



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices • Ebley Mill • Ebley Wharf • Stroud • GL5 4UB
Telephone 01453 766321 • Facsimile 01453 750932
www.stroud.gov.uk

LICENSING ACT 2003

APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE

PREMISES NAME	LOCKING HILL
PREMISES ADDRESS	2 LOCKING HILL, STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, GL5 1QN
APPLICANT NAME/S	MR EVEREST WILSON-COPP
APPLICATION TYPE	NEW PREMISES LICENCE
APPLICATION REFERENCE	25/00737/LAPRNW
DATE OF HEARING	26 AUGUST 2025
DATE OF DECISION	26 AUGUST 2025
DECISION	GRANTED WITH CONDITIONS

BACKGROUND

Stroud District Council ("the Council"), being the relevant Licensing Authority, received an application for a new premises licence under section 17 Licensing Act 2003.

Following 12 representations from Other Persons, namely local residents, the Council's licensing sub-committee ("the Panel") held a hearing on 26 August 2025 to determine the application.

HEARING

The Panel comprised of Councillors Martin Brown, Ian Hamilton and Steve Robinson.

The Panel heard from the Senior Licensing Officer and the Applicant who was supported during the hearing by Clea Koluvek.

Prior to the hearing 5 representations from Other Persons were withdrawn. There was no attendance from Other Persons. Consideration was given to relevant written Representations from Other Persons who were not present at the hearing.

LEGAL MATTERS

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; 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 acknowledges that any Representations which are received must be relevant and evidenced-based.

HEARING REPORT

The Hearing Report was presented by the Senior Licensing Officer who explained that the application relates to an artist space for poets and musicians and that the Application originally requested permission for the sale of alcohol and playing of recorded music from 11:00 to 01:00 every day. It was explained that all licence holders automatically have the right to the recorded music exemption and can therefore play music until 11pm without this needing to be a part of the licence. The Licensing Officer advised that the Application includes the garden area and that the Applicant has volunteered a condition to close this area at 22:00 every day.

The Senior Licensing Officer updated the Panel with the recent updates to the Application. It was explained that the Applicant has since amended the Application and removed the request for recorded music until 01:00. The Licensing Officer advised the Panel that this aspect was therefore no longer part of the Application because the premises would have the benefit of the live and recorded music exemption if the Application was to be granted.

The Senior Licensing Officer advised that other conditions have been volunteered in consultation with the Police and Environmental Health including: No new patrons will be admitted to the premises after 23:30; staff training to be provided, Challenge 25 scheme adopted, the operation of an Incident Log and the outside garden area to be closed to customers at 22:00.

The Senior Licensing Officer advised that there were originally 12 Representations against the Application from local residents. Since the original submission, 5 have been withdrawn leaving a total of 7 Representations. These were withdrawn following the Applicant amending the Application to reduce the hours for music to 11pm. The concerns expressed in the remaining Representations generally relate to the potential for noise and alcohol related anti-social behaviour.

OTHER PERSONS' REPRESENTATIONS

In their written representation, the Other Persons highlighted a number of concerns relating to potential noise nuisance from the venue which can generally be summarised as:

- The business hours and the impact it would have on nearby residents being able to sleep;
- The potential for noise from people under the influence of alcohol late at night;
- The potential for alcohol sales to increase the risk of anti social behaviour; and
- The issue of smoking and drinking taking place outside the premises.

APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIONS

The Applicant prepared a statement for the Panel which was read out by Clea Koluvek. The statement advised:

- The Applicant is a part of the community and lives a few doors down from the premises with his family.
- Although representations have been received from residents none of their immediate neighbors have put in objections. Two of the residents which have raised objections live directly opposite another venue and would have heightened concerns. The Applicant's business offering is different so concerns from residents are unwarranted.
- Applicant has carefully considered the licensing objectives.
- None of the Responsible Authorities have submitted Representations.
- The venue has a small capacity of less than 50 people.
- Applicant has a lot of experience managing a family owned grass roots music venue in London. This venue is 5 times the capacity and allowed music and sale of alcohol until 3am.
- Applicant is a Personal Licence Holder and holds an up to date SIA licence.
- Opening hours applied for enable artists to wind down after performance and allow gradual dispersal of patrons.
- Learned from running late night venue in London.
- Vital to venue's sustainability to be able to trade after events.
- Protection of children objective can be achieved by operating a Challenge 25 scheme and providing staff training.
- Applicant has an open door policy – happy to give contact details to any concerned residents or neighbors so they can discuss. Door always open.
- Applicant will be able to create job opportunities through the premises.

The Panel asked about the SIA licence and the Applicant advised this is a door supervisor licence issued by security industry which means he is fully trained with first aid and knows how to deal with difficult situations if they arise. Applicant stated he had held this for past 9 years.

The Panel asked about allowing drinking up time for patrons and asked whether alcohol would be served up until 1am causing customers to leave later or whether alcohol service would finish earlier. The Applicant advised you have to give people a reasonable amount of time to finish their drinks and normally half an hour is allowed to empty the building. The Applicant stated he would continue to serve alcohol to 01:00 allowing people 20 mins to leave the premises.

The Licensing Manager clarified the Application hours applied for and advised there is no legal requirement for drinking-up time under current legislation. It was explained that the Application requests opening hours and sale of alcohol to end at 01:00 meaning everyone must leave the premises at that time. The Applicant was advised that the Application has not built-in drinking up time and that the Panel has no power to extend the hours requested. He was informed that he could volunteer to bring forward the times for serving alcohol to allow drinking up time. The Applicant advised drinking up time was needed and volunteered that he would have last orders at 00:30 allowing customers to have a final drink and then close at 01:00.

The Panel asked how they would manage the dispersal of patrons in way that respects neighbours. The Applicant advised there would be a gradual dispersal of customers as he has allowed 2 hours after a performance has finished for customers to filter out gradually rather than send them onto the street at same time. He explained there is the opportunity to sell drinks before and after the performance with customers watching the performance in between times and the hours allow the group to spend some time together and meet others.

The Panel asked where smokers would gather after 22:00 when the garden was closed and whether they would be permitted re-entry after 23:30 if they choose to go outside to smoke. The Applicant advised that anyone who wishes to leave to smoke after 22:00 will be encouraged to leave quietly and consider residents. The Applicant told the Panel that there is one way system after 23:30 with no return and if customers choose to leave to smoke they will be told they won't be admitted back into the premises.

The Applicant was asked about the effectiveness of sound boards and advised these minimise the noise and work both ways ensuring quiet performances like recitals are not affected by traffic and can also be altered when live bands play to prevent disturbance to neighbours. The Applicant said he used these previously in London and you could walk outside and not hear anything.

The Panel asked how he would manage closing the garden area at 22:00. The Applicant responded that it's a small garden with 3 seats and intended for artists to take a break before their performance. Anyone else there will be given notice to leave 20 minutes before closure.

The Panel asked about the rationale for opening every day and how often he expected to be holding events especially during the week. The Applicant stated he is building a

programme which allows some quieter evenings during the week and if there was to be a louder event it would be programmed on a weekend. The Applicant assured the Panel that he has experience as a sound engineer and that he doesn't want nuisance issues. He gets to control who comes into the venue and won't book anything he doesn't want to listen to himself.

The Applicant was asked if being restricted to weekends only would affect the business and he confirmed it would not be possible to be operate as being open midweek in Stroud gives him the chance of being viable and flexible catering to artists needs and not facing as much competition from other premises.

Asked how many nights each week the premises would hold an event, the Applicant advised it would be 3-4 nights per week if lucky but could just be 5/6 per month depending on reputation or quality of space and sound quality.

The Panel expressed concern about the unpredictability of the events for neighbours and how they would communicate with neighbours. The Applicant responded that depending on type of event, if likely to cause issue, he would endeavour to alert neighbours by using signs and social media and that he could create a residents group on social media informing them of events and allowing anyone with concerns to alert him.

DECISION

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.

The Panel noted the concerns from Other Persons and considered the location of those residents in relation to the premises. Although the Panel would have liked to have heard from those residents, they were satisfied there was the potential for public nuisance. The Panel concluded that this could be adequately mitigated by the imposition of conditions on the licence, the overall steps proposed by the Applicant to address those concerns and the steps which would be taken to promote the licensing objectives.

In accordance with the Statement of Licensing Policy, the Panel considered the steps proposed by the Applicant to address the:

- prevention of noise escaping from the premises, namely the use of sound boards and the closure of the garden at 22:00 to limit disturbance to nearby residents;
- prevention of disturbance by customers arriving at or leaving the premises, (particularly after 23:00), namely the use of door staff, signage and staff training; and
- the use of gardens, namely the small capacity of the garden and the Applicant's intention to use as a space for the artists before their performance and the closure

of the garden at 22:00 to limit disturbance to nearby residents.

The Panel were satisfied with the overall adequacy of the above measures to deal with the potential for nuisance. When further considering the potential harm to residents from the escape of noise, the Panel placed considerable weight on the assurances given by the Applicant to use sound boards where needed and to use social media to create a resident's group to inform residents and receive any complaints.

APPEAL

All parties are reminded that there are rights of appeal against this 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 Council'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 Protection Service can be contacted out of hours to report complaints of excessive noise nuisance.

*Roslyn Howden
Legal Advisor to the Panel
27 August 2025*

SCHEDULE

PERMITTED ACTIVITIES AND TIMINGS

Sale of Alcohol	Every Day	11:00 to 00:30
Opening Hours	Every Day	11:00 to 01:00

VOLUNTEERED CONDITIONS

1. The outside garden area shall be closed to customers at 22:00.
2. No new patrons will be admitted to the premises after 23:30. No re-entry to the premises shall be permitted for existing patrons after 23:30.
3. All Staff concerned in the sale of alcohol shall receive training commensurate with their role upon induction and refresher training at least once every 12 months thereafter. Such training will be recorded (written or electronic), kept for a minimum of 2 years, and shall be made available for inspection by Police and authorised officers of the Licensing Authority upon reasonable request.
4. The Challenge 25 scheme shall be adopted so that any customer attempting to purchase alcohol who appears to be under the age of 25 shall be asked for photographic ID (Passport, Photo Driving Licence or PASS accredited card) and the sale shall not be made unless ID is produced.
5. An Incident Log (written or electronic) will be in operation which will include sufficient details of any incident of crime and disorder that has taken place, including refusals of sales. Entries will include date, time, members of staff involved, and shall be made as soon as reasonably practicable and in any case within 24 hours of the relevant incident occurring. The log shall be made available for inspection upon reasonable request of authorised officers of the Licensing Authority or Responsible Authorities.

IMPOSED CONDITIONS

6. Notices designating a single point of contact for nuisance complaints shall be displayed prominently inside the Premises and also published online (for example any website or social media account linked to the venue). This notice shall contain the name and contact telephone number for the individual designated to deal with nuisance complaints and this number must be operational at all times whilst the Premises are open.