

# DRAFT

## **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 29 JULY 2025**

**Councillors Present:** Phil Barnett, Paul Dick and Stephanie Steevenson

**Substitute:** Nigel Foot

**Also Present:** Beccy Batten (Principal Lawyer, Regulatory and Litigation), Mark Groves (Lead Licensing Officer), Gordon Oliver (Zoom Host), Nicolina Reynolds (Licensing Officer) and Ben Ryan (Clerk).

### **PART I**

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest received.

#### **4 27192 - Best Buy Foods, 51 London Road, Newbury, West Berkshire, RG14 1JN**

The Sub-Committee considered a report (Agenda Item 2(1)) concerning Licensing Application 27192 in respect of Best Buy Foods, 51 London Road, Newbury, West Berkshire, RG14 1JN.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, Nicolina Reynolds (Licensing Officer, West Berkshire Council) Sivudsan Sooriyakumar, Suresh Kanapathi (Applicant/Agent) and Gareth Forshaw, Barbara Forshaw and Richard Howell (Objectors) addressed the Sub-Committee on this application.

##### **Officer Presentation**

Ms Reynolds, in addressing the Sub-Committee, took account of all the relevant policy considerations and outlined the application timeline.

##### **Questions to Officers**

There were no questions for Officers.

##### **Applicant Representations**

Mr Sooriyakumar and Mr Kanapathi, in addressing the Sub-Committee, raised the following points:

- The Applicant had good experience of retail working, which would make him ideal to run this premises.
- The applicant had consulted all parties throughout the application process and aimed to champion the licensing objectives.
- There were many residents in the surrounding area, however only two letters of objection had been received.
- The applicant had tried to mediate concerns, but these were not accepted by the objectors. As a result, the mediated conditions offered had been withdrawn and the applicant wished to return to the existing conditions.

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- Concerns over the litter in the area would be addressed as it was in the applicant's best interest to keep it clean. The litter problems could be attributed to the lack of any owner at the premises.
- Issues surrounding parking were not licensing matters.
- Not all the issues surrounding anti-social behaviour were related to alcohol. The conditions set out in the license were intended to help mitigate some of the loitering and other anti-social behaviour.
- The late-night refreshment application was to allow for the serving of hot food late at night.

### Questions for the Applicant

The Chairman asked whether the Applicant to clarify which set of conditions they were wishing to apply, and it was confirmed that the original conditions set out in the application would be the desired licence.

Councillor Phil Barnett asked why the start time of 6am was applied for and it was answered the shop was to have originally opened from 6am, but this had been pushed back an hour. The Applicant indicated their agreement to amend the licensable hours to commence at 7am.

Mr Forshaw asked whether the licensable hours were up to 1 am and this was confirmed.

### Objector Representation

- There were issues with car parking, which blocked the local resident's drives.
- There was an over-supply of alcohol in the area already.
- The area already had issues with anti-social behaviour and the sale of alcohol up to 1 am would worsen these issues. Mr Forshaw provided the example of people from the hotel loitering behind the premises drinking and shouting until early in the morning.
- It would be unfair to suggest that the premises manager would be able to manage all the current issues.

### Questions for the Objector

Councillor Barnett asked for clarification whether the other premises selling alcohol in the area sold alcohol at the same time. It was stated that the other premises closed earlier than 1 am.

The Sub-Committee retired at 10:45am to make its decision.

### Summary by the Applicant

- The conditions that were laid out within the application were implemented to help promote the licensing objectives.

Having taken the representations into account, the Licensing Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** that Application 27192 be granted, subject to the conditions laid out in the decision notice.

*(The meeting commenced at Time Not Specified and closed at Time Not Specified)*

**Name** Paul Dick

**Date of Signature** 13.08.25

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**Name** Phil Barnett

**Date of Signature** 13.08.25

**Name** Stephanie Steevenson

**Date of Signature** 13.08.25