



Subject:	Consideration of an objection to an application for the Renewal of an Entertainments Licence for Shaftesbury Bowling and Recreation Club
Date:	10 December 2025
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control, Ext. 2300
Contact Officer:	Stephen Hipkins, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues		
1.1	To consider an application for the Renewal of a 6-Day Annual Indoor Entertainments Licence for Shaftesbury Bowling and Recreation Club based on the Council's standard conditions to provide music, singing, dancing or any other entertainment of a like kind.		
1.2	Premises and Location Shaftesbury Bowling and Recreation Club, 20A Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3JJ	Ref. No. WK/2022/05254	Applicant Nuala Hayden, C/O 20A Annadale Avenue, Belfast BT7 3JJ
1.3	A location map of the premises is attached as Appendix 1.		
1.4	Members are reminded that Committee, at its meeting on 21st June 2023, heard representations from the Licensee and objectors in relation to the application to renew the 2023 licence.		
1.5	After that meeting, further communications took place with the applicant and objectors.		
1.6	The outcome of communications was to no longer pursue the objection to that application.		
1.7	Under the Scheme of Delegation, the Director of Planning and Building Control is responsible for exercising all powers in relation to the issue of Permits and Licences, except where adverse representations have been made.		
1.8	As the issues raised by the objectors were resolved, the entertainments licence was issued under the delegated authority of the Director for the period 1 st February 2024 to 31 st January 2025.		
1.9	The application for the renewal of the 2025/2026 licence was received on 28 January 2025. In advance of the application being received, representations to the renewal of the licence was received from one objector.		
1.10	Further communication was then received from the objector within the 28-day period confirming they still wished to object to the application.		
1.11	Public notice of the application has been placed and no additional objections were received.		
2.0	Recommendations		
2.1	Considering the information presented and representations received in respect of the application you are required to make a decision to either: 1. Approve the application for the Renewal of the 6-Day Annual Entertainments Licence, or 2. Approve the application for the Renewal of the 6-Day Annual Entertainments Licence with special conditions, or 3. Refuse the application for the Renewal of the 6-Day Annual Entertainments Licence.		

2.2	If the application is refused, or special conditions are attached to the licence to which the applicant does not consent, then the applicant may appeal the Council's decision within 21 days of notification of that decision to the County Court.
2.3	If the application is refused and an appeal is lodged entertainment may not be provided during the appeal period.
3.0	Main report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.1 An objection has been received from local residents living near the Club. The nature of their objections relates to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing loud music on a Tuesday night and occasionally at weekends <p>3.2 A copy of the objection is attached as Appendix 2.</p> <p><u>Liaison meetings</u></p> <p>3.3 Following receipt of the objection the Service offered to facilitate a liaison meeting between both parties to discuss the residents' issues and attempt to resolve them.</p> <p>3.4 The offer of the meeting was acceptable to the club but as the objector had met with members of the Club Committee and an Officer from the Service on 11 November 2022 in relation to the previous renewal application they did not wish to repeat the exercise, indicating there was nothing new to discuss and nothing had changed in relation to their complaint.</p> <p>3.5 As required by the Committee Protocol the applicant and objector was requested to provide their representation in advance of the meeting for consideration.</p> <p><u>Objectors Representation</u></p> <p>3.6 The objector's Representation Forms are attached as Appendix 3 and they have been provided to the applicant, as required by the protocol. In general, the representations relate to concerns as follows:</p> <p>3.7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing persistent loud music on Tuesday evenings and occasionally Friday and Sunday. Loud bass music. • Windows open when music playing. • Persistent disruption has resulted in adverse effect on family health and well-being including disrupted sleep of young children. • Entertainment being given priority over people living in homes nearby. <p>3.8 The objector has been invited to attend your meeting to discuss any matters relating to their objections should they arise.</p> <p><u>Applicants Representation</u></p> <p>3.9 The applicant has provided their Representation Form, as required by the Protocol, and a copy of this response is attached as Appendix 4. The applicant has highlighted the measures which have been undertaken to try and address residents' concerns.</p>

3.10	The applicants Representation Form has also been provided to the objectors, as required by the protocol.
3.11	<p>A summary of the applicant's representation is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The club advised they have reduced all noise levels – turning off bass music. • The club take sound levels recordings outside the hall to continue to monitor noise. • They have lined the door facing onto the houses at the back of the club. • Locked windows facing onto the housing at the back of the hall. <p><u>Counter representations</u></p>
3.12	In response to the Representation Form submitted by the applicant, the objector has advised the music is persistently loud on Tuesday evenings which affects their family's health, well-being and overall quality of life and believe the Club are not taking their concerns seriously.
3.13	A copy of this email is included as Appendix 5.
3.14	Further to providing the applicant with a copy of the objectors' Representation Forms the applicant has advised they do not have anything additional to add to their earlier submission.
3.15	The applicant and/or their representatives will be available at your meeting to answer any queries you may have in relation to the application.
	<u>Details of the Premises</u>
3.16	<p>The area licensed to provide entertainment is the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Hall with a maximum capacity of 200 persons
3.17	<p>The days and hours during which the applicant is licensed to provide entertainment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday to Saturday: 11.30 am to 11.00 pm
3.18	Additionally, the club may apply to the PSNI for a late liquor licence which would permit entertainment to continue to post 11 pm to 01.00am hrs.
	<u>PSNI</u>
3.19	The PSNI have been consulted in relation to the application and confirmed that they have no objection to it.
	<u>NIFRS</u>
3.20	The Northern Ireland Fire Rescue Service has also been consulted in relation to the application and have advised they have no objection to it.
	<u>Health, safety and enforcement inspections</u>
3.21	The premises have been inspected, and all works to ensure patron safety in the premises have been completed to the satisfaction of the Service.

	<p><u>Noise Complaints</u></p> <p>3.22 The objector has identified that ongoing noise disturbance from the venue continues to be experienced. Particular reference had been made to dance classes held in the venue on Tuesday evenings.</p> <p>3.23 Building Control have reminded the objectors of the need to contact the Night Time Noise Team (NTNT) when disturbed by noise.</p> <p>3.24 The applicant has been informed on all occasions when the Service have been notified of a noise complaint.</p> <p><u>Noise Complaints 1 February 2024 – 31 January 2025 (Licence period)</u></p> <p>3.25 17 noise complaints were received by the NTNT between February 2024 and January 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 11 occasions no noise was witnessed. • On three occasions faint voices or music was witnessed. • On one occasion audible music was witnessed but not considered unreasonable for the time of day. • On two occasions no visits were carried out. <p>3.26 A number of the noise complaints were received on evenings when dance classes were held at the venue. Dance classes are an activity which do not require an entertainments licence to be in place at a premises. However, it is understood that at the conclusion of the dance classes, musical entertainment has been provided for participants. Such activity would require an entertainments licence to be in place.</p> <p><u>Noise Complaints from 1 February – to 28 November 2025 (Current licence period)</u></p> <p>3.27 10 noise complaints have been received by the NTNT since February 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On two occasions faint music was witnessed. • On three occasions Officers of the Noise Team witnessed noise levels resulting in a verbal warning being issued. • On one occasion no visit was undertaken. • On one occasion people were witnessed talking outside the venue with no music • On three occasions no action was taken. <p>3.28 The objector has contacted Building Control directly regarding noise complaints and was advised to continue to contact the NTNT.</p> <p>3.29 Members are reminded that the Noise Act 1996 as amended by the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2011 gives council's additional powers in relation to the control of entertainment noise after 11.00 pm.</p>
4.0	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None - Officers carry out monitoring inspections on premises receiving complaints, but this is catered for within existing budgets.</p>
5.0	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no issues associated with this report.</p>
6.0	<p><u>Appendices – Documents Attached</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Appendix 1 – Location Map• Appendix 2 – Objection email• Appendix 3 – Objector's Representation Forms• Appendix 4 – Applicant's Representation Form• Appendix 5 – Objector's counter representation• Appendix 6 – PSNI Comments
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