

Report to: Licensing and Enforcement Sub Committee



Date of Meeting 8th October 2025

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

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## **Application for a REVIEW OF A Premises Licence under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003**

### **Report summary:**

The report summarises additional information received since the adjournment of the initial hearing on 30 July 2025.

### **Is the proposed decision in accordance with:**

Budget                      Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework    Yes ☒ No ☐

### **Recommendation:**

That the committee consider an application for a review of the following premises licence:  
PLWA0408 The Anchor Inn, Old Fore St, Sidmouth EX10 8LP.

### **Reason for recommendation:**

To comply with statutory processes.

Officer: Lesley Barber, Licensing Officer, [lesley.barber@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:lesley.barber@eastdevon.gov.uk)

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### **Portfolio(s) (check which apply):**

- ☐ Assets and Economy
- ☐ Communications and Democracy
- ☐ Council, Corporate and External Engagement
- ☐ Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism
- ☐ Environment - Nature and Climate
- ☒ Environment - Operational
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Place, Infrastructure and Strategic Planning
- ☐ Sustainable Homes and Communities

**Equalities impact** Low Impact

**Climate change** Low Impact

**Risk:** Low Risk;

### **Links to background information:**

[\*\*EDDC Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026\*\*](#)

## Licensing Act 2003 Guidance issued under Section 182

APPENDIX A – Environmental Health Officer report

APPENDIX B – Additional email correspondence

### Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☐ A supported and engaged community
  - ☐ Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
  - ☒ Resilient economy that supports local business
  - ☐ Financially secure and improving quality of services
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### Report in full

#### 1 Background

- 1.1 The Licensing Authority has received an application from a member of the public for a review of the premises licence under Section 51 of the Licensing Act 2003 at The Anchor Inn, Old Fore St, Sidmouth. The application has been submitted by a member of the public.
- 1.2 This application was considered at a hearing before the Licensing Sub-Committee on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
- 1.3 The hearing was adjourned to allow committee members to consider an additional report from the Environmental Health Officer regarding music noise levels over the duration of the Sidmouth Folk Festival 2025 events in The Anchor beer garden. The adjournment would also give committee members the opportunity to visit the location themselves if they wished to do so.
- 1.4 A summary of the grounds on which the review application is made:
  - Music noise levels from the daily/nightly Folk Festival events taking place in the beer garden to the rear of The Anchor are affecting neighbouring properties adjacent to the premises.
  - Dray work being carried out after 23:00 is causing a disturbance to adjacent properties. The applicant is seeking a formal licence condition to ensure dray work in the vicinity of bordering properties should be restricted from 6pm to 9am daily.

#### 2 Additional Information Received

- 2.1 The report from the Environmental Health Officer evaluates music noise levels generated from the beer garden during Sidmouth Folk Week events.
- 2.2 The Environmental Health report is provided at **APPENDIX A**.
- 2.3 This report concludes that setting a music noise level of 96 dB (LAeq, 15min), measured 1 metre in front of a main stage speaker, strikes an appropriate balance. It allows the venue to continue delivering well received events during Folk Week while effectively limiting the potential for public nuisance.

2.4 Councillor Joe Whibley visited the premises beer garden on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August and offered the following comments:

- 2 visits, one at 2.30pm, the other at approx 5pm.
- security with counting devices were on the door as stated, so the 500 limit.
- the barrels were nowhere to be seen ie not near the wall.
- there did appear, as stated, to be a central sound desk where all sound could be controlled centrally.
- the atmosphere was jovial, fun and not raucous.
- the music outside Mr Chalkley's window was at a level where I could still hear conversations several metres away.
- I didn't see or speak to the license holder which I feel was for the best. Olly, feel free to say I've visited already and his staff need not be on tenterhooks.
- I will be interested to see the result of any sound recordings, but I saw nothing of any concern.

2.5 Councillor Olly Davey visited the premises beer garden on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August and offered the following comments:

I went along the back wall of the site at around 10.15 on the Monday of Folk Week. The band I could hear were audible, but I could hear the noise of the crowd above it. They had bass, but it was not thundering. I don't recall hearing drums. The band was jazz/funk with a S American feel. No "screaming vocals". I also briefly observed a ceilidh one afternoon. Again, the loudest sound was the caller, who was not shouting. Security staff were present, using clickers to note numbers entering and leaving.

Like Joe, I saw and heard nothing of any concern.

2.6 Additional email correspondence, received from the applicant in response to the Environmental Health noise monitoring is provided at **APPENDIX B**.

### **Financial implications:**

There are no financial implications contained within the report.

### **Legal implications:**

There are no further legal comments to be added to the original report.