## **Consultee Comments**

# Officer Comments

### **Cheltenham Bowling Club**

Thank you for your letter of 3 August. Cheltenham Bowling Club is content with the objectives and conditions applying to our current licence. These allow the club to operate activities commensurate with a sports club, while being mindful of our responsibility to be a 'good neighbour'. Should your review decide to change the conditions of our existing licence we would appreciate the opportunity to comment prior to implementation.

Cheltenham Bowling Club, is a non-profit making organisation providing recreational facilities for the local community and we, like other sports clubs, are struggling with rising running costs especially utilities. Should your review look at the cost of licensing fees, we would like you to consider a reduction for sports clubs registered with the Community Amateur Sports Club Scheme.

### **Royal Oak Cheltenham**

I write as regards the consultation period in respect of CBC's Licensing Policy. I am a long standing lessee in the town, and have traded at The Royal Oak for nearly 11 years.

My licensing record is without blemish and I would wish to make a general comment about Licensing in the town rather than a point by point assessment of your policies.

In respect of the 4 key licensing objectives it strikes me that crime and disorder and public nuisance make the most headlines in our borough. This is generally as a result of excessive drinking by minorities, purchased from numerous sources, but often accredited to pubs within the town.

What we have in society is an onerous regulatory process that is applied to the majority in order to legislate against behaviour inflicted on us all by a small minority.

The massive majority of people who visit licensed premises do so in an orderly and legal way and consume alcohol in a sensible and modest way, often to accompany a meal.

Where abuse of the Licensing Laws do take place either by suppliers of alcohol (off licenses, supermarkets, pubs or bars etc) or consumers of A review of licence conditions does not form part of this policy review.

A review of licence fees does not form part of this policy review.

alcohol, the full weight of the law and regulation should be targeted wholly at those individuals. We are hacked off at being the silent majority who comply with the law, train our staff and supervise our alcohol sales, yet we continue to get all the bad press related to alcohol abuse and street disorder.

I would ask, in the previous period prior to this current review, how many premises had their licenses reviewed or removed. How many personal licenses were removed? Were there personal prosecutions for disorder? Have those committing offences under the 2003 been bought to book and fined/prosecuted?

I suggest that the Council and Police need to focus their efforts in the correct places, namely;

'Off sales' where many younger drinkers are buying cheap alcohol and preloading prior to going out. Price point is clearly an issue here, and perhaps beyond your influence?

'On sales' premises who then subsequently admit and serve this people who are clearly drunk

Those who are arrested as drunk, or admitted to hospital drunk should be fined for public disorder offences (hopefully a system exists for on the spot fines that remove the need for court action). I suggest that drunk people can clearly afford to pay fines, because they can afford to get drunk.

I am aware of the progress that has been made by the Police and Nightsafe in the town and the numerous measures that they have taken in conjunction with Licensees to improve the safety of the town, this we all applaud. I do hope that we can focus our efforts more pro-actively in freeing up the burdens of regulation on law biding and professional operators and their customers, whilst aiming regulation at the source of our problems, namely those who create nuisance, public disorder and antisocial behaviour.

#### **Cheltenham College**

Thank you for your letter elated 3<sup>rd</sup> August, in respect of the review of Cheltenham Borough Council's Licensing Policy Statement.

With regard to the wider issues raised by the policy document itself the College has only one real concern and that is the powers afforded to the Police at paragraph 9.11. Whilst we fully understand the

Comments noted but it is not considered specifically relevant to this policy review and as a result no amendments to the policy have been made.

The power to close premises on grounds of disorder (or the likelihood of disorder) or because of public nuisance is a power attributed to the Police by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

need for a mechanism to close down an event that has got out of hand, we do have concerns over the power to close down an event, which in the subjective opinion of a police officer may become troublesome or be a public nuisance through being noisy.

The College has a license that permits it to hold outdoor entertainment. We have rarely exercised that privilege, but would be concerned that, on the grounds of one complaint, the function could be closed on the decision of a single police officer, leading to considerable inconvenience to guests and loss of income to the school.

Although Paragraph 14.3, to some degree, implies that the risk of this happening would be lessened through careful event planning and consulting with the Council and Police in advance, we would respectfully suggest that the Council revisits paragraph 9.11 and considers a caveat that prevents the closure of activities which are conducted in accordance with license conditions and, if necessary, a pre approved event plan, on the subjective opinion of a solitary police officer.

I note your comments in respect of a "Best Bar None" scheme and would be interested to receive further details

#### **Cheltenham Motor Club**

Thank you for sending me in the post a hardcopy of the draft licensing policy statement for the next 3 years.

Having read the document I feel we should have no issues with it at Cheltenham Motor Club.

However, I do have concerns about the possible amendments to the act via the police responsibility act going through the House of Lords at present. In particular I have concerns about the following:-

- having to pay a late night levy as we stay open after midnight on Fridays and Saturdays
- that persons who do not live in the vicinity of Cheltenham Motor Club can have a say on our licensed activities
- that the right of appeal would effectively be withdrawn

I would be interested in your views on Theresa May's proposals as I feel it is yet again heavily weighted against the on trade and the off trade get away very

The provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 do not fall within the scope of this policy review and as a result no amendments to the policy have been made.

As mentioned, the power to close premises on grounds of disorder (or the likelihood of disorder) or because of public nuisance is a power attributed to the Police by the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003.

It would not be within the Council's powers to prescribe additional conditions not prescribed in law.

Comments have been noted but the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 does not fall within the scope of this policy review and as a result no amendments to the policy have been made.

lightly again.	
Cheltenham Rugby Club	
I have received your letter of 3rd August.	
As Secretary of the Cheltenham Rugby Club I would like to state that we have always received excellent and helpful service, when we have been in touch with yourselves on Licensing matters.	Comments noted.