

# Licensing Hearing Panel – Supplementary agenda No. 2

A meeting of the Licensing Hearing Panel will be held on:

**Date:** 9 June 2026

**Time:** 9.30am

**Venue:** St George's Centre, Pembroke, Chatham Maritime, Chatham ME4  
4UH

## Items

- 7      **Licensing Act 2003 Full Variation Premises Application for the  
Premises Licence at Wards News, 53 High Street, Gillingham  
ME7 1BQ**      **(Pages  
3 - 4)**

The supplementary appendix enclosed was tabled at the meeting.

For further information please contact Nicola Couchman & Julie Francis-Beard,  
Democratic Services Officers on Telephone: 01634 332106/01634 332012 or  
Email: [democratic.services@medway.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@medway.gov.uk)

Date: 16 June 2026

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Supplementary Appendix

From: John Naylor

Sent: 17 May 2026 21:07

To: Licensing

Subject: Re: Objection 53 high street gillingham

Dear Helen

I did not receive a response from you to my previous email that was sent before the cut off date.

In regards to the response that others have received from yourself here is my email still objecting to 53 highstreet Gillingham.

I may not live in Gillingham but I am often in Gillingham. I also worked in Kingsley house and the old jobcentre on Gilli Guam highstreet over 30 years ago. Gillingham used to have a lovely highstreet and with the issues that Gillingham already has that I have personally witnessed allowing this to go ahead will negatively affect Gillingham highstreet. Surely you want to make the highstreet better and focus on getting it back to how it was when I worked there.

Having considered the revised information provided, I wish to formally register my continued and unequivocal objection to this application. In my view, the proposed extension of alcohol sales would have a detrimental impact on the local area and on residents who live in close proximity to the premises.

There are benches located immediately outside and beside the shop which have already become a regular gathering point for individuals consuming alcohol in the street. Groups frequently congregate in this area and remain there for extended periods of time. This has repeatedly resulted in loud conversations, shouting, arguments and other forms of disruptive behaviour, particularly during the evening hours. As a result, the area has already experienced ongoing issues with noise disturbance and anti-social behaviour.

Allowing alcohol to be sold for longer hours would likely intensify these existing problems by encouraging further loitering and prolonged street drinking. Residents should not be expected to endure an escalation of disturbance, nuisance and disorder within their own neighbourhood as a consequence of extended alcohol sales.

Furthermore, there are already a number of nearby premises licensed to sell alcohol within the immediate area. In light of the issues that are already present, I struggle to see any justification for permitting additional extended sales that may further undermine the character and safety of the local community.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that my objection be formally recorded and fully considered as part of the licensing process. I also confirm that I consent to my objection, including my full name and address, being disclosed to the applicant and included within the documentation presented to the licensing panel.

I have attached photographs of the benches referenced above which illustrate the location where individuals frequently gather to drink and remain for extended periods. From personal observation, this has already led to repeated incidents of intoxicated individuals shouting and

behaving in a disorderly manner. Granting this application would likely exacerbate an already concerning situation.

I urge the licensing authority to give careful consideration to the impact on local residents and the wider community when determining this application.

Yours faithfully,

John Michael Naylor