

COMMITTEE:	CENTRAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
DATE:	28 April 2026
TITLE:	APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF THE PREMISES LICENCE - MORLO LOUNGE (FORMERLY VENU), STATION SQUARE, PWLLHELI
PURPOSE:	FOR DECISION
AUTHOR:	HEAD OF ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

1. APPLICATION RECEIVED

- 1.1 An application is attached to vary the premises licence for Morlo Lounge, Station Square, Pwllheli, Gwynedd, LL53 5HG (formerly known as Venu), by the applicant Loungers UK Limited. The applicant is seeking a variation to a licence for premises that used to be a licensed nightclub and restaurant until recently.
- 1.2 The application is made in relation to making structural changes to the property, removing the operating schedule conditions in Appendix 2 of the existing licence and including in Appendix 2 of the Operating Schedule the proposed conditions in section M of the application (see copy of the advertisement and application in the appendix).
- 1.3 The application does not indicate any changes to the licensed activities of the current licence, and a copy of the current licence can be found in the appendix. The application specifies opening hours as follows -

Oriau Agor / Opening Hours:	Dydd Sul/Sunday	08:00	-	03:00
	Dydd Llun/Monday	08:00	-	03:00
	Dydd Mawrth/Tuesday	08:00	-	03:00
	Dydd Mercher/Wednesday	08:00	-	03:00
	Dydd Iau/Thursday	08:00	-	03:00
	Dydd Gwener/Friday	08:00	-	03:00
	Dydd Sadwrn/Saturday	08:00	-	04:00

- 1.4 The current licence includes permission to host live music, recorded music, and dance performances until 02:45, and 3:45 on Saturday nights/Sunday mornings; sale of alcohol and late-night refreshments until 02:30 (3:30 on Saturday nights/Sunday mornings) and sporting events until 23:45.
- 1.5 It should be noted that the applicant has stated the business intends to be focused on the sale of food as a 'Café Bar'. There is no change in the hours of the proposed licence, and no information has been received with the application as to the intended hours of operation. There is a reference in part M of the application to preventing the use of the furniture in the external area after 23:00.
- 1.6 Revised plans submitted with the application show that it is proposed to extend the licensed area of the property to include an area of pavement outside the property covering 53.3m² of the pavement, immediately in front of the building along the side of the building on Embankment Road.
- 1.7 No information has been received from the applicant's agent as to the ownership of this section of public pavement, but it is understood that an application for a Section 115 licence for the use of street furniture has been submitted. At the time of writing, confirmation has

not been received as to whether the street furniture licence will be granted, and what conditions and hours will be attached if permission is granted.

- 1.8 It is intended to include outdoor areas on the car park side of the building too. This area covers 100m², and part of this outdoor area has historically been used by Venu customers. An aerial photograph and a plan of the proposed outdoor areas have been included in the appendix to the report.
- 1.9 Licensing Authority officers are satisfied that there is sufficient evidence that the application has been submitted in accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Act 2003 and the relevant regulations, and is therefore valid.

2. Measures recommended by the applicant to promote the licensing objectives

The measures recommended by the applicant include the following -

- A CCTV System will be operated, and recordings of offences will be available for 31 days, with a member of staff available who can provide images from the system without delay at the request of the Police or an authorised officer.
- Incident Logs will be kept to record offences, cases where a customer is escorted from the property, complaints of crime and disorder, seizure of drugs or weapons, refusal to sell alcohol and so on.
- Customers will not be allowed to take drinks out with them to the smoking area.
- The sale and supply of alcohol for consumption in the outdoor seating area will be restricted to those seated on the chairs at the tables.
- The property will operate as a Café Bar only, with table service.
- It will not be possible to use the outdoor tables and chairs after 23:00.
- A Challenge 25 policy will be implemented and staff will be given training on age verification and ID card verification.

Please see full details of the recommended measures in section **M** of the application.

3. CONSULTATION

A consultation on the application was undertaken and the following responses were received:

RESPONSES	REPRESENTATIONS
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	Observations
North Wales Police	Observations
Planning Service, Cyngor Gwynedd	Objection
Public Protection Service, Cyngor Gwynedd	Observations

3.1 Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board

Confirmation was received that the Health Board was responding to the application on the basis of the 4 Licensing objectives.

- The prevention of crime and disorder
- Public safety
- The prevention of public nuisance
- The protection of children from harm

Concerns are noted that research consistently shows that alcohol availability, including the hours of alcohol sales, directly influences alcohol consumption patterns and harm caused by

alcohol. Although the business is described as a 'Café Bar' with an emphasis on serving food, concern is expressed that late licensing hours increase the potential for harm caused by alcohol and hospital admissions.

Additional concerns are noted as the applicant is also applying for a street furniture licence to allow the sale of alcohol to be consumed outside until 23:00 in the evening. The fact that this pavement has a lot of use by pedestrians is mentioned, and that the introduction of an outdoor space for alcohol consumption in this way restricts walking space, with the potential to undermine the safety of pedestrians, people with special mobility needs, including older people and children.

Reference is made to National Guidelines which state that external commercial spaces should not reduce necessary walking/access zones.

Concerns are also expressed that extending alcohol consumption space to the outside increases the risk of anti-social behaviour, with an increase in noise disturbance, and the exposure of children and families to circumstances where alcohol is consumed.

The respondent states that the application should be carefully scrutinised, and comprehensive assessments conducted of -

- the impact of the development on public health and community safety
- pedestrian safety and access
- child safeguarding considerations as well as prevention of violence against women and children
- the potential to increase harm caused by alcohol – including reviewing the opening hours of the business.

3.2 **North Wales Police**

The Police confirm that they do not object to the application, but instead express concern that the opening hours of the nightclub that was previously on the site remain in force even though the applicant indicates the intention to operate as a Café Bar.

It is noted that a late-hours licence increases the risk of crime and disorder incidents, and alcohol-related violence. Reference is made to the fact that no measures have been included in section M of the application in relation to Controlling the risks of crime and disorder and violence.

Reference is made to the proposed use of the external area on the pavement, and the fact that the area is popular with pedestrians and cyclists. Please note that there is no mention of Glass use control measures in the external area.

3.3 **Planning Service, Cyngor Gwynedd**

Given the lack of consistency between the licensing application and the current planning applications, together with the concerns about safety and land use, the Planning Enforcement Department objects to the variation application .

It is noted that the proposed extension to include additional external areas which are being extended as part of the development go beyond what is currently lawful in terms of land use on the current planning permission. The proposal suggests that a change of use is taking place in these areas, and that a street furniture application has been submitted for the installation of tables and chairs for the purpose of carrying out commercial activities also.

Attention is also drawn to the fact that street furniture on the pavement on the western side of the building near Embankment Road may reduce visibility and safety at a busy junction, and this is of particular concern.

3.4 **Public Protection Service, Cyngor Gwynedd**

Representations on the application are submitted in relation to the Licensing objective of Prevention of Public Nuisance. The officer refers to the planning application that has been submitted for implementing structural alterations to the property including a significant upgrade to kitchen ventilation and the installation of windows and a door on the western side of the building.

Note that these changes, coupled with the increase in commercial activities proposed for the extension to the licensed outdoor area, have the potential to cause a noise nuisance to nearby residents.

Officers have requested a Noise Impact Assessment to support the planning application, in relation to customer noise, and noise originating from the air extraction system.

It is noted that there is no change to the premises' hours of licensable activities – which allow music and alcohol sales until 02:45 and 03:45, and therefore the structural changes that are the subject of a current planning application are going to have an impact on the building's noise insulation.

Consideration will be given to the proposal to extend the licensed area to the external areas with the intention of installing tables and chairs and operating under a pavement licence, increasing the potential for customer noise or music noise to affect nearby residents.

The officer acknowledges that the applicant states that the tables and chairs will not be used by customers after 23:00 and assurance is sought that this will be conditioned on the operating schedule of the licence, as well as the other points included in section M (Prevention of Public Nuisance section).

It is recommended that the applicant also agrees to include 3 additional and specific noise conditions to manage the risks noted should the licence be granted.

Please see the appendix to the report for the full responses received from the responsible authorities.

4. **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that this Committee carefully considers the responses received from the responsible authorities.

The concerns outlined by the responsible authorities are considered to be valid, and it is expected that the applicant will respond fully to these concerns before the Committee can come to a decision.

The recommendations made by the responsible authorities are considered to be proportionate and reasonable, and would not limit the prosperity of the business.

Should the Sub-committee decide to grant the application – the additional conditions may be included to address the concerns set out on the operating schedule of the licence, in accordance with what is permitted under the Licensing Act 2003.