

East Herts Council Report

Licensing Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting: 26 September 2025.

Report by: Jonathan Geall, Director for Communities.

Report title: Application for a new premises licence for Standon Calling Limited, Standon Lordship, Barwick Road, Standon, Hertfordshire, SG11 1PR.

Application Reference: 25/0849/PL

Ward(s) affected: Braughing and Standon

Summary

An application for a new premises licence for a festival called Standon Calling Limited, Standon Lordship, Barwick Road, Standon, Hertfordshire, SG11 1PR. The application has received representations from members of the public and one responsible authority. Where representations are received against an application, and not withdrawn, there must be a Licensing Sub-Committee meeting to decide that application. This report is to inform that decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

(a) The application for a new premises licence be decided.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 Members of the Licensing Sub-Committee should determine the application through consideration of the information contained in this report, the application for a new premises licence, and any appendices, combined with submissions made at the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Under the Licensing Act 2003 and the council's Statement of Licensing Policy ('the Policy') an application for a new premises licence or certificate must be determined.
- 2.2 Where valid representations are received the council's discretion is engaged. A Licensing Sub-Committee has the delegated authority to determine applications for new and varied licenses and certificates. This decision must be made whilst having regard to the nationally set Licensing Objectives, the council's own Statement of Licensing Policy and to Statutory Guidance issued by the Secretary of State under section 182 of the Licensing Act.
- 2.3 The Licensing Objectives are:
- Prevention of Crime and Disorder
 - Public Safety
 - Prevention of Public Nuisance; and
 - Protection of Children from Harm.

3.0 Reason(s)

- 3.1 The valid application by Standon Calling Limited was submitted on 11 June 2025.
- 3.2 The licensable activities and hours requested in the new application are listed below.

Licensable activities:

Regulated Entertainment; Provision of Plays:

Monday: 10:00 – 23:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 23:00

Friday: 10:00 – 02:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 02:00

Sunday: 10:00 – 02:00

Regulated Entertainment; Provision of Films:

Monday: 10:00 – 23:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 23:00

Friday: 10:00 – 02:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 02:00

Sunday: 10:00 – 02:00

Regulated Entertainment; Provision of Live Music:

Monday: 10:00 – 23:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 23:00

Friday: 10:00 – 02:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 02:00

Sunday: 10:00 – 00:00

Regulated Entertainment; Provision of Recorded Music:

Monday: 10:00 – 23:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 23:00

Friday: 10:00 – 02:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 02:00

Sunday: 10:00 – 00:00

Regulated Entertainment; Provision of Performances of Dance:

Monday: 10:00 – 23:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 23:00

Friday: 10:00 – 02:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 02:00

Sunday: 10:00 – 00:00

Regulated Entertainment; Provision of anything of a similar description to live music, recorded music or performances of dance:

Monday: 10:00 – 23:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 23:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 23:00

Friday: 10:00 – 02:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 02:00

Sunday: 10:00 – 00:00

Supply of alcohol (On premises):

Monday: 10:00 – 00:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 00:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 00:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 00:00

Friday: 10:00 – 02:00
Saturday: 10:00 – 02:00
Sunday: 10:00 – 00:00

Late night refreshment:
Saturday: 23:00-02:00
Sunday: 23:00-02:00
New Years Eve: 23:00-00:00

Opening hours:
Monday: 10:00 – 00:00
Tuesday: 10:00 – 00:00
Wednesday: 10:00 – 00:00
Thursday: 10:00 – 00:00
Friday: 10:00 – 02:00
Saturday: 10:00 – 02:00
Sunday: 10:00 – 00:00

- 3.3 **Appendix 'A'** is a redacted copy of the premises licence application form.
- 3.4 **Appendix 'B'** is Section 18 of the application form, which asks the applicant to describe any additional steps they intend to take to promote the four Licensing Objectives as a result of the application.
- 3.5 **Appendix 'C'** is the Alcohol Management Plan.
- 3.6 **Appendix 'D'** is the Construction Plan.
- 3.7 **Appendix 'E'** is the Crowd Management Plan.

- 3.8 **Appendix 'F'** is the Emergency and Major Incident Plan.
- 3.9 **Appendix 'G'** is the Entry and Search Policy and Procedure.
- 3.10 **Appendix 'H'** is the Extreme Weather Action Plan.
- 3.11 **Appendix 'I'** is the Risk Assessment.
- 3.12 **Appendix 'J'** is the Safeguarding Policy.
- 3.13 **Appendix 'K'** is the Show Stop Procedure.
- 3.14 **Appendix 'L'** is the Sign Off to Open.
- 3.15 **Appendix 'M'** are the Plans.
- 3.16 **Appendix 'N'** is the Welfare Plan.
- 3.17 During the first 28-day statutory public consultation period, the application was not advertised correctly online therefore the consultation period had to be restarted. During the second 28-day statutory public consultation period, the required Blue Notices at the premises were not sufficient. The 28-day statutory public consultation started again on 01.08.2025.
- 3.18 During the consultation period two representations were received from members of the public. The public representations are attached as **Appendix 'O'**.

3.19 During the consultation period one representation was received from the Police in their capacity as a responsible authority. This representation, including proposed conditions is attached as **Appendix 'P'**.

3.20 In summary, the representations assert that all four Licensing Objectives, as listed in paragraph 2.3 above, would be undermined if the application is granted as requested.

3.21 The public representations express concerns regarding:

- noise management measures including noise pollution.
- distress, disruption and trespassing including blocked access to property.
- speeding vehicles endangering children and animals together with parked vehicles.
- the amount of litter and rubbish.

3.22 The Police representation states that they have concerns with the following:

- Event Duration and Notification Requirements
- Traffic Management Plan (TMP).
- Event Management Plan (EMP).
- Safeguarding and Vulnerable Persons arrangements.
- Noise Management Plan (NMP).
- Alcohol and Entry Policies.
- Security and Stewarding.
- Insurance and Liability.

Policy and Guidance

3.22 Section 6 of the Policy details definitions of premises and location and operation of premises, differentiating between Town Centre locations and other areas. Under this section of the Policy the operation of 'Standon Calling' best fits the definition of a festival:

'An organised event, typically lasting more than one day, featuring all or a combination of licensable activities including performances of live and recorded music. Can involve the audience staying on site.'

3.23 The table at 6.9 of the Policy details the council's approach to hours for licensed premises of this type. Notwithstanding that each application is considered on its own merits the following hours would normally be granted to this style of premises when valid and relevant representations have been received:

*'Will generally be allowed licensable activity until **01:00** on Friday and Saturday. On Sunday to Thursday **23:00**, unless the following day is a Bank Holiday or recognised National Holiday.'*

3.24 The current hours for 'Standon Calling' are outside of this Policy whereby the opening hours on Sunday to Thursday goes beyond 23:00hrs. This is detailed on the current premises licence attached at '**APPENDIX A**' in section 17 of 21.

3.25 Section 8 of the Policy deals with the Licensing Objectives:

8.1 The Licensing Authority must carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four Licensing Objectives, each of which has equal importance:

- the prevention of crime and disorder,
- public safety,
- the prevention of public nuisance, and
- the protection of children from harm.

8.2 It is recognised that the Licensing function is only one means of securing the delivery of the above Objectives and

should not therefore be seen as a means for solving all local problems. The Licensing Authority will therefore continue to work in partnership with all stakeholders and partners towards the promotion of the Licensing Objectives.

8.3 The Licensing Authority expects applicants to address the Licensing Objectives within their operating schedules, having regard to the nature of the premises, the licensable activities to be provided, operational procedures, and the nature of the location and the needs of local communities. The operating schedule should contain sufficient information to enable the Licensing Authority, responsible authorities and other persons who may be affected by the operation of the licensed premises to assess whether the steps which will be taken to promote the Licensing Objectives are sufficient to mitigate any potential adverse impact.

3.26 The [‘Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003’](#) (herein ‘the Guidance’) issued by the Secretary of state, states at paragraphs 9.37 and 9.38 that:

9.37 As a matter of practice, Licensing authorities should seek to focus the hearing on the steps considered appropriate to promote the particular Licensing objective or Objectives that have given rise to the specific representation and avoid straying into undisputed areas. A responsible Authority or other person may choose to rely on their written representation. They may not add further representations to those disclosed to the applicant prior to the hearing, but they may expand on their existing representation and should be allowed sufficient time to do so, within reasonable and practicable limits.

3.27 In determining the application with a view to promoting the Licensing Objectives in the overall interests of the local community, the Licensing Authority must give appropriate

weight to:

- the steps that are appropriate to promote the Licensing Objectives;
- the representations (including supporting information) presented by all the parties;
- this Guidance;
- its own statement of Licensing Policy.

3.28 Paragraphs 9.42-9.44 of the Guidance deal with how to determine actions that are appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives.

3.29 If members determine to impose conditions to mitigate concerns regarding the suggested undermining of the Licensing Objectives, then Chapter 10 of the Guidance deals with conditions attached to premises licenses. The Guidance should be considered along with the East Herts [‘Pool of Model Conditions’](#).

Officer observations

3.30 As stated in the Guidance, the Authority’s decision should be evidence-based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives and proportionate to what the review application is intended to achieve.

3.31 The application form **Appendix ‘A’** was received along with multiple supporting documents on 11th June 2025. This has been circulated correctly to all responsible authorities and displayed publicly since the 11th June 2025. The consultation period had to restart on two separate occasions, the most recent ending on the 29th August 2025. This accounts for a total consultation period of 80 days.

3.32 Section 18 of the application form, Licensing Objectives', has been separated and submitted, this is attached as **Appendix 'B'**. This states the following:

- The purpose of this application is to secure a Premises Licence not limited in time, to authorise licensable activity for up to eight event days each calendar year over a 14-day period.
- Notice of the proposed event days for that year will be provided by the Premises Licence Holder (PLH) to the Licensing Authority and the Police at least six months prior to the first event day.
- The event days will be agreed with the Licensing Authority.
- The PLH shall liaise with the Multi Agency Forum (often known as SAG), established to advise upon the events authorised by this Premises Licence.
- A draft Event Management Plan (EMP) will be submitted by the PLH to the Multi Agency Forum for comment and discussion at least four months prior to the first event day. The draft EMP shall contain, but not be limited to, the following documents:
 - Site Plan
 - Alcohol Management Plan
 - Accessibility Plan
 - CDM Construction Plan
 - Crowd Management Plan
 - Drone Procedure
 - Emergency and Major Incident Plan
 - Entry and Search Plan
 - Event Management Structure
 - Key Event Timings
 - Extreme Weather Plan
 - Fire Safety Plan
 - Medical Plan
 - Noise Management Plan
 - Risk Assessment
 - Safeguarding Policy

- Security Ops Plan
- Security Policies
- Show Stop Procedure
- Sign off to Open Plan
- Site Safety Induction
- Traffic Management Plan
- Traffic Signage Plan
- Waste Management Plan
- Water Plan
- Welfare Plan

Further information of the proposed conditions and operating schedule can be found on **Appendix 'B'**. These are thorough and contain many mitigating factors with regards to the representations submitted.

3.33 **Appendices 'C' to 'N'** are documents provided by the applicant in addition to the application form, the proposed conditions and operating schedule. These consist of many plans, policies and procedures which are all intended to mitigate risk and provide a detailed structure to events and eventualities. It is notable that these are thorough, have been proactively provided with the application, and not in response to a request by any authority.

3.34 **Appendix 'O'** consists of two public representations. These have not been attributed to the Licensing Objectives at the time of submission. The representations express concerns regarding noise pollution, distress, disruption, litter and rubbish; which can be associated with public nuisance therefore they have been included in the hearing paper.

It should be noted that Environmental Health have made no representation against the application. As the authority responsible for dealing with noise nuisance, the decision of Environmental Health not to make a representation should

carry weight when considering any conditions or other measures that may be suggested regarding this particular objective.

- 3.35 The public representations also express concern regarding trespassing and speeding vehicles endangering children, animals and property. Hertfordshire Police are the authority responsible for dealing with crime and disorder and protecting children from harm. Their representation includes mention of the Traffic Management Plan as an area of focus and includes conditions relevant to the above concern. Appropriate weight should be given by the Committee should agreement on these conditions be reached, with regards to mitigation of both the Police and public representations.
- 3.36 The public objectors were given the opportunity to mediate with the applicant within the consultation process, however chose not to, with one objector explicitly refusing to mediate.
- 3.37 **Appendix 'P'** details the Police Representation and proposed conditions. This representation has been submitted following mediation with the applicant. The Police have stated that constructive dialogue with the applicant has been held but agreement on conditions has not yet been reached. As previously stated, appropriate weight should be given by the Committee should agreement on these conditions be reached, with regards to mitigation of both the Police and public representations.

4.0 Options

- 4.1 The actions open to the Licensing Sub-Committee are:
- grant the licence as requested
 - grant the licence subject to —

- i. modified conditions; and/or
- ii. additional conditions; and/or
- iii. modified hours or activities

if appropriate and proportionate to promote the Licensing Objectives

- refuse the application.
- 4.2 If considering additional or amended conditions, members should decide whether these conditions would in fact mitigate the concerns raised on the balance of evidence provided.
- 4.3 Any proposed conditions must be formatted to be enforceable. They need to be clear, unambiguous and free from subjective terms. If a condition cannot be enforced, then it should not be placed on any granted licence.
- 4.4 It is open to members to make changes to an application. This could include limiting the hours of operation and/or excluding licensable activities from the scope of the licence. Clear justification for this step would need to be given.
- 4.5 When the Licensing Sub-Committee gives its decision to those in attendance it should be made clear to all parties how much weight has been attached to each submission and what evidence members have relied upon when reaching their decision.
- 4.6 The comments, observations and suggestions contained within the body of this report and associated appendices do not fetter the Sub-Committee's discretion to reach the decision they

believe is most appropriate when considering all the merits of the case.

- 4.7 As stated in the Guidance, the council's decision should be evidence based, justified as being appropriate for the promotion of the Licensing Objectives and proportionate to what it is intended to achieve.

5.0 Risks

- 5.1 A decision on the application must be made and any decision made can be appealed at the Magistrate's Court. Therefore, the Licensing Sub-Committee should ensure that when giving their decision on the application they give clear reasons on how and why they have made their decision. In doing so, the council's ability to defend its decision is strengthened and the risk of its decision being over-turned on appeal is lessened, although, of course, this risk can never be entirely removed.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 As with any application for a new premise licence, variation of a premise licence or review of a premise licence there is a 28-day public consultation.
- 6.2 The first 28-day public consultation commenced 11th June 2025, however it was discovered that the application was not advertised correctly online. The consultation was restarted.

6.3 The second 28-day public consultation commenced 7th July 2025, however it was discovered that the application was not advertised correctly at the premises. The consultation was restarted.

6.4 The final 28-day public consultation commenced 1st August 2025, and closed on the 29th August 2025, the application was advertised correctly.

Community Safety

6.5 The report focuses on all four of the Licensing Objectives, Prevention of Crime and Disorder, Protect Children From Harm, Promote Public Safety and Prevention of Public Nuisance, therefore community safety will be considered when determining the application.

Data Protection

6.6 Where the appendices have shown personal data, this has been redacted.

Equalities

6.7 Consideration has made to the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty in this report and will be considered during the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing.

Environmental Sustainability

6.8 Not applicable to this report.

Financial

6.9 There will be a cost to the council in holding the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing; this will be covered by the existing budget. There would be an unbudgeted cost if the decision of the Licensing Sub-Committee is appealed to the Magistrate's Court and the council chooses to defend that appeal.

Health and Safety

6.10 None arising directly from this report.

Human Resources

6.11 None arising directly from this report.

Human Rights

6.12 As with all applications and council functions, the Human Rights Act 1998 has been considered in this report and will be considered during the Licensing Sub-Committee hearing.

Legal

6.13 All statutory requirements have been considered in preparing this report.

Specific Wards

6.13 Yes – Braughing and Standon.

7.0 Background papers, appendices, and other relevant material

7.1 Revised Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (February 2025) -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-Licensing-act-2003>

7.2 East Herts Statement of Licensing Policy 2021-2026

<https://cdn-eastherts.onwebcurl.com/s3fs-public/2022-03/Statement%20of%20Licensing%20Policy%202021-26%20Mar%202022.pdf>

7.3 East Herts Pool of Model Conditions 2021

<https://eastherts.fra1.digitaloceanspaces.com/s3fs-public/2021-08/Pool%20of%20Model%20Conditions%202021%20%28accessible%29.pdf>

7.4 Appendix 'A' – Application Form

7.5 Appendix 'B' – Licensing Objectives

7.6 Appendix 'C' – Alcohol Management Plan

7.7 Appendix 'D' – CDM Construction Plan

7.8 Appendix 'E' – Crowd Management Plan

7.9 Appendix 'F' – Emergency & Major Incident Plan

7.10 Appendix 'G' - Entry and Search Policy and Procedure

7.11 Appendix 'H' - Extreme Weather Action Plan

7.12 Appendix 'I' - Risk Assessment

7.13 Appendix 'J' - Safeguarding Policy

7.14 Appendix 'K' - Show Stop Procedure

7.15 Appendix 'L' - Sign Off to Open

7.16 Appendix 'M' - Plans

7.17 Appendix 'N' - Welfare Plan

7.18 Appendix 'O' - Public Representations

7.19 Appendix 'P' - Police Representation

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