

Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Licensing Hearings Sub-Committee
Meeting date:	27 August 2026
Title of report:	Application for a Premises Licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of Bill and Co, 9 Square Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 9BE
Report by:	Executive Director (Corporate Core)
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	Ramsbottom

Executive Summary:

This report relates to an application for a Premises Licence to be granted under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of Bill and Co, 9 Square Street, Ramsbottom, BL0 9BE.

Recommendation(s)

- To grant the application in the terms requested
- To grant the application subject to conditions
- To amend or modify existing or proposed conditions
- To refuse the application

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.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The applicant for the licence is Bill and Co Ramsbottom Ltd, 11 Bridge Street, Ramsbottom, BL9 9AB. Mr Nicholas Andrew Simmons, 92 Bradshaw Road, Bolton, BL2 3EW is the proposed Designated Premises Supervisor should the premises licence be granted.
- 2.2 The applicant has complied with all the necessary procedural requirements laid down by the Act.
- 2.3 As part of the statutory process the Responsible Authorities and interested parties are entitled to make representations in relation to the grant of a licence. Where representations are made and not withdrawn Members are required to determine them.
- 2.4 Representations must be relevant to the licensing objectives defined within the Act. The objectives are:-
- the prevention of crime and disorder
 - public safety
 - prevention of public nuisance and
 - protection of children from harm

3.0 THE APPLICATION

- 3.1 The application is for the grant of a Premises Licence under Part 3 of the Licensing Act 2003:

Opening Times:

Monday to Thursday	10.00 to midnight
Friday and Saturday	10.00 to 02.00
Sunday	10.00 to midnight

Non-Standard Timings

Christmas Eve	10.00 to 02.00
New Years Eve	10.00 to 02.00
Sundays prior to Bank Holidays	10.00 to 02.00
Thursday before Easter	10.00 to 02.00

Retail Sale of Alcohol (On and Off the premises):

Monday to Thursday	10.00 to midnight
Friday and Saturday	10.00 to 02.00
Sunday	10.00 to midnight

Non-Standard Timings

Christmas Eve	10.00 to 02.00
New Years Eve	10.00 to 02.00
Sundays prior to Bank Holidays	10.00 to 02.00
Thursday before Easter	10.00 to 02.00

Playing of recorded Music (Indoors)

Monday to Thursday	10.00 to midnight
Friday and Saturday	10.00 to 02.00
Sunday	10.00 to midnight

Non-Standard Timings

Christmas Eve	10.00 to 02.00
New Years Eve	10.00 to 02.00
Sundays prior to Bank Holidays	10.00 to 02.00
Thursday before Easter	10.00 to 02.00

Provision of Late Night Refreshment (Indoors)

Monday to Thursday	23.00 to midnight
Friday and Saturday	23.00 to 02.00
Sunday	23.00 to midnight

Non-Standard Timings

Christmas Eve	23.00 to 02.00
New Years Eve	23.00 to 02.00
Sundays prior to Bank Holidays	23.00 to 02.00
Thursday before Easter	23.00 to 02.00

The Operating Schedule is attached at Appendix 1.

4.0 REPRESENTATIONS FROM INTERESTED PARTIES

- 4.1 Four interested parties have made representations against this application and will shortly give their reasons for making their representations. The representations are attached at Appendix 2.

5.0 OBSERVATIONS

- 5.1 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.

6.0 THE SECRETARY OF STATES GUIDANCE TO THE LICENSING ACT 2003

- 6.1 The Secretary of State's Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003 is provided to licensing authorities in relation to the carrying out of their functions under the 2003 Act. It also provides information to magistrates' courts hearing appeals against licensing decisions and has been made widely available for the benefit of those who run licensed premises, their legal advisers and the general public. It is a key medium for promoting best practice, ensuring consistent application of licensing powers across England and Wales and for promoting fairness, equal treatment and proportionality.
- 6.2 Section 4 of the 2003 Act provides that, in carrying out its functions, a licensing authority must 'have regard to' guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182. The Guidance is therefore binding on all licensing authorities to that extent. However, the Guidance cannot anticipate every possible scenario or set of circumstances that may arise and, as long as licensing authorities have properly understood this Guidance, they may depart from it if they have good reason to do so and can provide full reasons.
- 6.3 Departure from the Guidance could give rise to an appeal or judicial review, and the reasons given will then be a key consideration for the courts when considering the lawfulness and merits of any decision taken.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 A licensing authority must carry out its functions under this Act ("licensing functions") with a view to promoting the licensing objectives:
- the prevention of crime and disorder
 - public safety;
 - the prevention of public nuisance; and
 - the protection of children from harm.
- 7.2 In reaching the decision, regard must be had to relevant provisions of the national guidance and the Council's licensing policy statement.
- 7.3 The Sub-Committee must consider what steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.
- 7.4 In making its decision with regard to this grant hearing, the steps the Sub-Committee can take are:
- To grant the application in the terms requested

- To grant the application subject to conditions
- To amend or modify existing or proposed conditions
- To refuse the application

- 7.5 All licensing determinations should be considered on the individual merits of the application.
- 7.6 The Sub-Committee's determination should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve. Findings on any issues of fact should be on the balance of probability.
- 7.7 It is important that a licensing authority should give comprehensive reasons for its decisions in anticipation of any appeals. Failure to give adequate reasons could itself give rise to grounds for an appeal.
- 7.8 The Sub-Committee is asked to determine what steps, as set out in 8.4 above, are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

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
There are no specific issues from the report other than potential costs/risks associated with legal appeals.	

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:

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Background papers:

List of Background Papers: -
Application form
Representations received

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

Term	Meaning

Appendix One

Operating Schedule submitted by the applicant

LICENSING ACT 2003

Conditions agreed with Greater Manchester Police

General

The premises will be managed to the highest standard by a fully trained team. Regular staff training, strong management presence and strict adherence to all mandatory and voluntary conditions will ensure all four licensing objectives are consistently promoted. We will promote strong operating policies - including staff training, a zero-tolerance drug policy, robust age verification and proactive noise management will be maintained at all times.

The prevention of crime and disorder

1/The premises license holder must ensure that:

- i. CCTV cameras are located within the premises to cover all public areas including all entrances and exits.
- ii. The system records clear images permitting the identification of individuals.
- iii. The CCTV system is able to capture a minimum of 24 frames per second, and all recorded footage must be securely retained for a minimum of 28 days.
- iv. The CCTV system operates at all times while the premises are open for licensable activities. The Premises Licence Holder or the Designated Premises Supervisor must notify the licensing office or the Police in the event of CCTV breakdown or malfunction as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within 24hrs.
- v. All equipment must have a constant and accurate time and date generation.
- vi. The CCTV system is fitted with security functions to prevent recordings being tampered with, i.e. password protected.
- vii. There are members of trained staff at the premises during operating hours able to provide viewable copies on request by the police or authorised officer of the local authority officers as soon as is reasonably practicable or in any case within 12 hours of receiving the request whether that be verbal or written request.

2/ An incident log (which may be electronically recorded) shall be kept at the premises for at least six months, and made available on request to the police or an authorised officer of the licensing authority, which will record the following incidents including pertinent details:

- i. All alleged crimes reported to the venue or by the venue to the police.
- ii. All ejections of patrons
- iii. Any complaints received
- iv. Any incidents of disorder
- v. Seizures of drugs, offensive weapons, fraudulent ID or other items
- vi. Any faults in the CCTV system, searching equipment or scanning equipment
- vii. Any visit by a responsible authority or emergency service

viii. The times on duty, names and the licence numbers of all licensed door supervisors employed by the premises.

3/ All staff authorised to sell alcohol shall be trained in:

- i. Relevant age restrictions in respect of products
- ii. Prevent underage sales
- iii. Prevent proxy sales
- iv. Maintain the refusals log
- v. Enter sales correctly on the tills so the prompts show as appropriate
- vi. Recognising signs of drunkenness and vulnerability
- vii. How overservice of alcohol impacts on the four objectives of the Licensing Act 2003
- viii. How to refuse service
- ix. The premises' duty of care policy, understanding and dealing with situations involving vulnerable people, and incidents of harassment
- x. Action to be taken in the event of an emergency, including the preservation of a crime scene and reporting an incident to the emergency services
- xi. The conditions in force under this licence.

4/ Documented records of training completed shall be kept for each member of staff. Training shall be regularly refreshed and at no greater than 6 monthly intervals. Training records shall be made available for inspection upon request by a police officer or an authorised officer of Bury Council.

5/ The sale of alcohol will cease 30 minutes prior to the premises closing.

6/ Door supervisors shall be employed by the premises based upon a risk assessment carried out in relation to the following factors:

- i. Size of the venue
- ii. Expected attendance
- iii. Type of event taking place
- iv. Location of the premises
- v. Time of year (Good Friday, Sunday preceding bank holidays, Christmas Eve, New Years Eve
- vi. Special occasion (Mad Friday, Halloween, Local events etc.)
- vii. Premises Licence Conditions
- viii. Advice from Greater Manchester Police.

7/ No person in possession of a drink in a sealed or unsealed container shall be allowed to enter the premises except for the purposes of delivery or from moving from one part of the premises to another.

Public safety

8/ Risk assessments - Regular fire risk assessments, health and safety checks and maintain clear exit routes.

9/ Capacity and maintenance - Maintaining all electrical, gas and fire safety systems in accordance with standard regulations.

10/ First Aid - A fully stocked first aid kit will be kept on site and a trained first aider will be present during operating hours.

11/ Customers are to be prevented from leaving the premises with glasses or open bottles.

The prevention of public nuisance

12/ Noise control - Doors and windows will be closed during regulated entertainment or after 10pm to prevent sound leakage.

13/ Signs will be prominently displayed at exits asking customers to respect neighbours and to leave the premises quietly.

14/ No refuse shall be disposed of or collected from the premises between the hours of 10pm & 7am where such disposal or collection is likely to cause disturbance to local residents.

15/ No deliveries to the premises will be permitted between the hours of 10pm & 7am where such disposal or collection is likely to cause disturbance to local residents.

The protection of children from harm

16/ The Challenge 25 scheme must be operated to ensure that any person who appears to be under the age of 25 shall provide documented proof that he/she is over 18 years of age. Proof of age shall only comprise of a passport, photo card driving license, an EU/EEA national ID card or similar document, an HM Forces warrant card, a card bearing the PASS hologram, or any electronic or biometric age verification technology approved by the licensing authority.

17/ The premises shall display prominent signage indicating at any point of sale and at the entrance to the premises that the Challenge 25 scheme is in operation.

18/ A refusals record must be kept at the premises which details all refusals to sell alcohol. This record must include the date and time of the incident, a description of the customer, the name of the staff member who refused the sale, and the reason the sale was refused. All entries must be made within 24 hours of the refusal. The record must be made available for inspection and copying within 24hrs of a request by an officer of a Responsible Authority.

19/ That the following alcoholic drinks be kept behind the counter or in a place where customers do not have direct access to these products without the assistance of a member of staff, namely:

- i. Spirits,
- ii. Flavoured spirits,
- iii. Alco pops (i.e. spirit based drinks mixed with soft drink/flavoured juice etc) which will include and not be limited to products such as "WKD" and similar products).
- iv. Cider

20/ No children under the age of 18 years will be permitted to remain on the premises after 9pm.

Appendix 2

Representations from Interested Parties

Representor 1

I am in shock that bury council is considering a license application for another bar in this street apart from another in ramsbottom altogether, this is a residential street where older residents and families with young children live. We suffer enough with the noise from the pub on Bolton road. I don't think at any time have residents been considered with regard to noise in the early hours of the morning but to think a 2AM license is unacceptable.

We already have 6 bars and 4 pubs in a small centre of Ramsbottom whose customers don't think of keeping the noise down on their way home.

And with a 2 AM license this venue will probably be the last on the list and therefore we will suffer the consequences in the even earlier hours.

I have spent £1250 to replace blinds with shutters to try to reduce the noise, it's bad enough with the noise from the smoking area of the pub, so we can't open our windows in the early evenings.

Please accept this as my objection to this license application for 8 square street, Ramsbottom.

Representor 2

New bar
Square Street
Ramsbottom

I do not object to the new bar, however I would like to object to the late opening till 2am.

This is a residential area, and I live to the rear of the premises and as this is an old building there is not enough soundproofing that could be achieved.

I am already disturbed by the noise after midnight coming on occasions from Hearts Cafe Bar on Bridge Street which is the same proximity to my home.

I ask you reconsider these opening hours

Representor 3

I would like to object to this bar license due to impact on local residents in ramsbottom, most notably those who live on square street and who include my elderly disabled mother.

The noise and traffic , particularly in nice weather means residents can't open their windows already . There are plenty of bars and pubs already making it a Mecca for drunk and disorderly behaviour at night to include throwing up on door steps and cars and dumping bottles and take away wrappers causing rats.

It can already be frightening for elderly and other residents due to roudiness from alcohol and substance misuse and another bar on a tiny street will reinforce this further.

I strongly object and provide my phone number should I need to be contacted. I am concerned about the street becoming like a drunken haven . The impact on parking also will impact on square street residents further.

Representor 4

Dear sir / madam,

I write to you with an observation with regards to the above premises' application for a premises licence from Bill & Co Ramsbottom Ltd.

Firstly I am not objecting against the licence in total, more the times applied for.

I feel the application for the playing of recorded music and the serving of alcohol until 02.00 on a Saturday morning and 02.00 on a Sunday morning is excessive and this needs to be addressed.

I XXXXXX, and have done so for almost 4 years.

(Please see attached photo taken XXXXX). My two daughters aged 14 and 10 stay with me for 2 / 3 nights a week, quite often at a weekend. I am very conscious of the potential noise emitted from the premises during the early hours in the morning, from music and patrons should this licence be granted.

The bar further down the street, Wolfies, closes at 11pm and so far, I have not experienced any issues whatsoever regarding noise or unsociable behaviour from this venue.

I feel a similar time of perhaps 12 midnight latest, or earlier should be considered for the above application.

Finally, you may recognise my name as I am the licensee at The Humble Pie of Ramsbottom on Bolton Street, we close at 11pm at a weekend and fully understand the need to be respectful of local residents.

Again, I wish to add I am not objecting the application in its entirety; I would welcome additional QUALITY, WELL MANAGED venues in our town to increase our visitors at a weekend etc. I just don't feel late night venues are the right thing to do.

Many thanks for accepting my observation.

