

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE HEARING

DETERMINATION NOTICE

Date of Hearing	30th June 2026
Sub-Committee Members	Councillors Bhondi (Chair), Rust and Sandell (Vice Chair)
Legal Adviser	Amy Pearce
Licensing Service Manager	Marie Malt
Democratic Services Officer	Kathy Wagg Work experience student (observing)
Applicant's Name	Mr Odedra Vijaykumar Mr Anil Bhawsar Karen Norgate Dale Norgate
Interested Parties	Councillor Everett Councillor Fry (not in attendance)
Premises Address	One Stop, Centre Point, Fairstead, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 4SR
Application	Application for a variation of an existing Premises Licence

APPLICATION

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, being the relevant Licensing Authority, received an application for a variation of an existing Premises Licence for One Stop, Centre Point, Fairstead, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 4SR.

During the 28-day representation period, the Council received 1 letter of representation from other persons to consider. There were no representations to consider from the Responsible Authorities.

HEARING

On 30th June 2026, a Hearing was held to consider the application for the existing premises licence. The Sub-Committee listened to all the evidence and submissions. It heard from:

- The Licensing Service Manager
- The Applicant
- Interested Parties

The Applicant sought to submit additional supporting documentation that had not been provided to the Licensing Authority in advance of the Hearing. As a result, the Interested Parties had not been afforded an opportunity to review or consider the material.

The Hearing was adjourned at 10:13am to enable the legal position to be considered.

The Hearing reconvened at 10:40am. The Legal Advisor explained that any representations made in respect of the application must be relevant to one or more of the four licensing

objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance, and the protection of children from harm. The Legal Advisor further advised that the “need” for an extended premises licence did not constitute a licensing objective and that it was unclear how the list of supporting names would promote any of those objectives. In any event, it was a matter for the Applicant to determine whether they wished to proceed without relying on the additional documentation.

The Applicant confirmed that they were content for the Hearing to proceed on the basis of the information contained within the agenda pack.

SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE

The Licensing Service Manager presented their report and outlined the application which had been submitted.

There were no questions for the Licensing Service Manager.

The Applicant presented their case, stating that there are seven other One Stop stores operating within the area and that no issues have arisen in respect of those premises. On that basis, he submitted that he was seeking only a modest extension of the licensed hours, namely an additional two hours per day. The Applicant further contended that there was no evidence to suggest that the proposed extension would result in an increase in anti-social behaviour.

In response to the case law cited within the Interested Parties’ representation, the Applicant submitted that the authorities relied upon were fact-specific and concerned individual issues. He therefore argued that those cases should not be determinative in the present matter, which should instead be considered on its own facts and merits.

The Applicant also highlighted that the nearby Morrisons is licensed to sell alcohol until 11:00pm. In addition, he drew attention to the absence of any objections from the responsible authorities.

The Applicant submitted that he views the application as an additional service to the local community, and although the Hearing had proceeded without the additional supporting evidence, he maintained that local residents valued the service and that the community itself would not tolerate any issues, as it’s a service to them. The Applicant also noted that the local ward councillors had not approached or engaged with him prior to the Hearing to discuss the concerns raised in their representations.

Karen Norgate, as the store supervisor, addressed the Panel to explain that monitoring customers formed part of her job responsibilities. She confirmed that staff request identification where appropriate to ensure that children are not impacted by the sale of alcohol, nor able to purchase it. She stated that there had been no incidents of anti-social behaviour or other issues associated with the premises and added that customers regularly queried why the shop are a unable to serve until later.

Dale Norgate advised that he lives a short distance from both the One Stop and the Morrisons. He stated that he could “count on one hand” the number of issues that have arisen, but in his view, those incidents were not related to the sale of alcohol. He further noted that alcohol was already available for purchase from the nearby Morrisons store until 11:00pm.

The Licensing Service Manager asked whether any additional measures were in place at the other One Stop stores operating with later licensed hours and, if so, whether the Applicant intended to implement any similar measures in support of the application. In response, the Applicant stated that the existing conditions attached to the premises licence were adequate as to not undermine the licensing objectives.

The Licensing Service Manager also clarified the licensed hours at Morrisons, being 8am – 11pm, Monday to Saturday and until 10:30pm on a Sunday.

The Interested Parties did not have any questions relating to the Applicant's submissions.

Cllr Rust queried whether another nearby One Stop was open until 11pm, the Applicant did not know the exact opening hours.

The Interested Parties presented their case, providing apologies on behalf of Cllr Fry. The Interested Parties confirmed that there is no objection to the One Stop as a business, and that he is only here to consider whether the licensed hours should be extended by 2 hours. He explained that he not clear as to what has changed to warrant an extension of the hours.

The Interested Parties acknowledged that the issues in the immediate vicinity of the premises are not necessarily attributable to the alcohol sales at the One Stop. However, he stated that extending the hours would be introducing a risk, without justification.

Cllr Everett explained that his objection was based on the licensing objectives of the prevention of crime and disorder and the prevention of public nuisance, as he considered that the proposed extension could facilitate or contribute to such issues occurring. He confirmed that he had not presented any evidence to demonstrate how refusal of the application would promote the protection of children from harm licensing objective and, accordingly, that aspect of the objection was not pursued.

The Licensing Service Manager queried the Interested Parties' concerns around the "appropriate location" with the proximity of the Morrisons shop in mind. The Interested Parties was unable to provide a reason as to why the location was not appropriate, but further reiterated that the application should be based upon its own merits as the Morrison licence was granted several years ago.

The Applicant queried the Interested Parties' knowledge of the Fairstead estate, whether he lived nearby or visited. He confirmed that he visited regularly and knew others that lived there.

The Applicant also asked why the Interested Parties felt that the responsible authorities did not make representations, to which the Interested Parties explained that he could not speak on their behalf.

Cllr Sandell asked whether the Interested Parties as a ward member had been made aware of any issues and if so, does he think that the issues were attributable to the sale of alcohol at the One Stop. The Interested Parties advised that he cannot confirm either way whether any issues were the result of the alcohol sales at the One Stop shop.

The parties all summed up.

FINDINGS AND DETERMINATION

The Sub-Committee considered and determined the application with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives. The application was assessed on its own merits. In reaching its determination, the Sub-Committee had regard to the following matters:

- The Licensing Service Manager's report;
- Relevant parts of the written and oral evidence before them;
- The Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council Licensing Policy; and
- Statutory Guidance issued under the Licensing Act 2003

In reaching its decision, the Panel carefully considered the concerns and objections raised by the Interested Parties, together with the submissions and assurances provided by the Applicant. The Panel also took into account the absence of any objections from the responsible authorities, attaching significant weight to the fact that the premises forms an established part of the local community and operates in accordance with responsible retailing practices, including robust age-verification procedures and a proactive approach to community welfare.

Using all of the information presented, the Panel decided to grant the requested variation to the licensed hours, subject to the continued application of the existing conditions attached to the premises licence, namely:

1. In addition to the standard requirements of the Challenge 25 age verification scheme, the Applicant is to extend the Challenge 25 policy to the proposed delivery service, with age checks being undertaken at the point of delivery;
2. The Applicant will ensure that no more than 25% of display space in the premises is dedicated to alcoholic products;
3. The licence holder shall maintain records of all refusals of the sale of alcohol and other incidents that may occur at the premises in a book that will be kept for that purpose. The refusals/incident book will be produced for inspection upon reasonable request from representatives of the Police or the Licensing Authority;
4. Signs shall be displayed in prominent positions requesting that customers show due consideration of neighbours when entering and leaving the premises;
5. All staff must receive regular training in crime prevention, conflict management, responsible alcohol sales and how to recognise and appropriately handle situations where children may be at risk. Records of such must be kept on the premises and made available to authorised officers upon request; and
6. A CCTV system shall be maintained at the premises covering all public areas which is capable of recording images for a continuous period of at least 28 days. Images must be capable of being downloaded upon reasonable request from representatives of the Police or the Licensing Authority. All staff on duty at the premises must be trained in the use of the system and be able to comply with any such request. The system will be maintained in good working order at all times. CCTV cameras will be positioned to cover the doorway and till areas and be capable of facial recognition of all persons both entering and exiting the store.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

There is a right of appeal against this decision to the Magistrates' Court. An appeal must be commenced within 21 days beginning with the day on which you receive notification of the decision. You may wish to seek independent legal advice from a solicitor or the Citizens Advice Bureau regarding this.

Signed..........
Councillor Jim Bhondi (Chair of the Licensing Committee)

Date: 30th June 2026

