

Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Licensing Hearings Sub-Committee
Meeting date:	24 April 2026
Title of report:	AN APPLICATION FROM AN INTERESTED PARTY FOR A REVIEW OF THE PREMISES LICENCE UNDER THE LICENSING ACT 2003 IN RESPECT OF THE BLACK BULL, AINSWORTH ROAD, STARLING, BURY, BL8 2EY
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Core)
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	Church

Executive Summary:

This report relates to an application pursuant to section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 from an Interested Party for a review of the premises licence in respect of Black Bull, Ainsworth Road, Starling, Bury, BL8 2EY

Recommendation(s)

That:

The options available to the Members of the Committee are as follows: -

- No Action
- Modify Conditions.
- Remove Designated Premises Supervisor (DPS)
- Suspend the Licence for a period not exceeding three months
- Exclude Licensable Activity
- Revoke the Licence

1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Licensing Act 2003 and the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations are the relevant legislation.

- 1.2 The Panel will make a decision on the day of the hearing and the parties will be notified subsequently of the decision and the reasons for it by letter from the Licensing Office.
- 1.3 The Premises Licence in respect of Black Bull, Ainsworth Road, Starling, Bury, BL8 2EY, is held by Daniel Thwaites, Myerscough Road, Mellor Brook, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB2 7LB. Mrs Jill Henfrey, 67 Greenhill Road, Bury, BL8 2LL is the Designated Premises Supervisor

2.0 PROCEDURE

- 2.1 The Interested Party has complied with all the necessary procedural requirements laid down by the Act.
- 2.2 As part of the statutory process the Responsible Bodies and Interested Parties are entitled to make representations in relation to the review of a licence. The Licensing Authority has given Notice of the application by placing a Notice on the premises, at the Council Offices and on the Council web site. Where further relevant representations are made by either the Responsible Authorities or from local residents / businesses and not withdrawn, Members are required to determine them.
- 2.3 Representations must be relevant to the licensing objectives defined within the Act. The objectives are: -
 - a) the prevention of crime and disorder
 - b) public safety
 - c) prevention of public nuisance and
 - d) protection of children from harm

3.0 CURRENT LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES

- 3.1 The current licensable activities are as follows:

a. Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday	10.00 to 00.30
Friday to Saturday	10.00 to 01.30
Sunday	10.00 to 00.30

b. Retail Sale of Alcohol (On and Off the Premises)

Monday to Thursday	10.00 to 00.00
Friday to Saturday	10.00 to 01.00
Sunday	10.00 to 00.00

c. Live Music (Indoors)

Monday to Thursday	10.00 to 22.30
Friday to Saturday	10.00 to 23.00

Sunday 10.00 to 22.30

d. Recorded Music (Indoors)

Monday to Thursday 10.00 to 22.30

Friday to Saturday 10.00 to 23.00

Sunday 10.00 to 22.30

Non Standard Timings

The permitted hours for Non Standard Timings are as follows:

Live Music

New Years Day from 11.00 hours - 00.00 hours

New Years Eve from 11.00 hours - 01.00 hours the following day

Friday and Saturday of Easter, May Bank, Spring Bank and August Bank
Holidays

24th, 26th, 27th and 28th December from 10.00 hours to 00.00 hours

Recorded Music

New Years Day from 10.00 hours - 01.00 hours the following day

New Years Eve from 10.00 hours - 01.00 hours the following day

24th, 26th, 27th and 28th December from 10.00hours - 00.00 hours

Supply of Alcohol

New Years Eve from 10.00 hours on 31st December to 01.00 hours on 2nd
January

Friday and Saturday of Easter, May Bank, Spring Bank and August Bank
Holidays from 10.00 hours - 01.30 hours the following day

24th, 26th, 27th and 28th December 10.00 hours - 01.30 hours the following
day

Hours Premises are Open to the Public

New Years Eve from 10.00 hours on 31st December to 01.30 hours on 2nd
January

Friday and Saturday of easter, May Bank, Spring bank and August Bank
Holiday from 10.00 hours to 02.00 hours the following day

24th, 26th, 27th and 28th December from 10.00 hours to 02.00 hours the
following day

The times permitted on the current premises licence for recorded music and live
music is no longer required due to the Live Music Act 2012.

4.0 REPRESENTATIONS FROM AN INTERESTED PARTY

4.1 The Interested Party will shortly expand upon the reason(s) for their application to review the Premises Licence in relation to these premises. The review application is at appendix 1.

5.0 REPRESENTATIONS FROM INTERSETED PARTIES

5.1 The Licensing Service have received 4 representations in favour of the premises licence. Each interested party have been invited to the hearing to make their representations to the Sub-Committee. These representations are contained at Appendix 2.

6.0 The conditions attached to the premises licence are contained with Appendix 3.

7.0 SECTION 182 LICENSING ACT GUIDANCE (February 2026)

Section 10.2 states the following: -

Conditions include any limitations or restrictions attached to a licence or certificate and essentially are the steps or actions that the holder of the premises licence or the club premises certificate will be required to take or refrain from taking in relation to the carrying on of licensable activities at the premises in question. Failure to comply with any condition attached to a licence or certificate is a criminal offence, which on conviction is punishable by an unlimited fine or up to six months' imprisonment. The courts have made clear that it is particularly important that conditions which are imprecise or difficult for a licence holder to observe should be avoided.

Section 11.2 states the following: -

At any stage, following the grant of a premises licence or club premises certificate, a responsible authority, or any other person, may ask the licensing authority to review the licence or certificate because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives. These are attached at Appendix 3.

Section 11.7 states the following: -

In every case, any application for a review must relate to particular premises in respect of which there is a premises licence or club premises certificate and must be relevant to the promotion of one or more of the licensing objectives. Following the grant or variation of a licence or certificate, a complaint regarding a general issue in the local area relating to the licensing objectives, such as a general (crime and disorder) situation in a town centre, should generally not be regarded as relevant unless it can be positively tied or linked by a causal connection to particular premises, which would allow for a proper review of the licence or certificate. For instance, a geographic cluster of complaints, including along transport routes related to an individual public house and its closing time, could give grounds for a review of an existing licence as well as direct incidents of crime and disorder around a particular public house.

8.0 OBSERVATIONS

8.1 After hearing the representations made and the evidence presented, Members are obliged to determine the application with a view to promoting the licensing

objectives and having regard to the Authority's Licensing Policy and National Guidance.

Community impact/links with Community Strategy

Not Applicable

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;*
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;*
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.*

The public sector equality duty requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Equality Analysis	<i>Please provide a written explanation of the outcome(s) of either conducting an initial or full EA.</i>
<i>The Licensing Service have considered the Equality Act 2010 and due to each application being dealt with on its own merits there is no positive or negative on any of the protected characteristics.</i>	

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
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There are no specific issues from the report other than potential costs/risks associated with legal appeals.	
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Consultation:

Not Applicable

Legal Implications:

Yes, under the legislation the Council is required to determine representations. The report is in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

Financial Implications:

The cost of the licensing function are funded through the fees and charges levied by the Council. There may be additional costs if appeals are lodged with the Magistrates and Crown Courts.

Report Author and Contact Details:

For further information on the details of this report, please contact:

Mr M Bridge
Licensing Office
Town Hall
Bury
Telephone No: 0161 253 5209
Email: m.bridge@bury.gov.uk

Background papers:

List of Background Papers:-
Application form
Representation received

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning

Appendix One

Review application for Off Licence and supplementary Evidence

Appendix Two

Representations in favour of the Premises Licence

Representor 1

Sent: 13 March 2026 14:01

To: Licensing

Subject: [EXTERNAL] The Black Bull Bury

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my disgust regarding the untrue comments that have been made about the Black Bull! The pub is an incredible community where everyone is welcome! The pub has an amazing kids menu followed by colouring activities for them! It is a warm environment for families and I often visit with my young children. This outrageous accusation made is a complete lie.

Representor 2

Sent: 13 March 2026 13:44

To: Licensing

Subject: [EXTERNAL] blackbull lower Croft road

I regularly visit this pub with my family and can honestly say it is one of the best around. The atmosphere is always welcoming, friendly, and safe for everyone. As a family, it's important to us that we feel comfortable when we go out together, and this pub provides exactly that every time we visit.

The staff are always polite, professional, and make a real effort to ensure customers are looked after. The environment is well managed and respectful, which makes it a great place for families as well as the wider community.

It's clear that the pub is run responsibly and with the local community in mind. We have never experienced any problems during our visits, and it has always been a pleasant and enjoyable place to spend time together.

In my opinion, it's exactly the kind of safe, friendly, community pub that every area should have.

Representor 3

Sent: 05 April 2026 11:53

To: Licensing <Licensing@bury.gov.uk>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: The Black Bull

Hi,

It's come to our attention recently that a complaint has been lodged against the landlady of The Black Bull on Lowercroft Road in Bury.

We were in the pub on the day that man complained to Jill, the landlady, about another customer swearing near the bar because he was with a child. When Jill explained that she couldn't be expected to stop every customer from randomly swearing the man became abusive himself and quite aggressive. It was at this point Jill told him to leave adding that he was barred.

I witnessed this exchange and Jill was calm and handled the situation very professionally. She is very popular with everyone especially the regulars and is always welcoming and friendly. Unfortunately this man's attitude gave Jill little option but to ask him to leave and to not come back.

So I hope this horrible man's complaint won't be taken too seriously.

Representor 4

Sent: Wednesday, April 01, 2026 14:34

To: Licensing <Licensing@bury.gov.uk>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] License Review - Black Bull Ainsworth

Dear [Licensing Officer / Licensing Department],

I am writing as a regular customer of the Black Bull to express my concern regarding allegations I understand have been made against the premises.

As someone who frequents the pub, I have always found it to be a well-run, safe, and responsibly managed establishment. The staff are professional, and there is a clear emphasis on maintaining a respectful and secure environment for both customers and employees.

I have also been made aware, through general discussion, that the individual responsible for these allegations was previously barred from the premises due to inappropriate behaviour involving members of staff. If this is correct, it is deeply concerning that such an individual is able to make complaints which could negatively impact a reputable local business without clear supporting evidence.

While I fully appreciate the importance of the licensing authority investigating complaints, I feel strongly that unsubstantiated or potentially malicious allegations should be treated with appropriate caution. Allowing the licensing process to be used in this way risks unfairly damaging businesses that are otherwise operating responsibly and in accordance with their obligations.

From my own experience, the Black Bull promotes a safe and welcoming atmosphere and appears to take its responsibilities under the licensing objectives seriously, particularly with regard to staff welfare and customer safety.

I would respectfully ask that any action taken in relation to these allegations is based on verified evidence and a fair assessment of the circumstances, including the

credibility and motives of the complainant.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Appendix Three

Conditions of the Current

Premises Licence

LICENSING ACT 2003

CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THE GRANT OF THIS LICENCE

- 1/ Staff to be continually trained in relation to the Licensing objectives and requirements of the Licensing Act 2003.
- 2/ All emergency lighting, fire exits, escape routes, fire safety equipment including fire alarms, electrical and gas installations should be regularly checked to ensure that they are properly maintained and in good working order.
- 3/ Prominent, clear and legible notices should be displayed at all exits requesting that customers respect the need of local residents and to leave the premises and area quietly and at an appropriate time before closing, announcements should be made reminding customers of the above.
- 4/ All external doors and windows to be kept closed when entertainment is in progress except for access.
- 5/ All external windows to be kept locked with keys for locks retained by the management only.
- 6/ No music to be played in the external areas of the premises after 2200 hours.
- 7/ Proof of identity/age should be required and satisfied before allowing entry of person(s) who appear may be under 18 years of age and wish to purchase/consume alcohol.
- 8/ Persons under the age of 18 years to be excluded from the premises on those occasions which the management deem appropriate and subject to the entertainment and activities taking place.

Appendix C Non Standard Timings

The permitted hours for Non Standard Timings are as follows:

Live Music

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24th, 26th, 27th and 28th December from 10.00 hours to 00.00 hours

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Hours Premises are Open to the Public

New Years Eve from 10.00 hours on 31st December to 01.30 hours on 2nd January
Friday and saturday of easter, May Bank, Spring bank and August Bank Holiday from 10.00 hours to 02.00 hours the following day

24th, 26th, 27th and 28th December from 10.00 hours to 02.00 hours the following day

Appendix D

Conditions Imposed at a Hearing

1/ The premises shall be cleared of customers by:

Monday - Thursday 00.30 hours

Friday and Saturday 01.30 hours

Sunday 00.30 hours

Friday & Saturday of Easter, May Bank, Spring Bank and August Bank Holidays and 24th, 26th, 27th and 28th December 02.00 hours

2/ All external doors and windows to be kept closed when regulated entertainment is being provided except in cases of emergency.

Condition Added Following Variation of Licence

1/ Any external areas used by customers for the purpose of the consumption of alcohol will cease to be so used by no later than 22:00 each day.