

NEWARK & SHERWOOD DISTRICT COUNCIL
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

RECORD OF LICENSING ACT 2003 HEARING
HELD ON
THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2026 @ 10:10 HOURS

MEETING HELD AT
CASTLE HOUSE, GREAT NORTH ROAD, NEWARK NG24 1BY

HEARING TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION FOR THE
VARIATION OF A PREMISE LICENCE

WALESBY FOREST
BRAKE ROAD
WALESBY
NG22 9NG

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE:
(the Panel) Councillor Jean Hall (Chair)
Councillor Paul Taylor
Councillor Linda Tift

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Lisa Ingram (Principal Legal Officer and Legal Advisor to
the Panel – NSDC)
Damian Wilkins (Environmental Health & Licensing
Manager – NSDC)

Applicant:

Guy Laurie

Objectors:

George Hodgson
Ann-Marie Pitchford

Observers:

Councillor Tim Wildgust
Emily Burtoft (Senior Legal Officer – NSDC)

Prior to the commencement of the Hearing, the Chair advised that Councillor Tim Wildgust would not be taking part in proceedings as the application site was within his district ward.

The Chair read through the process to be followed at the Hearing. She added that in line with licensing regulations, all interested parties were required to complete a form to state that it was their intention to attend the Hearing and that they wished to speak, however, no such notification has been received from the objectors or the applicant. The Legal Advisor added that despite the official notification not being received, it was the Panel's preference that the Hearing proceed, subject to all parties being in agreement. The objectors and the applicant confirmed that they wished to proceed.

Presentation by Environmental Health & Licensing Manager

The Environmental Health & Licensing Manager presented to the Panel details of the application for the variation of a Premise Licence in respect of Walesby Forest, Brake Road, Walesby NG22 9NG. The report before the Panel presented Members with the reason for the hearing, which noted that 6 relevant representations had been received, and were attached as Appendices C to H of the report.

Applicant's Case

The Applicant, Guy Laurie, advised the Panel that the application was to make 3 changes to the existing licence. These were to:

- i) Increase the current capacity from 4999 to 9999 persons.
The reason for this was to enable the premise to host a Girl Guide UK Big Camp National Jamboree.
- ii) Increase the hours permitted for Late Night Refreshment from 23:00 hrs to 02:00 hrs
The reason for this was to accommodate a request from Vegan Campout at an existing food festival.
- iii) Increase the hours permitted to serve alcohol for an additional hour.
The reason for this was again to accommodate a request from Vegan Campout.
New hours: Monday to Wednesday – 10:00 hrs to 23:45 hrs
 Thursday to Sunday – 10:00 hrs to 00:45 hrs

Mr. Laurie confirmed that other events hosted at the Walesby Forest site would remain unchanged.

Mr. Laurie advised that all events hosted at the site underwent a Safety Advisory Group (SAG) assessment which was referred to in contractual arrangements together with an Event Plan and Noise Management Plan. The Noise Management Plan had been introduced following noise complaints from an event held in 2025 which had ended 10 minutes after the licensed termination hour.

Mr. Laurie stated that each event hosted was specifically tailored to the requirements of the customer.

In referring to the issue of glass being found in Walesby Forest, Mr. Laurie advised that, as per agreement with the SAG, no glass was permitted at events and therefore this was not attributable to events hosted by Walesby Forest.

In referring to the issue of fireworks, Mr. Laurie advised that the debris collected in the village was not attributable to Walesby Forest as the display was given by a professional fireworks provider and did not use the type of fireworks collected.

Mr. Laurie advised that the proposed changes would be used during the summer months, May to September and only for 3 or 4 events. He stated that the charitable purpose of Walesby Forest remained unchanged since its establishment in 1938 which had been to provide an open space for inner city children to enjoy the countryside with a focus on scouts.

He added that since COVID, there had been a need to look at alternative sources of income generation to ensure that the provision of services to scouts was able to continue. Mr. Laurie stated that the primary purpose of the site was the provision of a centre for scouts and schools and that Walesby Forest were striving to be part of the community. He ended his presentation by stating that he would be happy to have a restriction on limiting the number of events throughout May to September.

Questions to Applicant

Mrs Ann-Marie Pitchford queried as to the location of additional parking provision for the larger events and whether this would be on adjacent fields, rented for that purpose. In response, Mr. Laurie advised that there would be no need for additional parking as the large scout and guide events used coaches to bring in the children. He added that the Chair of Walesby Forest was taking a cautious approach and was speaking to a local farmer to put contingency plans in place, should additional parking be required. He noted that some visitors chose to park on Brake Road, despite there being sufficient spaces onsite.

Councillor Tift raised two queries:

Q1. Was Walesby Forest still a charitable organisation?

Mr. Laurie confirmed that to be correct.

Q2. Noting the events to host scouts and guides, were other events held to make money?

Mr. Laurie advised that the site was open to the public during school holidays: Easter; May Bank Holiday; Spring Bank Holiday; 4 or 5 weeks during the school summer holidays; and October half-term. Outside of those times, the site was a scout centre. He added that other organisations did use the site, but it was primarily members of the scouts or guides.

Councillor Taylor queried whether the provision of alcohol would be available at the proposed Girl Guide UK Big Camp National Jamboree. Mr. Laurie confirmed this would be a 'dry' event and only soft drinks, teas and coffees would be provided.

Councillor Hall queried how many people the site could accommodate. Mr. Laurie advised that they had hosted an event with 12.5k people, but that he would not wish to repeat that. The site benefited from an existing basic infrastructure, and should an event be hosted with an increased attendance, additional facilities were brought in – showers, toilets etc.

The Legal Advisor raised two queries:

Q1 All the representations could be categorised as public nuisance issues: vehicles; littering; and noise.

Vehicles - Mr. Laurie advised that the Police signed off on traffic management plans/vehicle access together with Chevron.

Littering – Mr. Laurie advised that 1100 litre commercial bins were provided on site which were emptied into skips and then removed from the site. He added that he would be willing to include, in his contracts, that the existing condition for litter picking be extended to include Walesby Village.

Q2 Other than the scouts and guides who were coached onto site, how were other people

getting to there?

Mr. Laurie advised that people mostly arrived by car and that their vehicles were accommodated on the field. He noted that when the Camping & Caravanning Club had held an event there, they had been advised that their proposed traffic access plan to the site was wrong but proceeded regardless and this had caused chaos on the adjoining roads. Because of this, Walesby Forest cancelled their plan and instigated their own which is based on experience and local knowledge. Such an incident has not occurred again. Mr. Laurie added that when the Fake Festival was hosted, traffic was directed into Hall Field in a 'snake' pattern which allowed more vehicles to get onto site and off the road. He added further that whilst the gate opening hours were advertised at a specific time, people always attempted to arrive early and so gates were generally opened 2 hours before the advertised time.

Mr. Hodgson queried as to how many scouting events had been held the previous year. Mr. Laurie advised that no major events had been held but there had been numerous minor ones. He added that the next major scouting event was scheduled for 2028. There was to be a Forest Festival Event of 2.5k and a Polish Scout Jamboree in July of 800.

Objectors' Case

Mr. George Hodgson

Mr. Hodgson advised the Panel that he had lived on Brake Road for quite a while. He stated that when the Fake Festival had been held, the weather had been hot but due to the volume of the music he had had to close his windows, adding that both his wife and he had existing breathing difficulties and closing the windows had not helped. He had eventually opened the windows between 1am and 2am but that there had been noise from cars and pedestrians on Brake Road, causing a disturbance. He added that he had had a visit from Environmental Health due to the noise. He stated that the number of events increasing seemed to be turning the site into a commercial venue. Mr. Hodgson commented that he wished he could relocate when events were being held to get away from the issues he experienced.

Questions to Mr. Hodgson

Councillor Taylor stated that it appeared by Mr. Hodgson was not objecting specifically to the variation applied for but the current activities. Mr. Hodgson confirmed that to be the case, adding that the proposed variation would exacerbate the situation.

The Legal Advisor queried whether Mr. Hodgson's concern was the volume of events increasing. Mr. Hodgson confirmed that to be the case. He added that noise and associated noise from any events would affect his life.

Councillor Hall queried as to how many times Mr. Hodgson was disturbed. He responded to say that it was the Fake Festival, the Light Festival and the Firework Display that caused the more disturbance but that other events led to an increase in traffic on Brake Road.

Mrs Ann-Marie Pitchford

Mrs Pitchford advised that she had lived on Brake Road all of her life and that her objection to the application was based on the direct experience she had had from living there. She

stated that it was the festivals and the fireworks display which created the greatest disturbance, noting that music could sometimes be heard up to 6 miles away. It was her belief that the proposed extension would exacerbate the current situation. She added that in past years, she had booked holidays when festivals were taking place to get away from the noise and that these issues had been going on for a number of years. In referring to Mr. Laurie's comments about the Vegan Campout requests, Mrs Pitchford noted that this was a one-off event so the proposed amendments to accommodate them did not need to be granted for the whole year.

Referring to the firework display, Mrs Pitchford advised that on the opposite side of the road to the houses were fields with horses. She stated that there were alternative to fireworks, citing the decision of Center Parcs to cease using them. She further added that during the festivals, Brake Road was not a pleasant place to live, stating that drinkers had, in the past, used her garden as a toilet facility.

Questions to Mrs Pitchford

Councillor Taylor stated that it appeared by Mrs Pitchford was not objecting specifically to the variation applied for but the current situation. Mrs Pitchford stated that the report in the agenda said that the situation had been resolved but that was not the case. The extension applied for would make the current situation worse as the variation was for the whole year and not for a single event. If the application was granted, it would enable new contracts with revised hours and capacity to be agreed with existing users.

In response to Mrs Pitchford's concerns, Mr. Laurie stated that he would be willing to accept a condition that existing events would not be extended, as per Walesby Forest's agreement with the Police. The Environmental Health & Licensing Manager added that a condition could be added to limit the variation of capacity to scout and girl guide groups only.

Councillors Hall and Tift sought to clarify with Mr. Laurie what noise monitoring equipment or buffers were in place. Mr. Laurie advised that he worked with Environmental Health Officers who had installed noise monitoring equipment. Following an event, he was required to provide them with the data collected. He added that the music was hosted in a tent and that the distance noise travelled was very much dependent on the direction the wind was travelling.

Summing Up

Mr. Hodgson and Mrs Pitchford had no further comment to make.

Mr. Laurie

Mr. Laurie made the following statements:

The application was not to extend the current events.

He was willing to work with noise management planning and adhere to any limits set.

People walking on Brake Road were often residents of the village.

The firework display ended at 8pm and the site closed no later than 10pm

All events were SAG approved and fully compliant with those conditions.

Sometimes noise is generated from Thoresby Park and not Walesby Forest.

The proposed variation was not for a year; it was for a period of 4 months.

Decision

The Panel considered the application taking into account the following:

1. The report of the Environmental Health & Licensing Manager
2. The application and oral representation of the applicant.
3. The written and oral representations of the objectors.
4. The relevant provisions of the Licensing Act 2003.
5. Statutory guidance issued under S.182 of the Licensing Act 2003.
6. Newark & Sherwood District Council's Statement of Licensing Policy 2024 -2029.

Having considered the above, the Panel determined that the application be granted, noting the following:

1. The purpose of the Panel was to establish the facts and evidence which supported the application to vary the current licence and the which formed the basis of the objections.
2. Responsible authorities had agreed conditions with the Applicant which resulted in no objection being considered, any objections/observations were not required or no comment was provided. Weight was placed on the representations and lack of objection from responsible authorities.
3. The starting point for the Panel in reaching determination of the application to vary the licence was the promotion of the licensing objectives and that the licensing regime was one which was permissive. The Panel needed to consider if the application adversely affected the licensing objectives.
4. The objectors made representations about noise nuisance (from music), littering and increased traffic, all matters which fell within public nuisance, licencing objective. When objectors were asked the variation would make a difference to the nuisance, they were already being caused they confirmed it would.
5. The Applicant confirmed that there was no alteration to the times music was to be played, that measures had been put in place with SAG to manage traffic and that he would request the event providers to extend their duty to put the site back to how it was to include the village in terms of clearing litter.
6. The Applicant offered to condition the variation to the capacity, so it was limited to Scout and Girl Guide groups only.
7. The Panel found that such nuisance, if it were to occur would not be a frequent occurrence and that with the measures already in place and with those proposed by the Applicant, there was a small likelihood of such an occurrence.
8. The Panel was satisfied that the review process would be a sufficient recourse should such, unlikely occurrence as described by the objectors. The Panel concluded that it was unnecessary to impose any further conditions.

Meeting closed at 11.50 am.