford School Playing Field that could be prebooked as well as shuttle buses to and from the event as well as an overspill car park at Chalford Sports and Social Club.

The Applicants expressed how much they love being involved in the event and love how it brings everyone together and creates enduring memories. They expressed how they wished that everyone would come and give it a try as they may enjoy it.

DECISION

The Panel had due regard to:

1. The provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 which confer the powers of the Licensing Authority to deal with the application;
2. The obligation to promote the four licensing objectives as set out in Section 4(2) of the Licensing Act 2003; and
3. The relevant sections of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and Statutory Guidance.

The Panel considered that it must carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives, as set out in Section 4(2) of the 2003 Act. The Panel cannot take into account Representations which do not relate to one or more of those licensing objectives and acknowledged that any Representations which are received must be relevant and evidence-based. Any irrelevant representations are disregarded.

The Panel considered the oral and written representations received both against and in support of the application and noted the concerns that have been raised. The Panel noted the explanations given by the Applicant in addressing these concerns and welcomed the Applicant's continued desire to work with and for the local community. The Panel felt that the event was well thought out, organised and an asset to the community. The Panel also

noted that the Applicant had on previous years listened to feedback and made changes to address any issues raised so far as possible.

The Panel are satisfied the licensing objectives have been met and therefore decided to GRANT the Application subject to the conditions set out in Schedule 1. The full list of activities with timings granted and conditions to be added to the licence are shown in Schedule 1.

APPEAL

All parties are reminded of their rights of appeal against the Licensing Authority's decision pursuant to Section 181 of and Schedule 5 to the Licensing Act 2003. An appeal must be made to the Magistrates' Court and commenced within 21 days of notification of the authority's decision.

REVIEW

All parties are reminded of the procedures contained within the Licensing Act 2003 relating to the potential review of a premises licence.

This provision allows the public, businesses or Responsible Authorities to apply for a review of a premises licence where problems arise, such as: crime and disorder, risks to public safety, public nuisance or failure to protect children from harm.

The Licensing Authority respectfully reminds all parties that for any review to be successful in restricting a licence, evidence would need to be collected of incidents occurring that demonstrated that the licensing objectives were not being adequately promoted. The Council's Environmental Health Service can be contacted out of hours to report complaints of excessive noise nuisance.

Schedule 1

Permitted Activities and Timings:

On Sales of Alcohol	Friday Saturday	16:00 to 21:30 11:00 to 21:30
Live Music, Recorded Music and Performance of Dance	Friday Saturday	16:00 to 21:30 11:00 to 21:30
Opening Hours	Friday Saturday	16:00 to 22:00 11:00 to 22:00

Conditions:

1. Event Management Plan (EMP)

The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) will, so far as is reasonably practicable, ensure that each event will operate in accordance with an event specific Event Management Plan (EMP). The EMP shall contain detailed policies and plans to promote all the licensing objectives.

At a minimum, the EMP will include (either as part of a single document or a series of documents) the following:

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2. Challenge 25

The Premises Licence holder will ensure that a Challenge 25 policy is in place.

3. Tickets

The Premises Licence holder will ensure that only festival attendees who have a ticket are allowed to gain entry to attend the event.

4. Stewards

Stewards will patrol the surrounding area to ensure that people are not causing a nuisance.

5. Event Finishing Time

The Premises Licence holder will ensure that the event will finish promptly at 21:30.

6. Noise from Music

The Music Noise Level when assessed or measured during sound checks or concerts shall not exceed 65 dB LAeq,15min at 1 metre from the facade of any noise sensitive premises throughout the duration of the event.

Furthermore, the Music Noise Level shall not exceed 70 dB in either of the 63 Hz or 125 Hz octave frequency bands at 1 metre from the facade of any noise sensitive premises throughout the duration of the event.

The licensee shall appoint a suitably qualified and experienced noise control consultant (NCC), to the approval of the Licensing Authority, no later than 6 weeks prior to the event. The NCC shall liaise between all parties including the Licensee, Promoter, sound engineer, Environmental Protection and the Licensing team on all matters relating to noise control prior to and during the event.

The control limits set at the mixer position shall be adequate to ensure compliance with conditions 1 and 2 above throughout the duration of the event and throughout any rehearsal or sound check for the event.

The appointed NCC shall continually monitor noise levels at the mixer position and advise the sound engineers accordingly to ensure that the noise limits are not exceeded. An authorized officer of the Council shall have access to the results of the noise monitoring at any time.

7. Safety Advisory Group (SAG)

The Premises Licence Holder (PLH) will engage with the local Safety Advisory Group (SAG) prior to the event in any year in which it takes place and will comply with all reasonable requests of the SAG membership.

8. Security

Security Industry Authority (SIA) licensed Door Supervisors will always be on duty whilst licensable activities are taking place. Sufficient security numbers in relation to tickets sales will be reflected in the EMP for each event year.

9. Incident Log

An incident log (written or electronic) shall be in operation throughout each event and made available for inspection upon request of an authorised officer of the Licensing Authority or Police. Entries must be made as soon as reasonably

practicable, but in any case, within 24 hours of the relevant incident occurring. The log will include:

- a) all crimes reported
- b) all ejections of patrons
- c) all incidents of disorder
- d) all seizures of drugs or offensive weapons
- e) all refusals of the sale of alcohol

10. Children

Children under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

11. CCTV

Should any CCTV be in operation during an event (including Body Worn Video of any Security personnel), footage will be retained for at least 28 days after each event has concluded and made available to Police without delay upon reasonable request.