



Ribble Valley
Borough Council
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SECTION 18 LICENSING ACT 2003
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION IN RESPECT OF A HEARING
WHICH TOOK PLACE ON FRIDAY 7 AUGUST 2026
TO DETERMINE AN APPLICATION BY NUTTALL AND WRIGHT INVESTMENTS LIMITED
FOR A PREMISES LICENCE IN RESPECT OF CHURCHILLS BAR, SWAN COURT, 26
CASTLE STREET, CLITHEROE, BB7 2BX .

The Licensing Sub-Committee met on 7 August 2026. The Sub-Committee comprised the following members:

Councillor S Brunskill - Chair
Councillor G McCrum
Councillor J Rogerson

Also in attendance:

Solicitor (RVBC)
Licensing Officer (Alcohol & Entertainment) (RVBC)
Committee Clerk (RVBC)
Mr L Nuttall (Director of the Applicant)
Mrs C Whitwell (supporting applicant)
Mrs C Nicol (Objector)
Mr I Nicol (Objector)

The Sub-Committee met to consider the application of Nuttall and Wright Investments Limited for a premises licence in respect of the Churchills Bar, Swan Court, 26 Castle Street, Clitheroe, BB7 2BX.

The Sub-Committee considered the contents of the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services dated 7 August 2026 and its appendices ("**Report**").

After the Chair gave an introduction, the solicitor explained the application and the procedure for the hearing. Those present were advised that the Sub-Committee had read and would take into account the written application and objections submitted. Ms E Sharp had made a relevant representation but was unable to attend the meeting. Two emails from her of 4 August 2026 and her statement had been received and circulated in advance of the meeting, and it was explained that the contents of those documents would be taken into account.

Mr Nuttall and Mrs Whitwell explained that the Swan and Royal was different from how it had been previously and was now heavily reliant on food sales for income. It was felt that an extension of the business was needed. In Churchills, they intended to provide for premium clientele and not youngsters. The walkway outside was currently untidy and had not been cleaned; it was intended to install a resin floor to the passage to make it more appealing. A handrail had been installed on the stairs up to the Swan Courtyard to assist the elderly.

Drinks would be at the higher end, to cater for a different clientele than normally visited premises in Clitheroe. Food would be provided in the form of sharing boards and platters and possibly pizzas. There would be 4 screens in the premises for showing sports including football, horse racing and rugby. The premises could also be part of the wedding package from the Swan and Royal.

Proposed opening hours had been reduced after consultation and agreement with Environmental Health. The name and provision of cigars was an acknowledgement of the swan and Royal connection with Sir Winston Churchill.

Mr Nuttall referred to pictures of waste which had been submitted by Ms Sharp. This had not come from the premises, nor from the Swan and Royal. Some had been left there from the time of M & Co being cleared out, whilst other parts of the waste were from the applicant's tenants in other nearby premises; Mr Nuttall had let the tenants know of this concern and they had cleared some of the waste. There had been some smashed glass from other licensed premises.

It was considered that the premises could cater for a maximum of 78 people. The intention was to provide something different in Clitheroe.

CCTV would be installed in the premises , in the passage and up the stairway. This would be operated from the Swan and Royal.

They were in agreement with the condition for control of music volume by a limiter. Inside the main front doors, there would be glass doors which would be kept closed except for when people passed through. They maintained and power washed outside in the courtyard.

In reply to questions from the sub-committee, it was explained that the music would be from the 70s to the 2000s, and there would be no DJ. They planned to board the walls and ceiling in the covered area outside. Music would be played at the far end of the premises, away from the glass doors and entrance. It was anticipated that any smokers would go to the Swan Courtyard. Premium cigars would be sold in a Churchills branded bag. There would be no smoking indoors or under the roof in the passageway. They had viewed other premises in considering the appropriate sound insulation. They did not want to annoy residents with noise, nor their tenants in neighbouring premises, nor guests in the hotel itself. Mr Nuttall had previous xperince at the Buck in Grindleton 10 years before

In reply to questions from the solicitor, it was confirmed there would be no smoking indoors at all; the cigar lounge was purely retail sales of cigars for smoking away from the premises. The food offer would be for similar times to the Swan and Royal, terminating at 9pm except on Sunday when it was 7pm.

Ms Sharp's concerns were put to the applicant.

- They had reduced the opening hours significantly already, and referred to the much later hours at the School Rooms, Key Street and the Swan and Royal itself.
- There were no windows in the premises. There was only the one entry with glass doors which would be kept closed except for access and egress.
- There was room for 60 people inside and staff would be issued with counters. They did not propose to have door staff, except possibly on New year's Eve and Mad Friday. Getting door staff for perhaps an hour and a half was near impossible to source from an agency.
- They were content with a condition prohibiting bottle sorting between 8pm and 8am.
- They would be prepared to put up signage inside and outside the premises seeking orderly dispersal and asking for respect for the neighbours.
- Ceasing use of the outside area at 9pm would impact on their income and they would not like to do this. Their experience in the Swan Courtyard was that people were rarely outside later than 10pm.
- CCTV had been mentioned earlier.
- They would have no objection to off-sales ceasing at 9pm.

Mr and Mrs Nicol set out their concerns. They had been residents of Clitheroe for over 20 years and accepted that it was a vibrant town with some disturbance on a Friday and Saturday, but they liked their sleep on other nights. There was already some noise and disturbance from Key Street and the School Rooms and other music venues – they were concerned about addition to this. The car park was a hub of activity. Key Street had become more like a wine bar than a late venue; although licensed to 4.30am, they tended to be closed by 2am. They lived right up against a very tall wall which they described as a “whispering wall”, which meant that conversations in the Swan Courtyard could be heard in their back bedroom. The wedding venue at the Aswan and Royal was normally finished by midnight. Timings were very important. They could tolerate daytime noise.

A further significant issue was that of dispersal. At closing time, people might hang around for an hour, shouting and chanting. Taxis and people giving lifts would use their horns, even at 1am or 2am. This was not policed and they were concerned that this venue would add to that issue. The problems were experienced especially in the summer time when their windows were open.

They fully endorsed the representations by Eve Sharp.

There was discussion in response to the presentation by Mr and Mrs Nicol. Even with signage in the car park and cooperation from local taxi firms, problems might persist with Uber who provided a lot of the services. Mrs Nicol queried the long opening hours requested for New Years Eve – Mr Nuttall stated that they would not be opening for 24 hours. It was difficult to say how much extra foot traffic would occur until the premises opened. People might smoke on the car park and at the top of the steps, at which location there was an echo.

Mr Nuttall explained that the walk through would be a lot cleaner, and that they would have a policy for staff to move people on.

In summing up, he stressed the nature of the proposed clientele, and hope to have cleared up any misunderstanding that there would be a night club. Premium drinks would be on sale; not cheap pints of beer. There would be no DJ. There would be no speakers outside. They would

police the situation. They had not had any issues with drugs or violence since taking on the Swan and Royal.

The Licensing Sub-Committee gave careful consideration to the representations made by all parties, both verbal and written, including the emails and statement of Eve Sharp. The Sub-Committee also considered the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003, the Statutory Guidance, the licensing objectives, the relevant regulations, and the Council's licensing policy.

Having considered all of the above the Sub-Committee resolved to grant the Applicant's application for a premises licence as applied for (and amended in advance of and agreed at the hearing), subject to an earlier terminal time for the provision of regulated entertainment in the form of recorded music, performance of dance, and anything of a similar description to live music, recorded music or performance of dance indoors only. The reason for this was to endeavour to assist in quieter dispersal of patrons.

Additional conditions were also imposed regarding bottle sorting, external doors being closed except for access and egress, signage at the exit from the premises and in the seated area in the passageway, and there being no use of the seated area in the passageway after 23.00 hours. Members were mindful of the steps being taken to promote the licensing objectives to address concerns about the operation of premises.

The sub-committee was advised that a noise impact assessment had been submitted as part of the planning application for change of use. The sub-committee also considered the request for an earlier terminal time for off-sales, but did not consider this to be appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives.

The operating schedule for the premises is as amended and as set out below:

	Authorised by Existing Licence	Approved
Supply of alcohol ON AND OFF the premises:		
Mon	N/A	1100hrs – 0000hrs
Tues	N/A	1100hrs – 0000hrs
Wed	N/A	1100hrs – 0000hrs
Thurs	N/A	1100hrs – 0000hrs
Fri	N/A	1100hrs – 0030hrs
Sat	N/A	1100hrs – 0030hrs
Sun	N/A	1100hrs – 0000hrs

On Burns night (25 January), Valentines Day, St David's Day (1 March), St Patrick's Day (17 March), Easter Sunday, St George's Day (23 April), Sunday and Monday of bank holiday weekends, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day the premises opening times shall be extended by one hour. Permitted hours on New Year's Eve extend from the end of permitted hours on New Year's Eve to the start of permitted hours on the following day.

Provision of regulated entertainment in the form of Recorded Music, Performance of Dance. Anything of a similar description to Live Music, Recorded Music or Performance of Dance all indoors only:

Mon	N/A	1100hrs – 23.30hrs
Tues	N/A	1100hrs – 23.30hrs
Wed	N/A	1100hrs – 23.30hrs
Thurs	N/A	1100hrs – 23.30hrs
Fri	N/A	1100hrs – 0000hrs
Sat	N/A	1100hrs – 0000hrs
Sun	N/A	1100hrs – 23.30hrs

On Burns night (25 January), Valentines Day, St David's Day (1 March), St Patrick's Day (17 March), Easter Sunday, St George's Day (23 April), Sunday and Monday of bank holiday weekends, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day the premises opening times shall be extended by one hour. Permitted hours on New Year's Eve extend from the end of permitted hours on New Year's Eve to the start of permitted hours on the following day.

Opening hours of premises:

Mon	N/A	0900hrs – 0030hrs
Tues	N/A	0900hrs – 0030hrs
Wed	N/A	0900hrs – 0030hrs
Thurs	N/A	0900hrs – 0030hrs
Fri	N/A	0900hrs – 0100hrs
Sat	N/A	0900hrs – 0100hrs
Sun	N/A	0900hrs – 0030hrs

On Burns night (25 January), Valentines Day, St David's Day (1 March), St Patrick's Day (17 March), Easter Sunday, St George's Day (23 April), Sunday and Monday of bank holiday weekends, Christmas Eve and Boxing Day the premises opening times shall be extended by one hour. Permitted hours on New Year's Eve extend from the end of permitted hours on New Year's Eve to the start of permitted hours on the following day.

The mandatory conditions will apply to the licence as set out in **Appendix 1** to this notice.

The Sub-committee also determined that the conditions proposed by the Applicant and those agreed at the hearing should be incorporated into Annex 2 of the licence. Further conditions considered by the sub-committee to be appropriate should be incorporated into Annex 3 of the licence. Those conditions shall be incorporated as follows:

General

- Upon commencement of their employment, all staff who are involved in the sale of alcohol will be trained in relation to the licensing objectives so as to reduce crime and disorder, promote public safety, prevent public nuisance and promote the protection of children from harm. Refresher training will be provided at least once every twelve months and all training will be documented and made available to an authorised officer on request.

The prevention of crime and disorder

- A CCTV system shall be installed at the premises and will meet the following criteria:
 1. The system will display on any recording the time and date of said recording;
 2. The system will be recording whenever the premises are open to the public;
 3. Any recordings will be retained for a minimum of 28 days after they are made and will be produced to an authorised officer upon request, so long as said request is in accordance with the principles of the Data Protection Act or any subsequent or alternative legislation;
 4. As a minimum, the CCTV will capture a "head and shoulders" image of any person who enters the premises through a public entrance.
- A competent person trained in the use and operation of the CCTV will be in attendance at the premises at all times that licensable activities are taking place. Said person will be able to operate fully the CCTV system and be able to download data in a recognised format when requested.
- An incident register of any occurrences or ejections from the premises will be maintained at the premises and details of any public order offences will be recorded. Said register shall be made available on request to an authorised officer.
- The premises will have a written zero tolerance drugs policy which is enforced at all times.

Public safety

- Any sales of alcohol knowingly made for consumption off the premises will be made in a sealed container. This condition will not apply to any external area under the control of and operated by the Premises Licence Holder.

The prevention of public nuisance

- Any disposal of glass into external bins will not take place between the hours of 20.00 hours and 08.00 hours.

- Notices will be displayed in a prominent position at the public exit from the premises requesting that patrons respect the needs of local residents and leave the premises and the area quickly and quietly.
- Notices will be placed in the seated area in the passageway reminding users that they are in a residential area and to respect the needs of residents for a quiet environment.
- External doors to the premises will be kept closed when regulated entertainment is being provided, except in the event of emergency or for access and egress (Annex 3).
- Live or recorded music which is directed through speakers will be subject to a noise-limiting device set to a level in consultation with the Council's Environmental Health Officer and thereafter retained at that level. The device shall be installed in a tamper proof way; all music played on site shall be played through the limiter.
- The seated area in the passageway will cease to be used by customers for the purposes of the consumption of alcohol at 11.00pm each day (Annex 3).
- On any occasion that regulated entertainment is carried on at the premises, regular assessments of the noise emanating from the premises will be undertaken. Wherever such assessments indicate that noise is likely to cause nuisance to any local residents, remedial action will be taken. Said assessments will be documented and produced to an authorised officer upon request.
- The premises will have a written dispersal policy designed to encourage patrons to leave the venue quickly and quietly.

The protection of Children from harm

- A "Challenge 25" Policy shall be adopted and enforced at the premises whereby any person who appears to be under the age of 25 shall be required to provide identification to prove that they are over the age of 18 before they are permitted to purchase alcohol. The only forms of identification that are acceptable will be:-
 1. A Passport;
 2. A UK Photocard Driving Licence;
 3. An official ID card issued by HM Forces or EU bearing a photograph and the date of birth of the holder;
 4. Any other form of identification agreed on with a representative of the Police Licensing Unit.
- Any staff who are involved in the sale of alcohol will be trained in relation to the "Challenge 25" policy upon the commencement of their employment, following which they will undertake refresher training at least once every twelve months. Said training will be documented and will be made available to an authorised officer upon request.

The Sub-committee reached this decision because it considered that the licence, as applied for, and with the conditions imposed, would not breach the licensing objectives of the Licensing Act 2003.

The parties are hereby notified that they may appeal against this decision to the Magistrates Court within 21 days beginning with the date of notification of this decision.