

Division/Station : Cherwell and West Oxfordshire LPA

From : Ian Wares  
TVP Licensing officer

To : Cherwell District Council  
Licensing Dept

Ref : Full Variation White Hart, Bicester. Date : 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 Tel.No. 07800 703588

Subject :

### Thames Valley Police Objection to a full variation application

As licensing officer for Thames Valley Police, I am authorised to make representation in relation to applications and notifications submitted under the Licensing Act 2003 on behalf of the Chief Constable as a responsible authority

I am writing to formally present Thames Valley Police's objection against the application by the Spirit Pub Company Ltd, for a Full Variation submitted on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to extend the licensable activities at the White Hart, 4 Sheep Street, Bicester, OX26 6TB on Friday and Saturday nights.

### Proposed Variation for Friday and Saturdays

- To extend the Sale of alcohol a until 04:00hrs and then a 30 minute drinking up time until 04:30hrs.
- Late Night Refreshment until 04:00hrs.
- Regulated Entertainment until 04:30hrs.
- Closing time 04:30hrs.

### Current Operation

- Sale of alcohol until 03:00hrs.
- Late Night refreshment until 03:00hrs.
- Regulated Entertainment until 03:30hrs
- Closing time 03:30hrs.

### The premises

The White Hart like any other premise in the town suffers from incidents throughout the year, these are connected both within and immediately outside. Some incidents in the town centre can be identified with customers from the White Hart. As can be seen from the list below the premise has been associated with 13 incidents that have been reported to the police in the last 12 months. Some inside some directly outside and others associated with White Hart customers in the town.

The list shows both positive and negative side of the way the premise is run. As can be seen most incidents are reported at or very near the closing time of the premise now to extend the hours would only be to extend the incident times. Some of the incidents show good work by door staff in refusing drunk customers entry, if the hours to extend were granted then customers from other venues would want as they do now attempt to get into the premise.

1. Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2024 at 01:10hrs – Sexual assault in the premises.
2. Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 at 03:30hrs - Assault outside the premises.
3. Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 at 00:30hrs – Sexual assault in the premises.
4. Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 03:04hrs – Fight and assault outside the premises.

5. Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024 at 01:43hrs – Barred male entered the premises and was removed by door staff, the male attempted to assault the staff.
6. Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 18:00hrs – Male refused service as he was too intoxicated, he then caused disorder and tried to assault staff.
7. Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 00:43hrs - large group of travellers fighting inside and outside the premises.
8. Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 01:40hrs – Male ejected from the premises and was trying to re-enter and was causing disorder.
9. Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 02:21hrs – Male assaulted inside the premises.
10. Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 01:44hrs – Intoxicated male removed from the premises and was causing problems outside with the door staff.
11. Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 02:40hrs – Serious assault by a doorman assaulting a customer with a knuckle duster.
12. Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 02:16hrs – Female assaulted by a male in the premises.
13. Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 03:18hrs – Male who had previously be refused entry seen by officers approaching the the premises swinging a baseball bat.

### Police concerns

The White Hart currently closes at 03:30hrs on Friday and Saturdays and is the last premises in Bicester to close on these days. Both the Local Policing Team Inspector and Sergeant state that the White Hart is where most of the incidents occur in the town and normally around closing time. They also feel that policing response to Nightsafe only provides an overlap and additional resources for the Night Time Economy until 04:00hrs and a later closing would have a significant impact on the effectiveness of the police response and public safety.

Thames Valley Police are objecting to this application as they believe that there is a high risk that there will an increase in crime and ASB in the area which may undermine the Prevention of Crime and Disorder and Public safety Objectives.

IAN C.R.WARES  
Licensing Officer  
Thames Valley Police.