

## **BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET**

### **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Thursday 26th March 2026

**Present:-** Councillors Steve Hedges (Chair), Toby Simon and Ann Morgan

**Also in attendance:** Carrie-Ann Evans (Service Manager, Legal Services) and John Dowding (Team Manager, Licensing)

#### **61 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE**

The Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the Emergency Evacuation Procedure.

#### **62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

There were none.

#### **63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

#### **64 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There was none.

#### **65 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 26TH FEBRUARY 2026**

The Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26th February 2026 and they were duly signed by the Chair.

#### **66 LICENSING PROCEDURE**

The Chair referenced the procedure that would be followed during the course of the meeting.

Those that were present confirmed that they had received and understood the licensing procedure.

**67 APPLICATION: NEW PREMISES LICENCE - BEER TRAVEL UK LIMITED, CONTAINER 21, 105–115 HIGH STREET, TWERTON, BATH. BA2 1DB**

The Team Manager, Licensing introduced the report to the Sub-Committee outlining the application to be determined.

Mr Chris Grunert, Solicitor was present alongside the applicant Mr Athanasios Koufis and addressed the Sub-Committee. He stated that the extra 31 conditions that had been circulated as additional information prior to the meeting were now formally being offered to be considered as part of the application.

Mr Grunert explained that around 450 'Beer Bike' tours had been carried out in Bristol and Cardiff since late 2023 and added that in their origin they were operated as a 'Bring Your Own' alcohol model.

Mr Grunert stated that tours would now be booked with alcohol supplied, as set out in the conditions, and that the site would be visited once or twice a month to collect the alcohol prior to the tours being carried out.

Mr Grunert said that the hours that the site would be used for were modest and that there would be no public access to the site.

Mr Grunert explained that discussions have been held with Avon & Somerset Police and South Wales Police and said that the conditions offered had been accepted by both constabularies.

The Chair asked if conditions A2 and B5, both regarding 'Challenge 25', were to be retained as part of the licence if granted.

Mr Grunert replied that they were.

Ben Allen, Police Licensing Officer for Avon and Somerset Police (Bath) asked if smaller hubs would be used within the operating cities to store the alcohol once it had been collected from the site.

Mr Grunert replied that it would normally be stored in the homes of other members of staff prior to tours taking place.

Ben Allen asked how compliance with the conditions would be monitored on the bike, in particular with regard to excessive alcohol use.

Mr Grunert replied that staff would monitor the behaviour of the customers, but said that it had not been an issue on the tours carried out so far. He added that public liability insurance was also in place.

Ben Allen asked if tour staff would have control of the bike whilst a tour was ongoing.

Mr Grunert replied that one member of staff would have sole control of both the steering and the brakes on the bike and said that not all of the seats on the bike had pedals.

Ben Allen asked what the capacity of the bikes were.

Mr Koufis replied that the Bristol bike has 17 seats and the Cardiff one has 14 seats.

Ben Allen asked what measures had been considered in respect of possible public urination.

Mr Grunert replied that the bikes are available for hire for 1 hour and that it is highlighted from the start that no toilet facilities are available during the tour. He added that they do not condone any such behaviour.

John Crowther, South Wales Police Licensing Officer asked how commercial waste would be disposed following the end of the tour.

Mr Koufis replied that they were seeking a solution to this matter at the present time.

John Crowther commented that it was hard to separate the site in the application from the use of the bikes / tours as they were then within the jurisdiction of South Wales Police.

Ben Allen asked how would checks of the site be carried out and who would be in charge of the site in the application.

The Service Manager, Legal Services said that further conversations of this nature could be carried out between the Police and the applicant should the licence be granted.

John Crowther stated that South Wales Police first became aware of 'Beer Bike' tours on 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026. He explained that the pick up point for the tour in Cardiff was named as 8 Fitzroy Street which was a student house within a residential area of the city. He added that neither the occupants of the house nor the landlord had any knowledge that the address was being cited.

John Crowther said that the Police were concerned that drinking would take place in the street prior to tours taking place. He added that he was disappointed that no contact had been made with either the local Police or Councils before the business had begun to operate.

John Crowther said that the Police also have concerns about the advertising of the business which in some instances states "All You Can Drink".

John Crowther stated that the extra conditions offered by the applicant go a long way to alleviate their concerns.

The Team Manager, Licensing asked how the Police would arrange visits to the site if they needed to view CCTV footage or check formal documents / logs that should be retained on the site.

Ben Allen replied that they would contact the Designated Premises Supervisor to arrange a visit and said that this was normal practice for the majority of venues.

Ben Allen addressed the Sub-Committee to make a summing up statement. He said that it was good to have the extra conditions formally offered as part of the licence as these would be enforceable should the application be granted.

John Crowther addressed the Sub-Committee to make a summing up statement. He said that his concerns about the overall operation of the business were clear, but acknowledged that the extra conditions provide reassurance and a degree of regulatory input. He added that if any of the conditions were compromised they would always seek to work with the Designated Premises Supervisor before taking further action.

Mr Grunert addressed the Sub-Committee to make a summing up statement. He said that the sponsored video that had been shared prior to the meeting was not a typical representation of the tours carried out and that they were generally much calmer and do not cause a public nuisance.

He stated that he was happy that a compromise had been reached between the Police and the applicant and that he was sure that any requests to visit the site would be honoured.

He said that it was important to note that the applicant had taken steps to regulate their operation and thanked the Police for their involvement in the application process.

### Decision & Reasons

Members have determined an application for a new Premises Licence at Beer Travel UK Limited, Container 21, 105-115 High Street, Twerton, Bath, BA2 1DB. In doing so they have taken into consideration the Licensing Act 2003, Statutory Guidance, the Council's Policy, Human Rights Act 1998 and case law.

Prior to the hearing members received two lots of additional information, one of which was from South Wales Police and one of which was from the applicant.

South Wales Police provided additional information comprising a Beer Bike Cardiff video advertisement, Beer Bike instagram footage, website link to Beer Bike Cardiff and video clip relating to Beer Bike London. Members had viewed this footage and it had been shared with the applicant in advance of the hearing.

The applicant provided additional information comprising a 3-page document setting out the 3 conditions offered in the application and an extra 31 conditions offered by the applicant.

Members are aware that the proper approach under the Licensing Act is to be reluctant to regulate in the absence of evidence and must only do what is appropriate and proportionate in the promotion of the licensing objectives on the information before them. Members reminded themselves that each application must be considered on its own merits.

Chris Grunert, of John Gaunt & Partners solicitors appeared on behalf of the applicant together with Mr Koufis who is the proposed Designated Premises Supervisor. In addressing members, Mr Grunert confirmed that the applicant is formally offering the extra 31 conditions in addition to the 3 in the application. He noted that the hours for the sale of alcohol for consumption off premises are modest and the public will not be able to access the premises. He noted that discussions had been entered into with the police and the applicant had interacted responsibly with their queries. Mr Grunert noted that the police had agreed to the conditions offered and he contended that with those conditions the application would promote the licensing objectives and not undermine them. Mr Grunert further noted that the Beer Bike offering could be operated without a licence however the applicant had chosen to place themselves in a regulated environment to operate transparently. He concluded by noting that the applicant's Beer Bike operation had been going on for a couple of years and they had never had an issue; he recommended members grant the application.

Members had regard to the written objections from the Avon and Somerset Police Bristol, Avon and Somerset Police Bath and South Wales Police who raised concerns that the application undermines all four of the licensing objectives.

Ben Allen Police Licensing Officer for Avon and Somerset Police Bath during the course of written and oral representations referred to the prevention of public nuisance, prevention of crime and disorder and public safety licensing objectives being undermined and noted that consumption would take place in a moving vehicle on a public highway. He expressed concerns that this would create a high-risk environment with the risk of disorder, injury and nuisance to the public. He expressed the view that in the application there was an absence of meaningful controls and minimal conditions offered. Before Members, Mr Allen accepted however the conditions being offered by the applicant and indicated that he thought

matters had come to a good conclusion, and there was a comprehensive matrix to control certain aspects of licence.

Temporary Chief Inspector Cowan-Davies had made written representations on behalf of South Wales Police and Police Licensing Officer Crowther attended in person to make oral representations. In the course of those representations it was indicated that the application would undermine the licensing objectives of prevention of crime and disorder, prevention of public nuisance and public safety. Concerns were expressed that the application was effectively attempting to bypass the scrutiny of the Responsible Authorities in the specific areas that will be directly impacted by the proposed licensable activity. Reference was made to the Beer Bike website showing imagery of customers drinking alcohol through traffic cones and the provision of a Bluetooth speaker for music; it was contended this creates a rolling nuisance. Reference was made to European cities where bans had been implemented on “beer bikes” due to the uncontrollable public nuisance and anti-social behaviour they attract. The lack of on-board toilet facilities was cited as a concern and the manoeuvres that other road users would make to get around the slow moving Beer Bike was mentioned as a source of potential danger. The risk of pedestrian harassment and risk of offences being committed under the Road Traffic Act 1988 (cycling when unfit through drink or drugs) were referred to. In essence South Wales police referred to the benefit of a Bath based licence being sought whilst exporting the associated risks, noise and disorder to Cardiff. On questioning before members today however Police Licensing Officer Crowther confirmed that the conditions being offered by the applicant are acceptable to South Wales Police and provide a level of reassurance.

Police Officer Cutler made written representations on behalf of Avon & Somerset Police Bristol that the application would undermine all four of the licensing objectives. The concerns related to the overall business plan and operating procedure. Concern was expressed regarding the lack of detail, control information and conditions in relation to the proposed operation. In his written representation, officer Cutler particularised the types of controls he would expect for such a proposal. Police Officer Cutler was not in attendance before the committee, but he confirmed that the conditions being offered by the applicant, including the extra 31 conditions were acceptable.

Prior to the hearing there had been a dialogue between the police and solicitors for the applicant in relation to additional measures to promote the licensing objectives, this culminated in the applicants offering 31 additional conditions. It was indicated by the police in advance of the hearing that they agreed to the additional conditions being offered however, they maintained their objections so that these additional measures could be considered before committee.

In determining this application Members were careful to take account of the relevant written and oral representations both for and against the application and balanced their competing interests. Members disregarded irrelevant considerations.

Members were satisfied that the measures offered by the applicant in their application together with the additional 31 conditions they had offered and were agreed to by the police would promote the licensing objectives. Authority is therefore delegated to the licensing officer to issue the licence in accordance with the operating schedule and the additional 31 conditions set out below:

1. Sale of alcohol will only take place pursuant to the premises licence holder's Beer Bike business.
2. Alcohol sold will not be for consumption in the licensing authority of Bath & North East Somerset.
3. No further alcohol shall be supplied to customers during a bike ride other than that they have already pre-purchased prior to the ride commencing.
4. An incident reporting system will be in use for Beer Bike tours – either electronic or in the form of an incident book with sequentially numbered pages. Each report will record the date, time and location of the incident. The following will be recorded:
  - A) All crimes reported.
  - B) All incidents of disorder.
  - C) Any refusal of supply of alcohol.The incident reports shall be retained for a minimum of 12 months. The incident reports will be made available to a Police employee on request. Each report will include the date and time the report was made and the person making the report will be identifiable.
5. A Challenge 25 policy will be in operation during Beer Bike tours. Patrons who may appear to be younger than 25 years old will be required to produce valid photographic identification, such as a passport, driving licence, proof of age scheme card bearing the "PASS" mark hologram, official photographic identity

cards issued by EU states bearing a hologram or ultraviolet feature, or digital ID approved by the UK Government to prove they are over 18. Where a patron has no identification, there will be no supply of alcohol. Signs will be prominently displayed alerting customers to this policy.

6. All staff involved in the supply of alcohol will receive training in relation to Conflict Management, Supply of alcohol (underage or intoxicated persons) before starting work with Beer Bike tours. Thereafter, staff will receive refresher training annually. Training records for staff shall be retained for a minimum of 18 months. Training records shall be made available to a Police employee on request.
7. Prior to the Beer Bike tour commencing:
  - a. customers will be briefed on safety matters and acceptable behaviour including acceptable noise levels. The safety brief will be made available to the Police on request during Beer Bike rides and as soon as practicable at other times.
  - b. Pre-ride checks will include an assessment of any current level of intoxication of customers.
8. The volume of any Bluetooth device used to play music during Beer Bike tours must be set at a level which does not cause nuisance to persons nearby.
9. Draught drinks will not be supplied on Beer Bikes.
10. No glass will be allowed on Beer Bikes except for wine bottles
11. No spirits or beer/lager/cider/mixers with ABV higher than 5.9% will be supplied by Beer Bike staff.
12. Anyone seen taunting pedestrians or motorists verbally, by gestures, or otherwise will not be allowed to continue the Beer Bike tour.
13. For rides where alcohol is sold to the participants then riders must have pre-booked and pre-paid for the Beer Bike tour. A record of
  - c. date of purchase,
  - d. date of ride
  - e. customer's name and contact details
  - f. details of the alcohol transacted
  - g. date and method of dispatch

shall be made available to a Police employee, in a readily playable format, within a reasonable time upon request.

14. No more than 4 cans or 1/2 bottle of prosecco shall be supplied to each rider.
15. Each Beer Bike will have identification markings (incorporating a contact number) to allow easy identification by any interested party on the front, rear and each side.
16. A rider and third-party insurance document must be held by the Beer Bike company, and a copy must be provided to the Police within a reasonable time upon request.
17. The Beer Bike driver will hold a valid UK driving licence.
18. The Beer Bike driver must not, at any time during the Beer Bike ride, be under the influence of intoxicants.
19. Beer Bikes will not enter public park spaces.
20. For rides where alcohol is sold to the participants there will be no Bring Your Own Booze allowed during Beer Bike tours.
21. Beer bike ride participants shall be informed that anyone alighting the Beer Bike without permission during a ride shall not be allowed to re-join the ride.
22. All unconsumed alcohol must be returned to the licensed premises from which it came if there is an intention to re-sell it.
23. Beer Bike riders shall wear suitable footwear for the duration of the ride if engaged in pedalling
24. Beer Bike riders shall have no control over the braking or steering of the Beer Bike.
25. First aid provisions will be carried on the Beer Bike during bike rides.
26. Customer bookings for the premises licence holder's Beer Bike business will be subject to terms and conditions requiring appropriate behaviour and compliance with Beer Bike representatives during the event. Failure to comply will result, where appropriate, with forfeiture of their participation right.
27. Alcohol shall not be sold for consumption on any ride which includes participants under the age of 18.

#### Conditions for Off Licensed Premises (sale and storage facility)

28. A CCTV system will be installed and maintained and operated whenever alcohol is stored in the premises. The system will cover the premises'

entrance with the images kept for a minimum 31 days and produced to a Police employee, in a readily playable format, within a reasonable time on request

29. The premises must be secure and fitted with lockable doors which must be maintained in good working order.

30. Alcohol stores must be kept in a secure container constructed of metal.

31. Alcohol stored inside must not be visible from outside the Premises.

The meeting ended at 1.32 pm

Chair(person) .....

Date Confirmed and Signed .....

**Prepared by Democratic Services**