

# REPRESENTATIONS LIST

Application No:	060061	Application Date:	10 June 2025
Licence Type:	Premises Licence WITH Alcohol	Licence No:	PLWA0408
Application Type:	Review of Licence/Certificate		

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Premises:	Anchor Inn (Sidmouth) (The) Old Fore Street, SIDMOUTH, Devon, EX10 8LP.
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Applicant:	Mr Steven Chalkley [REDACTED]
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**Person making Representation:** Denise Thomas  
[REDACTED]

**Representation Accepted:** Representation has been accepted

**Reason:** Representation in support of The Anchor Inn

**Details:** Concerning review of the premises licence at The Anchor Inn, Sidmouth EX10 8LP  
"Application to review failure to promote the following licence objective, the prevention of public nuisance, specifically music noise levels from the rear courtyard during the Sidmouth Folk Week events and dray work (storage and movement of barrels) during the Sidmouth Folk week events"

[REDACTED] r courtyard and garden of The Anchor Inn. I am, therefore, in a position to comment on the above public nuisance notice.

My family was approached during Folk Week last year by a resident from [REDACTED] to sign a petition to prevent The Anchor from having live music at the pub. I declined.

I would like to make the following points against the proposed review:

Folk week is only one week out of fifty-two.

The dates are known well in advance. Alternative arrangements can be made by residents to stay elsewhere to avoid the periods of live music.

[REDACTED] are in the town centre. This is bound to have both advantages and disadvantages. It is not possible, nor reasonable, to expect only advantages.

During the previous summers of Folk Week, the employees of The Anchor Inn ensured that the live music stopped immediately at a reasonable hour. No encores and no extra minutes. This has been enforced religiously by The Anchor Inn as agreed.

11 pm is a reasonable hour to finish. If this was midnight or 1 am, I would understand complaint.

I have single pane windows [REDACTED] The Anchor Inn, so not as fortunate [REDACTED] with double or triple glazing. Yes, unsurprisingly, I can hear the music during Fo k Week. I can also hear noise from customers eating outside, from the café, from the church bells, seagulls, deliveries, and pedestrians. Also, from council workers leaf-blowing and grass-cutting in the churchyard -conducted at an annoyingly early hour and undertaken throughout the year! However, when I made the decision [REDACTED], I considered my proximity to all of these potential distractions. [REDACTED] must have done the same.

The music volume is not extreme - particularly by modern standards. I would argue that it is probably in line with music played at Dukes Inn and other venues during the Folk Festival Week, and certainly not as loud as the Jazz Festival, which I can hear clearly from Blackmore Gardens, but of course, is further away.

The Anchor Inn is busy during the Folk Festival Week. I would expect an increase of deliveries and dray work for the duration. Living near to a public house this is to be anticipated. There should be some realistic understanding of the practicalities.

We are fortunate that The Anchor Inn is a thriving pub that takes care with appearance and is a fine feature of the town. I would like to encourage its continuation. Many Sidmouth businesses hope to have an increase of custom during Folk Week, and it certainly helps to sustain over the quieter winter months. Equally, many Sidmouth businesses are struggling in this current economic climate and perhaps for once, support of a creative local business could be made a priority. I suspect that some of your complainants are enjoying retirement, and do not have the anguish of ensuring a livelihood for themselves or that of their employees.

Love it or hate it, Folk Week is a unique experience that changes the character of Sidmouth for a week. The Anchor Inn contributes hugely to the atmosphere and entertainment. I can see [REDACTED] people enjoying the ceilidhs and [REDACTED], the live bands. Should a small number of individuals be permitted to interfere with this enjoyment for so many? Regularly, we read of councils making unpopular decisions that favour the vociferous few - some common sense needs to prevail here.

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**Premises:** Anchor Inn (Sidmouth) (The)  
Old Fore Street, SIDMOUTH, Devon, EX10 8LP.

No doubt a number of [REDACTED] to The Anchor Inn may have maintained how miserable both the dray work and live music is for the week, especially for the housebound. I sympathize, but some of these same residents also regularly complain about the church bellringing, DIY, and the seagulls. With the latter, neighbours have taken matters into their own hands, despite illegality. What will be the next target for those who wish for silence 24/7 in a seaside town that promotes tourism?

A decision upholding this public nuisance notice will set a precedent for the entertainment and working practices for other public houses in Sidmouth during the Folk Festival Week. All are positioned near residential housing - will Dukes Inn, The Volunteer Inn, The Swan, Radway Inn, The Black Horse and The Balfour Arms also come under scrutiny?

In conclusion, I make representation against any proposed review of the premises licence of The Anchor Inn, and I do not agree with the application. The Anchor Inn should be permitted to continue with their current arrangements.

Kind regards

**Evidence:**

**Suggestion:**

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**Person making Representation:** Nikki Startup

**Representation Accepted:** Representation has been accepted

**Reason:** Representation in support of The Anchor Inn

**Details:** Sidmouth Folk festival brings people from all over the country to enjoy the performances that the festival put on and fill our beautiful town with excitement. Now in its 71st year the festival, in its various guises, has been a wonderful addition to Sidmouth. For the majority of locals the free events in The Anchor garden are the beating heart of the festival. For years it has put on Ceilidh's and excellent bands. The events are well organised, well attended and the security detail is second to none. The youngsters of the town are welcomed and underage drinking is vigorously policed. When I was young these gigs were something my friends and I looked forward to all year and now I am well into my fifties we still feel the same way. Long may The Anchor be licensed to put on these events and also it would be a great bonus to the town if they were allowed to reinstate their summer gig evenings.

The events will obviously cause a certain level of noise disturbance to properties immediately adjacent to the pub from music levels and the moving of barrels. However, I cannot believe there is anyone in these properties that were unaware they were moving next to a pub garden and thus would have taken possession of the property with full knowledge of the possible noise factor. The majority of the time this pub garden is quite so I do not believe it is unreasonable to have a week of the year when the noise level steps up for the enjoyment of so many people.

**Evidence:**

**Suggestion:**

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**Application No:** 060061

**Premises:** Anchor Inn (Sidmouth) (The)  
Old Fore Street, SIDMOUTH, Devon, EX10 8LP.

**Person making Representation:** Mrs Denise Fudge & Mr Trevor Fudge

**Representation Accepted:** Representation has been accepted

**Reason:** Premises Licence Holders

**Details:** STATEMENT

We write in response to the statements received by neighbouring residents represented by Mr Stephen Cha kley, in connection with the review of the Premises License Number PLWA 0408 held by [REDACTED] at the above-mentioned address.

It is with great sadness that we have received a formalised complaint of this nature in connection with concerns around the music noise levels and dray work being carried out during the Sidmouth Folk Festival period.

As a very proud Platinum Sponsor of the Sidmouth Folk Festival, equating to an annual cost to the business of approximately £8,000 per annum, we have made every effort to mitigate these concerns in previous years. We regrettably find ourselves having to work closely with authorities to address these concerns in writing. The heritage of The Sidmouth Folk Festival and the decades of revenue it has brought to the town is extremely important to us and we feel honoured to be part of it. The economical benefits to the both the business and the town as a whole are unequivocal.

The Anchor Inn is fully emersed in and committed to serving the community it is in and supports local concerns and charities regularly both through fundraising, sponsorship, and as a venue for meetings/events. Some examples of organisations and charities that have benefited are The Old Comrades, The Lions Club, The Rotary Club, Sidmouth Primary School, St Johns School, local sports clubs including sponsorship of youth football teams, Sidmouth Hospice at Home, RDE Charity and Sidmouth's Dementia Cafe to name just a few.

We take our [REDACTED] responsibilities very seriously and have put numerous procedures in place trying to balance the impact on noise sensitive receptors whilst holding a financially viable entertainment package for customers, many of which are local residents of Sidmouth to enjoy, The Anchor employs 24 staff members, all of which depend on the financial viability of The Anchor Inn.

Whilst we had hoped that a give and take relationship during the specified period would prevail, regrettably this is not the case.

Some of the procedures put in place during this period are for example and not exclusively are as follows:

1. We contract and remunerate a full-time in-house sound engineer who is responsible to the management of The Anchor Inn and works closely with the Duty Management team to ensure that noise levels are within parameters in keeping with the comfort of neighbours. In accordance with this, we have produced a Noise Management Plan (please see below) formalising our commitment to this.
2. We have worked with both the local EHO and the noise receptive properties to provide rubber matting to limit noise interference when dray work is carried out. We have now gone further with this and moved the designated area for the dray to the furthest point from the noise sensitive properties as physically possible.
3. We contract a Security Firm who provide first class care to our customers including the upscale to a full time medical first responder payable by us. They have a duty of care to the public who enjoy our space and uphold public order to the highest standards. They have outlined this in a statement attached. All Stewards are SIA badged.
4. Whilst we are licensed and permitted to operate to time constraints detailed in our license including the provision of live music for 365 days of the year, we withhold doing so with compassion and sensitivity to surrounding properties.

We have received such incredibly support from the local community hailing our music, both Ceilidhs provided by The Sidmouth Folk Festival and the music provided by us creating the most amazing, safe and happy place to be for both young and old, some of which comments I attach to this letter.

We have also reached out and connected with our neighbouring businesses who have nothing but praise for the way we operate so considerably both in and out of fo k week.

Whilst we continue to cooperate with the noise sensitive properties detailed in the application for review, we must be fair to the business, its staff members, its customers and the mental health of the proprietors namely [REDACTED] who have worked tirelessly to give and take in this situation.

Finally, please see attached a petition of support that we have had available within The Anchor Inn for customers to sign in support of our entertainment during fo k week continuing. Notably there are residents who live as close in proximity to us as the noise sensitive properties that enjoy the festival with us from their homes and wish to continue to do so.

We appreciate that we will never be able to please every person that visits us or resides near us, but arguably we do our very best to come as close to that outcome as we can and continue to strive to do just that.

The following noise management plan (NMP) details the measures that will be undertaken by the management of The Anchor Inn, to reduce the impact from music noise during the Sidmouth Folk Festival

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period annually.

Front of house sound engineers will monitor the music noise levels (MNL's) at the mixing console and adjust the overall MNL's from the stage to remain within the following specified decibel levels.

Between the hours of 07:00 and 23:00 the A-weighted equivalent continuous noise level emanating from music on the premises, when measured at the boundary of any noise sensitive property over any 15-minute period with entertainment taking place, will be controlled not to exceed 70 dB (LAeq15min).

The front of house sound engineer will conduct sound measurements during soundchecks to ensure that the specified MNL will be met.

A designated member of staff will be responsible for carrying out MNL checks at peak periods namely 9pm - 10.45pm. This will be monitored hourly within this specified period. The sound engineer will be advised on the observed MNL's and where necessary take action to adjust the MNL accordingly to ensure the recommended MNL is met. This action will be recorded.

Front of house sound engineers will respond to any instruction from the management regarding the MNL's emanating from the amplified sound system.

Speakers will be positioned so they minimise disturbance to adjoining residential properties. Prior to events, the speaker setup will be reviewed, and the latest technology will be used for any improvements in sound direction and reduction, as much as is viably possible.

Should any low frequency noise complaints be received, steps will be taken to reduce the low frequency content of the MNL particularly between 63 and 125 Hz.

A robust complaints procedure shall be in place for the duration of events. The landline number of 01395 514129 may be used during opening hours. In the event of a complaint, the MNL will be checked. The sound engineer will be advised on the observed MNL and where necessary take action to adjust the MNL accordingly to ensure the recommended MNL is met. Any action taken will be recorded.

Dray work will be carried out with sensitivity, causing as little interference to neighbouring properties as possible whilst balancing the need for the business to operate effectively. A new designated fenced area of the business will be used for empty barrel storage. This is located away from noise sensitive receptors.

EXTRACTS FROM OUR BUSINESS FACEBOOK PAGE WHEN ASKING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY FOR FEEDBACK ON SIDMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL AT THE ANCHOR INN - JUNE 2025

'Music, Sunshine, friends, laughter and all of the hard work you all put in to make it special for everyone' - Donna A

'you guys are awesome' - Becky H

'It's the main place to go for the folk festival. Amazing ceilidhs in the day and the wonderful lively music in the evenings. So good to go during the festival and feel safe with security and looked after' - Tony P

'When I first moved to Sidmouth you used to have great bands on during the summer. Its such a shame that the summer gigs have had to stop - they brought life, energy and so much joy to the town. Were incredibly lucky to have a venue that showcases fantastic live music, especially during Fo k Week, with amazing local talent and rising artists. Not every town gets that' - Mark T

'The Anchor is the best place to be at any time but especially Folk Week' - Julie H

'Our most favourite venue to play, always has the best atmosphere and always the best audience' - Charlie R

'Amazing line up can't wait' - Amanda M

'Anchor has always been the hub of folk week ever since I care to remember and hopefully always will be' - Kay B

'It wouldn't be Folk Week unless you did all you do for everyone, main place for Folk Week is The Anchor. Thank you, absolutely love it and each year it gets better and better' - Kate J

'Its absolutely brilliant, the hub of fo k week. Lovely to see the young and old joining in and learning folk dancing and music. The venue is a safe place for great bands to enjoy through folk week with great people, drinks and food all being enjoyed. Long may it continue it brings life and joy. It's only a week so we should all get involved and enjoy. It's good for Sidmouth and all the businesses. So yes, Anchor is brilliant for all of this and safe' - Jow F

'I just feel the Anchor is the centre of Folk Week, it is brilliant, and I hear so many fantastic comments' - Local pub business

'The Anchor is the heart of Folk Week. Great gigs, brilliantly run. We have friends that come from all over the country just to join in at The Anchor. Would be great if you could bring back the summer gigs too' - Nikki S

'The Middle Bar!! This will be my 44th year in The Middle Bar' - Lynne T-W

'Fab atmosphere always at The Anchor Inn, looking forward to the gig on August 1st' - Julie ST

'Such a great atmosphere' - Deb S

'Always a great place to be, staff and service 100%' - Jane T

'The Lovely Anchor Team always go several extra miles to make the place extra special during Folk Week - its at the heart of it' - David L

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS RECEIVED: LETTER FROM CONTRACTED SECURITY PROVIDE, ALPHA  
PROTECT LTD & PETITION SIGNED WITHIN THE PUB



**ALPHA**  
P R O T E C T

Alpha Protect Ltd Enys Close

Truro  
Cornwall  
TR1 3TF

M: 07889 072476

O: 01872 719737

E: [Info@AlphaProtect.co.uk](mailto:Info@AlphaProtect.co.uk)

W: [www.AlphaProtect.co.uk](http://www.AlphaProtect.co.uk)

**To:**

Licencing Authority  
East Devon District Council  
Blackdown House  
Border Road  
Heath Park Industrial Estate  
Honiton  
EX14 1EJ

Date: 21 June 2025

RE: Security Provision and Public Welfare During Sidmouth Folk Week

Dear Licencing, Sub-Committee

We write in response to the current licencing review concerning The Anchor Inn, Sidmouth, and to outline the due diligence, professional standards, and operational assurances provided by Alpha Protect Ltd in relation to public safety and welfare during Sidmouth Folk Week.

As the contracted security provider for The Anchor Inn during this period, Alpha Protect Ltd has implemented and maintained the following measures, aligned with the four licencing objectives set out in the Licencing Act 2003, with particular emphasis on public safety and the prevention of public nuisance.

**1. Staffing & Deployment**

- All deployed security operatives are SIA licenced and vetted using BS 7858 standards as its guidelines.
- A full deployment plan is submitted in advance to the premises licence holder, including detailed rotas, positioning, and briefing schedules for all operatives.
- Alpha Protect maintains a rotational welfare system for the teams assigned to this task, to ensure they are kept well hydrated and fuelled so that standards maintain throughout.



## 2. Training & Briefing

- All security staff are briefed daily on:
- Crowd management procedures
- Alcohol-related incident de-escalation
- Vulnerability safeguarding protocols (e.g. Ask for Angela, first response to vulnerable individuals)
- Incident reporting and documentation, including evidence handling and cooperation with police if applicable.

## 3. Partnership & Communication

- Our team liaises in real-time with:
- Premises management and bar staff
- Local police community support officers (PCSOs)
- Sidmouth Folk Week stewards and safety coordinators (if applicable)
- A dedicated Security Supervisor is assigned on-site as the liaison point for responsible authorities throughout the event.

## 4. Public Welfare

- Welfare-focused patrols are conducted to identify and support vulnerable individuals, including those who may be intoxicated or separated from groups.
- Security teams are all trained at minimum to Level 3 first aid at work, and at least one First Response Emergency Care (FREC3) trained operative is always on duty with full medical kit to that standard.
- We ensure safe egress at closing time with dispersal measures to try and minimise street congestion and reduce local disturbance.

## 5. Documentation & Accountability

- All incidents are recorded in a digital Incident Log, available upon request.
- An after-action report is compiled at the end of the Folk Week event for review by both the premises and local stakeholders.

Alpha Protect Ltd is committed to maintaining the highest standards of public safety, professionalism, and cooperation with local authorities. We take our role in community events such as Sidmouth Folk Week seriously and strive to uphold the trust placed in us by licenced premises and the wider public.

Should the Licencing Sub-Committee or any responsible authority require further documentation or wish to discuss any of the measures outlined above, we remain at your disposal.

Yours faithfully,  
Luke Megson  
Managing Director  
Alpha Protect Ltd

## THE ANCHOR INN SIDMOUTH

We are working closely with the local licencing authority in relation to our boundaries around providing live music until 11pm daily during Folk Week. If you are in support of this continuing, please provide your name and address below. Thank you for your time.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS

[illegible]



## THE ANCHOR INN SIDMOUTH

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BRENT NELSON  
NAME SUE MC SMITH

Abi Hext
Kelsie Bernard
Ryan Prose
Suzie Tay
Derek Cody
KAZ HUMPHRIES
ALICE HUMPHRIES
TIM WICKENSON
J. WILKINSON
J. RICHARDS
S. POOL
A STEELE
MIKE DEERY
SHAWN HARVEY
STAN RUSSELL
HANNA KIRK
JACOB SYCAMORE
GEORGE REYNOLDS
ALISON OHLBERG
MICHAEL LAWRENCE
JO FISHER
DEBBIE RATT
TONY PHILLIPS



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NAME

Christine Doddsworth

Maureen Davies

Myron Edwards

NEALE BARNES

PAUL GOLARDI

PAUL SMITH

ALISON SMITH

CHRIS  
DODGE

D BARTON

OLIVIA THOMAS

DENISE THOMAS

PHOEBE THOMAS

Jon Whittle French

Martyn French

Harriet Taylor

Kevin Dunsford

Chloe French

Carolyn French

Terry French

Marie

Richie

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