

PREMISES/PERSONAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

13 MAY 2026

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CORPORATE POLICY AND SUPPORT

A.2 GRANT OF A PREMISES LICENCE

ALRESFORD HALL, FORD LANE, ALRESFORD, COLCHESTER, ESSEX CO7 8AY
REF: 26/00171/PREMGR

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform Members that an application has been received for the Grant of a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003 from Mr William Marsden and Mrs Susie Marsden at Alresford Hall, Ford Lane, Alresford, Colchester, Essex for a limited period licence and to include the sale of alcohol on the premises, performance of live music, performance of play.

Further to inform Members that the application has received objections to the proposed licensable activities from members of the public and a Responsible Authority.

BACKGROUND

The application is made under the Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence to allow the sale of alcohol on the premises, performance of live music, performance of play, during the period of 21 May 2026 and 25 May 2026 relating to a one-off event for a historical re-enactment event organised by The Sealed Knot.

The Sealed Knot, according to their website (<https://www.thesealedknot.org.uk/>), are described as *"the oldest re-enactment society in the UK, a registered educational charity, and the single biggest re-enactment society in Europe. They bring history to life by staging events throughout the country all year round, offering a chance to experience at first hand the horrors of a nation at war with itself, as well as providing a glimpse of everyday life in those days"*.

The designated land includes a demonstration field area for re-enactment and displays, a separate area for a food and drink village with seating and a series of artisan craft stallholders. A further designated field will be used for public parking. There are no buildings on any of the designated land areas. Public access is limited to Sunday 24th and Monday 25th May 2026 between 0930 hours and 1800 hours.

The Sealed Knot re-enactors have their own separate camping field, with a bar and amplified live music on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

In accordance with the Licensing Act 2003, the public blue notices informing of the application were displayed at the premises at the appropriate time. Officers were later notified that some notices had been taken down and were not located correctly. The applicant was therefore requested to re-display the blue notices including additional notices with a revised consultation end date to ensure the statutory consultation period was correctly observed.

The event was reviewed by the Tendring Safety Advisory Group (SAG), whose membership includes officers from relevant Council departments together with external partner agencies such as Essex Police, the East of England Ambulance Service, Essex County Council Highways, and other emergency and public-safety bodies as appropriate.

Members are advised that the Safety Advisory Group is not a statutory consultee under the Licensing Act 2003, and any discussions or advice provided by the SAG do not form part of the formal licensing consultation process.

Proposed Licensable Activities

The applicants are proposing to open to the public and re-enactors to provide licensable activities on the following days/hours:

Public Area

Sale of Alcohol - Public bar for main event

Sun 24th May & Mon 25th May 2026 1000hrs - 1700hrs

Performance of Play

Sun 24th May & Mon 25th May 2026 1400hrs - 1600hrs

Re-enactors area – Not public

Sale of Alcohol (Re-enactors area – Not public)

Thurs 21st May 2026 1800hrs - 2200hrs

Fri 22nd May 2026 1200hrs - 2300hrs

Sat 23rd May & Sun 24th May 2026 1100hrs - 0000hrs

Mon 25th May 2026 1100hrs - 2000hrs

Late Night Refreshment (Re-enactors area – Not public)

Sat 23rd May & Sun 24th May 2026 2300hrs - 0000hrs

Live Music (Re-enactors area – Not public)

Sat 23rd May & Sun 24th May 2026 1900hrs - 2300hrs

The full application can be found attached at Appendix A.

RELEVANT REPRESENTATIONS

Interested Parties/Other Persons

The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (PRSR Act 2011) removed from the Licensing Act 2003 the specific reference for representations to be made by 'interested parties' and also removed the requirement that representations could only be accepted from persons living in the 'vicinity' of the premises concerned, or who had for example, a business in the 'vicinity' of the premises.

There was no guidance or definition of 'vicinity' within the Licensing Act 2003 which effectively had a limiting effect on those that could make relevant representations.

The PRSR Act 2011 replaced the references to 'interested parties' and 'vicinity' and substituted that representations can be made and accepted by the Licensing Authority from 'other persons' which means that those persons do not necessarily have to live or run a business for example in the proximity of the premises to be able to submit a valid and relevant representation.

The relevant extracts from the Section 182 Guidance that accompanies the Licensing Act 2003 advises the following in relation to 'other persons'. They are shown in italics for ease of reference.

8.12 As well as responsible authorities, any other person can play a role in a number of licensing processes under the 2003 Act. This includes any individual, body or business entitled to make representations to licensing authorities in relation to applications for the grant, variation, minor variation or review of premises licences and club premises certificates, regardless of their geographic proximity to the premises.

Representations can be made either against or in support of an application. The relevant extracts from the Section 182 Guidance that accompanies the Licensing Act 2003 advises the following in relation to this point.

9.3 Relevant representations can be made in opposition to, or in support of, an application and can be made by any individual, body or business that has grounds to do so.

Seven representations/objections have been received from residents in relation to this application.

Letters of objection from residents can be found attached at Appendix B

Responsible Authorities

One representation has been received from the Council's Environmental Protection Team who are a Responsible Authority. This has now been withdrawn on 28 April 2026 due to the receipt of a satisfactory Noise Impact Assessment and Noise Management Plan and the applicant's having agreed the suggested condition to be attached to the licence should the application be granted.

"All recommendations contained within the Noise Impact Assessment and Noise Management Plan carried out by Sharpes Redmore Acousticians dated April 2026, are to be implemented during associated events".

Two letters confirming there are no objections to the application has been received from the Council's Planning Services and Essex County Council Child Protection who are a Responsible Authorities

Letter of objection and confirmation of no objection can be found attached at Appendix C.

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

A decision made by the Committee is subject to appeal at the Magistrates Court by the premises user or a relevant person.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The Licensing Act 2003 established a single integrated scheme for licensing premises that are used for the supply of alcohol, regulated entertainment, or provision of late-night refreshment. This system of licensing incorporates the sale of alcohol both on and off licensed premises; public entertainment such as music, dancing, indoor sporting events, boxing or wrestling, theatres, cinemas; and late-night refreshment houses and take-aways.

When determining the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives in the overall interests of the local community the Licensing Authority in the form of the Licensing Sub-Committee must have regard and give appropriate weight to the following:

- Full Hearing Procedure for Applications for Premises Licences/Club Premises Certificates where representations have been received.
- Tendring District Council's Statement of Licensing Policy - <https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/content/licensing-act-policy>
- The Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003>
- The steps appropriate to positively promote the four 'Licensing Objectives'.
- Representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties.

Human Rights Implications

A Licence is to be regarded as the property of the applicant; however their right to the use of the property must be balanced against all other public interests or representations in this matter that the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee may wish to consider as appropriate, reasonable and proportionate in relation to the application that has been submitted and also the representation/s that has/have been received against it.

In making their decision as to whether to grant this application, Members of the Premises/Personal Licences Sub-Committee should also take into consideration Article 1 of the First Protocol of the Human Rights Act 1998, that individuals are entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of their property, and also Article 8 that everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life and his correspondence.

Crime and Disorder Implications

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 imposes a duty on local authorities when exercising any of their functions to have due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all it possibly can to prevent, crime and disorder in its area.

Members are requested to consider the information shown below where the Licensing Authority has received a representation about an application which is relevant to one or more of the four licensing objectives, and which suggests that the application may have a negative impact on one or more of the licensing objectives.

The purpose of the licensing system is to positively promote the four 'licensing objectives'.

These are:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- Public Safety
- The Protection of Children from Harm.

The Licensing Authority's Statement of Licensing Policy expects applicants to demonstrate in their operating schedule that suitable and sufficient measures have been identified and will be implemented and maintained to prevent public nuisance relevant to the individual style and characteristics of their premises.

The relevant extracts from the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy in respect of Planning considerations (shown in italics) and also the 'Prevention of Public Nuisance' licensing objective are as follows:

1.24 When the Licensing Authority is considering any application, it will avoid duplication with other regulatory regimes, so far as possible, and does not intend to use the licensing regime to achieve outcomes that can be achieved by other legislation. In particular, its licensing functions will be discharged separately from the Authority's functions as the local planning authority. However, applications for premises licences for permanent commercial premises should normally be from businesses with planning consent for the property concerned. Other permissions may be applicable to licensed premises and applicants are expected to ensure that such permissions are obtained where necessary.

Relevant Section 182 Guidance –

The following sections are taken from the Home Office Section 182 Guidance that accompanies the Licensing Act 2003 and the link is included for the assistance of the Licensing Sub Committee, the applicant, responsible authorities, residents and any other interested parties to this hearing. They do not however form the totality of the guidance in relation to this licensing objective which should also be considered in its entirety.

- Crime and Disorder Section 2.1 to 2.7
- Public Safety Section 2.8 to 2.20
- Public Nuisance Section 2.21 to 2.27
- Protection of Children from Harm Section 2.28 to 2.38

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003>

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Each application must be considered in its own right and on its own merits only as to how it might impact on the four licensing objectives which are the Prevention of Crime and Disorder, the Prevention of Public Nuisance, Public Safety and the Protection of Children from Harm.

The Licensing Sub Committee is therefore asked to determine this application taking into consideration the application in its own right and on its own merits and also all of the relevant information that has been submitted as part of this report and at the hearing itself.

APPENDICES

Appendix A	-	Application and plan
Appendix B	-	Letters of objections from residents
Appendix C	-	Letters of objection and withdrawal letter from Environmental Protection
Appendix D	-	Letters confirming no objections from Responsible Authorities

REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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