

Public Health – Licensing



Health and Wellbeing Board

LIVING AND WORKING WELL

- Under the Licensing Act 2003, public bodies known as responsible authorities must be fully notified of applications and can contribute to decisions made by the local licensing authority.
- Since 2013, Directors of Public Health have been included as Responsible Authorities.
- Licensing is an opportunity to support local communities and take a place-based approach to public health.

As a responsible authority public health teams can:



Provide information on the likely effects of the grant or variation of a premises licence or club premises certificate



Support or apply for a review of a premises licence where problems associated with one or more of the licensing objectives arise



Contribute to the development and review of the statement of licensing policy and have a key role in identifying and interpreting health data and evidence

The West Sussex Approach

Drawing on good practice from elsewhere and guidance from Public Health England, West Sussex has developed a framework to assist in the assessment of licensing applications and notifications. Whilst each application is considered on its merits, the framework sets out the likely actions depending on the type of application or notification, we use 4 categories:



Highly likely that PH will submit a representation in support of a review application from another Responsible Authority



Some further investigation may be warranted, as well as consideration of the suitability of existing sources of data in making a representation or objection



Will investigate further, gather data and strongly consider submitting a representation or objection



Application likely to be of low impact and it is unlikely that a PH representation or objection will be necessary

Example of the range of data and evidence used



Data on violent crime and domestic abuse

Local research and intelligence re. street community

- Information from local services::
- Drug and alcohol service
 - Homelessness outreach service
 - Homeless Day Centre
 - Hospital - Alcohol Specialist Nurse

Opening times of other premises in the vicinity

The submission....

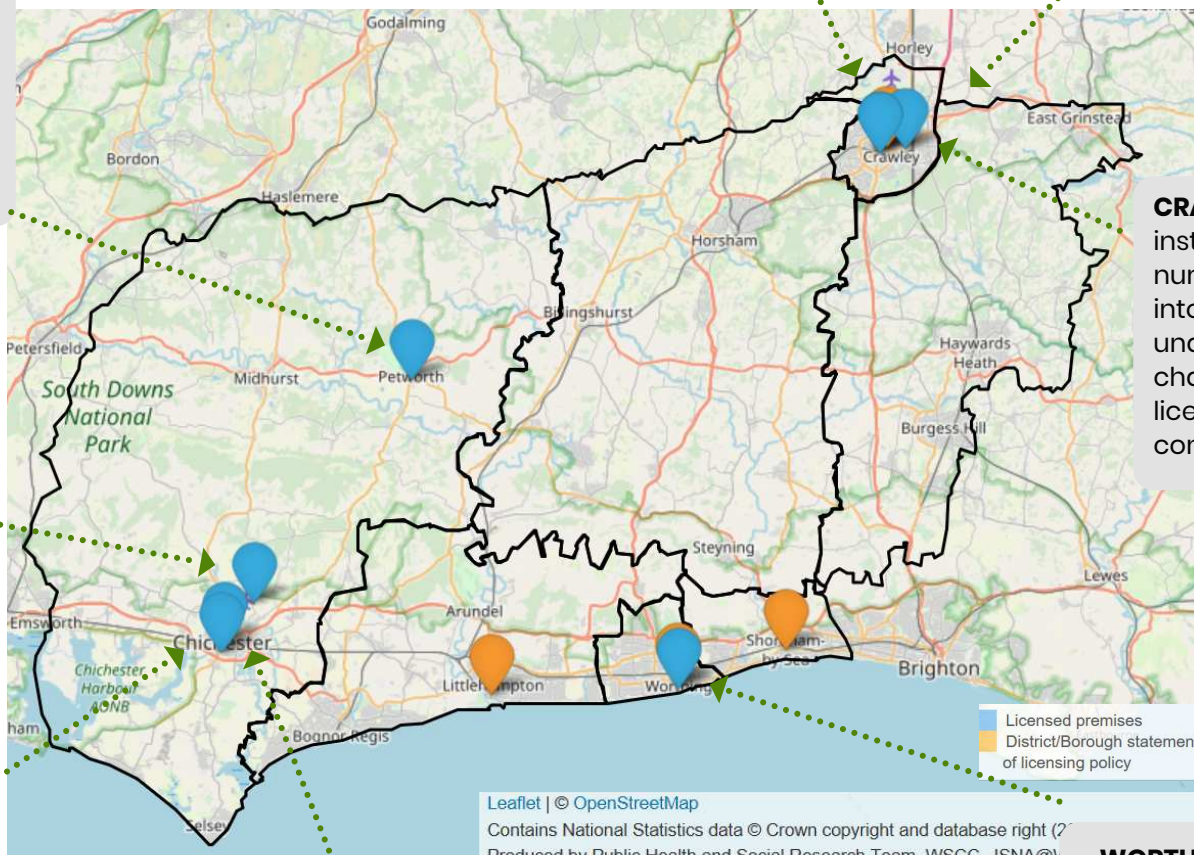
[The supermarket] (if licenced to sell alcohol from 0600 hours) would be the earliest opportunity for people to buy alcohol after leaving hospital in the early morning, following an alcohol detoxification. [The supermarket] is also on the route from the hospital to the Drug and Alcohol Wellbeing Network coastal hub

Further recent examples....

PETWORTH - PH objected to an application to licence the town centre which would have effectively permitted festivals of 5000 people to take place every day of the year. **Result:** Worked with Sussex police to support the Town Council to submit an application that fitted their requirements.

RURAL CHICHESTER - Objected to a new party event for 3,000 people. Met with the organisers and a number of other responsible authorities and agreed a raft of conditions. **Result:** The event ultimately did not go ahead.

CHICHESTER - PH objected to an application for a festive ice rink which stated it was to be a family event but also wanted alcohol sales from 9am until 1am and a DJ. **Result:** The hours of alcohol sales were reduced and the conditions were tightened up to be reflective of a family event.



CRAWLEY - PH supported a review of the licence instigated by Sussex Police after an incident of serious violence. **Result:** Change of management and a raft of new conditions imposed on the licence

CRAWLEY - objected to a new nightclub opening and suggested some tighter controls if the licence is granted. **Awaiting result**

CRAWLEY - Supported a review instigated by Sussex Police following a number of incidents of violence, high intoxication, drug use and an underage child on the premises. **Result:** change of management, a 2 week licence suspension, a raft of new conditions and staff training

CHICHESTER - Store near a railway station - PH objected to an application to vary an existing licence, to allow alcohol sales from 6am to 1:00am in an area known for rough sleeping and in close proximity to a pub, which closed at 11:30 PM. The shop is by the train station, on a key route out of town at the end of the night. **Result:** Application amended

WORTHING - Supported a review from trading Standards following the discovery of illicit tobacco. **Result:** Licence revoked.