

Licensing Hearing Panel

9 June 2026

Licensing Act 2003 Application for a Full Variation to a Premises Licence at Chatham Town Football Club Maidstone Road Sports Club, Maidstone Road, Chatham ME4 6LR

Report from: Bhupinder Gill, Assistant Director – Legal and Governance

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Summary

To consider a full variation to a premises licence for Chatham Town Football Club, Maidstone Road Sports Ground, Maidstone Road, Chatham ME4 6LR following the submission of representations, received during the consultation period.

1. Recommendation

1.1. That the Licensing Hearing Panel, having regard to the Licensing Act 2003, the statutory guidance issued under S182, the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and all matters before it, both written and oral, considers and determines this variation application.

2. Budget and policy framework

2.1. Medway Council has published its Statement of Licensing Policy, which it takes into account in all applications relating to the Licensing Act 2003.

3 Background

3.1. On the 20 April 2026 a full premises licence variation was made by Chatham Town Football Club for changes to its existing premises licence

3.2. The original premises licence and plans for Chatham Town Football Club, at Maidstone Road Sports Ground is found at **Appendix A**.

3.3. The full variation application can be found at **Appendix B** and the plans associated with the application at **Appendix C**

3.4. The applicant has stated the nature of the significant changes in Part 3 of the application as the following:

We would like to seek authorisation for the sale of alcohol for consumption on and off the premises within designated and controlled areas around the stadium

- 3.5. The controlled areas are the 2 pop up bars, and the alcohol is to be consumed within the designated area being the perimeter of the stadium.
- 3.6. The current premises licence does not permit the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, and the applicant wishes to permit the alcohol to be sold in outside areas by the creation of 2 pop up bars within the footprint of the club and consumed within the confines of the stadium. No alcohol is to be sold for consumption outside the Stadium and in the surrounding streets
- 3.7. In particular the application is to amend the current hours for on sales in the clubhouse from:

10:00hrs to 23:00hrs from Sunday to Wednesday and

10:00hrs to 24:00hrs from Thursday to Saturday

To:

On and off sales in the clubhouse and 2 pop up bars in the pitch area to

10:00hrs until 23:00 from Sunday to Thursday and

10:00hrs until 24:00hrs Friday to Saturday

and

Late night refreshment on a Thursday to cease.

- 3.8. The applicant would also like to remove the following embedded condition from the premises licence.

The rules of the club concerning admission of new members and the sale of intoxicating liquor shall not be altered without the consent of the Licensing Authority

- 3.9. The application has been correctly advertised in the local press on the council website and notices were displayed on the premises for the required period.

4. Options

- 4.1. The Licensing Hearing Panel is asked to consider the information in this report and decide the outcome of the premise licence application, with one of the following options:

- a) Grant the application as applied for
- b) Amend the application

- c) Add conditions to the premises licence
- d) Refuse the application

5. Advice and analysis

- 5.1. The applicant is expected to demonstrate that they have dealt with and understand the promotion of the four licensing objectives, where appropriate. Members are referred to the operating schedule in Section M of Appendix C.
- 5.2. The four licensing objectives are:
 - The prevention of crime and disorder
 - Public safety
 - The prevention of public nuisance
 - The protection of children from harm
- 5.3. Medway Council has published its Statement of Licensing Policy and Cumulative Impact Assessment, which it will consider alongside the amended Guidance issued by the Home Office under 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 in all applications.

6. Risk management

- 6.1. The Council has to consider and determine this application, which is a function relating to licensing and registration as set out in Schedule 1 to the Functions Regulations, the Licensing Act 2003, the Gambling Act 2005 and other licensing functions reserved by law to the Council's Licensing and Safety Committee and its Sub-Committees, in accordance with the law (both statutory and case law), relevant statutory guidance and statements of policy.

7. Consultation

- 7.1. This matter has been put to the Licensing Hearing Panel because the Council have received representations.
- 7.2. During the consultation period licensing received representations from members of the public relating to all four of the licensing objectives. These representations can be found at **Appendix D**.
- 7.3. **Appendix E** contains conditions agreed with by Kent Police and the applicant. There were no other representations from any Responsible Authorities

8. Financial implications

- 8.1. The Council's licensing activities are met from a budget within the Business Support Department and licence fees contribute to meeting the cost of the

service. There are no direct financial implications relating to the decision regarding this application.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1. There are no direct legal implications at this time.
- 9.2. This hearing is regulated by the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005 (as amended).
- 9.3. There is the possibility of a challenge by way of appeal to the decision by either the applicant or objectors should either have the requisite grounds to do so. Legal advice will be given to Members as appropriate at the meeting. However, whatever the decision of the Panel, this must be based on the evidence placed before it in line with the licensing objectives and the Panel must decide what weight to attribute to this information.

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Appendices

Appendix A – Current Premises Licence and plans
Appendix B – Premises Variation Application
Appendix C – New Plans including Pitch
Appendix D – Representation from Members of Public
Appendix E – Agreed Conditions from Police

Background papers

None