



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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LICENSING ACT 2003

APPLICATION FOR A NEW PREMISES LICENCE

PREMISES NAME	STUDIO 18			
PREMISES ADDRESS	HOPE MILLS BUSINESS CENTRE, HOPE MILL LANE, BRISCOMBE, STROUD			
APPLICANT NAME/S	STUDIO 18 (STROUD) LTD			
APPLICATION TYPE	APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE			
APPLICATION REFERENCE	25/01189/LAPRNW			
DATE OF HEARING	19 DECEMBER 2025			
DATE OF DECISION	19 DECEMBER 2025			
DECISION	APPLICATION CONDITIONS	GRANTED	SUBJECT	TO

BACKGROUND

Studio 18 is an arts and community space in a converted warehouse located at Brimscombe Port, adjacent to the Canal. It consists of an inside event space and workshops and a small external area. Road access is via Hope Mill Lane which leads off London Road, and patrons can arrive on foot using the canal towpath.

Stroud District Council ('the Council'), being the relevant Licensing Authority, received an application for a new premises licence to permit sale of alcohol for consumption on the premises every day as below:

The licensable activities and times requested are:

On Sales of Alcohol	Sunday to Wednesday Thursday to Saturday New Years Eve	12:00 to 22:00 12:00 to 23:00 12:00 to 02:30
Recorded Music	New Years Eve	23:00 to 03:00
Opening Hours	Sunday to Wednesday Thursday to Saturday New Years Eve	12:00 to 22:30 12:00 to 23:30 12:00 to 03:00

If sale of alcohol is granted, the applicant will have an entitlement, under live and recorded music exemptions, to provide live and recorded music, no later than 23:00, during the times that on sales of alcohol are permitted on the licence. This is an automatic entitlement and the licensing panel, when considering an application for on sales of alcohol, cannot take account of the right to this entitlement when making their decision.

The applicant has applied, under the non-standard times section on the application form, for an extension on New Year's Eve. This is to extend sale of alcohol and also to include recorded music after 23:00.

An Application Plan was attached to the application which shows the area proposed to be licensed. There is a red line around the internal area and the garden area. The applicant is requesting the times and activities above for all areas within the red boundary line. An aerial plan was also included by the applicant which includes a red line around the building and outside area.

Conditions were agreed with the Police and Environmental Protection Team. As a result a noise mitigation policy was also attached to the application.

The conditions summarised below were agreed with the Police:

- a. Incident log - recording complaints, incidents etc
- b. Staff training - all staff to receive appropriate training.
- c. Challenge 25 - scheme to be adopted.
- d. CCTV - system installed.
- e. Security – Risk assessment for events where over 200 people attending – Door Supervisor to be on duty from 8pm until close if identified by risk assessment.
- f. Outside area – Closed to customers by 11pm, thereafter smoking area only – lighting to be installed.
- g. Children – unaccompanied children shall not be permitted on the premises during licensable activities. No alcohol sales for under 18 events only.
- h. Misc – Customers will not be permitted to bring alcohol onto premises. Licensable activities indoor areas only. Maximum occupancy 350. Admission refused to any person found with, or suspected of carrying, or under the influence of drugs / carrying an offensive weapon

The Council received five representations against the application. Three were from local residents, one was from a local business, and one was from the Parish Council.

The authority received nine representations in support of the application, these included users of the venue and parish and ward councillors.

HEARING

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

The Applicant was in attendance, together with three parties in support of the application and one party against.

There were no apologies.

The Licensing Manager took the Panel through her report summarising the application being made. Reference was also made to the attached plans.

The Licensing Manager confirmed that the Applicant had agreed conditions with the Police. Further that a noise management plan had also been agreed with the Environmental Protection Team, which was attached to the application. As these conditions had already been agreed there were no further representations from the Responsible Authorities.

The licensing manager summarised the representation received as follows:

The main relevant concerns raised against the application relate to:

- History of noise disturbance from previous events at Studio 18, some of which been reported to the Police and Environmental Protection Team 9
- Loud amplified music and heavy bass
- Noise from persons gathered outside the premises, shouting and causing disturbance
- Anti-social behaviour from patrons including litter
- Allegations of drug use by patrons
- Concerns about parking and access

The main points raised in support of the application include:

- Positive impact the venue has for users, especially young people
- Community and cultural benefit
- Offers a safe space for young artists
- Contribution to local art scene

OTHER PERSONS' REPRESENTATIONS

The panel heard from all three other persons in attendance that were in support of the application as well as considering the written representations support. All spoke very

positively about how Studio 18 provides a welcoming environment and safe space for all ages and enhances the provision of arts, music and cultural events within the local community. The application was seen as a positive way to ensure the sustainability of the business for the future.

The panel then heard from the other persons in attendance that were against the application. Concerns were raised around access, parking, litter and anti social behaviour. Together, with a concern of under age drinking.

Questions were raised by the panel of the other persons in attendance around how much litter and drug paraphernalia had been seen by any of them at earlier events, and responses were than none had been witnessed. The representative from the parish council confirmed that there had not been any complaints to the council about this.

There was then a discussion around whether previous noise concerns were caused by loud voices or music and it was confirmed complaints were in respect of loud music.

APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIONS

The panel heard from the applicant in response to the issues raised within the objections. The applicant confirmed that he had taken a lot into consideration, particularly around noise issues and had already undertaken works to mitigate this as well as plans to undertake further works.

In respect of concerns around parking the applicant confirmed that he actively encourages customers to arrive on foot or by bike also by utilising the canal path and provides site information ahead of events.

The applicant confirmed that he would like to be able to offer more frequent but smaller events in order to make the business more sustainable.

In respect of concerns around litter, the applicant confirmed that bins had been placed in the garden area as well as near the canal path and that at the end of any event and the morning after that the area is checked for litter.

In respect of drug taking, he had not witnessed this, but has a zero tolerance in respect of this and confirmed the installation of CCTV, as agreed with the police would assist in monitoring this.

The panel raised questions around how the outside area is managed as well as how noise is controlled emanating from inside the building. The applicant was able to give assurances that the outside area would not be used for licensable activities after 11pm and he may consider further noise mitigating works in the future. He also confirmed that there would be more control over the music as their own sound system would be used as opposed to artists bringing their own equipment.

Further questions were raised around closing hours and drinking up time as well as the application for extended hours on New Years Eve and whether this could be earlier. The

applicant had allowed for drinking up time and considered the New Years Eve extension to be reasonable as an exception to celebrate the New Year.

Questions and discussion also took place around parking spaces and again the applicant confirmed customers are encouraged to walk or cycle. Funding has been applied for to install bike parking racks. Signage has been installed and for larger events use of taxi's and shuttle buses would be considered.

Questions and discussion also took place around working with the council and learning from past issues, improving all of the time and making the business self sustainable. Invested a many years already and want to continue and make it even more accessible for everyone enjoy.

The Applicant expressed a clear intention to work with and for the benefit of the local community.

The Licensing Manager clarified that the application was for on sales of alcohol only and that the operating times allowed for half an hour after the sale of alcohol ends for drinking up time and gradual dispersal. It was also clarified that any occupancy condition agreed with the police is subject to any fire risk assessment and health and safety requirements which could not be overridden.

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 desire to work with the local community.

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	Sunday to Wednesday Thursday to Saturday New Years Eve	12:00 to 22:00 12:00 to 23:00 12:00 to 02:30
Recorded Music	New Years Eve	23:00 to 03:00
Opening Hours	Sunday to Wednesday Thursday to Saturday New Years Eve	12:00 to 22:30 12:00 to 23:30 12:00 to 03:00

Conditions

1. The licence holder will comply with the Noise Management Plan

- 2. Incident Log**

An incident log (written or electronic) shall be kept and maintained on the premises and made available on request to Police or the Licensing Authority, which will record the following:

- a. All crime reported to the venue
- b. All ejections of patrons
- c. Any complaints received
- d. Any incidents of disorder
- e. All seizures of drugs or weapons
- f. Any refusals of alcohol sales

Each entry shall be legible and include the time and date of the relevant occurrence, the name and signature of the person making the entry. The log must be kept for a minimum of 12 months from the date of the last entry.

- 3. Staff Training**

All persons involved in the sale of alcohol shall receive training commensurate to their role regarding underage sales, proxy sales, drunk sales, the licensing objectives, and conditions attached to the licence. Refresher training will be carried out at least once every twelve months. Legible records (written or electronic) of such training along with any training material used must be kept by the Designated Premises Supervisor for a period of not less than twelve months from the date of the last training. All training records shall be produced to Police and authorised officers of the Licensing Authority upon request.

- 4. Challenge 25**

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 valid ID is produced. Suitable signage will also be displayed advertising the scheme.

5. **CCTV**

A CCTV system will be installed at the premises which shall:

- a. Continually record whilst the premises is open for licensable activities and during all times when customers remain on the premises for such activities.
- b. Cover all entrances, exits, bar area and public event spaces, including the outside area on the plans.
- c. Display the correct time and date stamping (taking account of GMT & BST).
- d. Record clear images permitting the identification of individuals.
- e. Be maintained to ensure that it is working and recording correctly.

All recordings are to be stored chronologically for a period of no less than 31 days and viewable copies downloaded and produced to Police and authorised officers of the Licensing Authority as soon as reasonably practicable. The licence holder shall notify the Licensing Authority within 24 hours when they become aware that the CCTV system provided is not in operation.

6. **Security**

The Designated Premises Supervisor must complete an event specific Risk Assessment (written or electronic) for all events held at the premises where over 200 attendees are reasonably likely to attend. Each risk assessment shall include (at a minimum):

1. Type and timings of event
2. Special occasion (New Years Eve, Halloween, Local Events etc.)
3. Age demographics
4. Genre of music
5. Anticipated number of attendees
6. Staffing/Volunteer levels
7. History of any previous issues with the event

Should a Risk Assessment reasonably identify that Door Supervisors are required, then a minimum of one Door Supervisor must be on duty from 20:00 and remain on duty until the premises are closed and all the customers have left. Risk Assessments must be kept for a minimum of 12 months following the end date of the relevant event for which they exist and produced to Police or authorised officers of the Licensing Authority upon reasonable request.

7. **Outside Area**

The external area shall be cleared of customers by 23:00 hours (11pm) and that persons shall only be permitted to use the area for the purpose of smoking after that time, not drinking. The Designated Premises Supervisor shall ensure, as far as

reasonably practicable, that patrons in external areas behave in an orderly and considerate manner.

Lighting shall be in place to illuminate the gate area identified on the plans that accesses the canal path during hours of darkness when licensable activities are taking place.

8. **Children**

Access of unaccompanied children shall not be permitted on the premises during licensable activities, and the bar will not be open for alcohol sales during any under 18 only events.

9. **Miscellaneous**

The sale of alcohol shall be ancillary to the operation of the premises as an 'Art Studio' and customers will not be permitted to bring alcoholic drinks onto the premises.

Licensable activities shall only take place in those indoor areas designated on the approved plans lodged with the Licensing Authority.

Admission shall be refused to any person found with, or suspected of carrying, or under the influence of drugs / carrying an offensive weapon.

The maximum number of persons to be accommodated on the premises at any one time shall not exceed 350. **(irrespective of this condition occupancy must not at any time exceed numbers deemed safe by an appropriate fire risk assessment for evacuation of the building in the event of a fire or any other fire or health and safety risk).**