

Application by Nicholas Betts for an On licence for the premises Bridport Golfers Lounge at 6/86 Main Street, BRIDPORT, 7262.

Decision: Licence refused

Date: 22 November 2024

The applicant seeks an on-licence for a premises at unit 6, 85-87 Main Street Bridport. The premises is as a shopfront which the applicant describes as a 'small bar space'. The applicant conducts a number of businesses from the premises including North East Car Rentals, which lists the premises as its location on its website; NB Media, which the applicant advises has staff working at the premises and is indicated by the applicant in a photo titled 'media counter'; and the Bridport Golfers Lounge, which is the business that the applicant seeks to sell liquor from.

The premises is a unit within a complex of other shopfronts and residential dwellings. The building consists of six commercial premises on the Main Street frontage and four residential apartments above. Two written representations were received in respect of this application that both identify noise, the size and patron safety to be of concern.

In accordance with s24A of the *Liquor Licensing Act 1990*, in considering an application for a liquor licence I must make a decision which is in the best interests of the community. The *Liquor Licensing Regulations 2016* set out the interests that I must consider in determining what is in the best interests:

4. Best interests of the community

For the purposes of the definition of best interests of the community in section 3 of the Act, the following interests are prescribed:

- (a) the general costs and benefits to the community of the supply, or proposed supply, of liquor;*
- (b) whether the supply or proposed supply of liquor might cause undue offence, annoyance, disturbance or inconvenience to people who, in the area of the supply or proposed supply –*
 - (i) reside or work; or*
 - (ii) attend schools or other facilities frequented by children; or*
 - (iii) attend hospitals or facilities where people receive treatment for alcohol dependence or other addictions; or*
 - (iv) attend places of worship;*
- (c) possible adverse effects on the health and safety of members of the public due to the supply of, or proposed supply of, liquor.*

Main Street Bridport currently has six licenced premises within 250 meters of the applicant's premises. Five of these premises are general licences and one is a special liquor licence. The applicant has not persuaded me that the benefits to the community from the proposed supply of liquor outweigh the general costs from an additional supply to the area.

Further, I am not satisfied that it is in the best interests of the community that a premises from which three businesses operate should be licensed to enable the sale of liquor from

one of those business operations. In particular, the intended bar area is also the counter for those other businesses.

Likewise, given the operation of three distinctly different business types, I am not satisfied that suitable effective control can be maintained. The intermingling of the businesses means that there are no boundaries or defined areas for the proposed sale and consumption of liquor.

I am also concerned that people who attend the premises for media services or car hire would be exposed to potential sale and consumption of alcohol. This could reasonably include children who accompany adult persons. A patron of these businesses should not expect to enter a licensed premises for their purpose. I do not consider it in the best interests of the community that a person enter a premises for such services and potentially be exposed to the sale and consumption of liquor, without any reasonable expectation of this occurring given the purpose for which they attend the premises.

On balance, I am not satisfied that it is in the best interests of the community for me to grant an on- licence in respect of the premises located at unit 6, 85-87 Main Street Bridport. The application is refused.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'F McIntyre', written in a cursive style.

F McIntyre
Delegate of the Commissioner for Licensing
22 November 2024