



Mr & Mrs Robins
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14th of December 2016

FAO: Head of Licensing at Flintshire County Council

We wish to express our formal objection to the application of extension of premises license hours for Mold Alex FC. The basis of our objections is aligned to all four of the licensing objectives, specifically; prevention of crime and disorder, public nuisance, public safety and prevention of harm to children.

It is our understanding that there is a proposed plan to extend the current licensing times with longer opening hours Friday through to Sunday. Irrelevant of opening hours the fundamental reasons for our objection are the same. An increase in opening times will further negatively impact our family and many other residents who live within close proximity of Mold Alex FC.

Crime and Disorder:

When we purchased our property, which overlooks Mold Alex FC, almost 3 years ago we were of the understanding there would be some disruption and noise relating to the use of the football grounds. We did not however anticipate the utter disregard some users of Mold Alex FC show the residents on a regular basis with the use of loud, lewd and highly offensive language. We have three very young and impressionable children and often the noise and language can be so bad we are forced to close all windows and doors and avoid allowing our children to play outside during and after matches. Since the granting of the premise licence on the 8th of August this year we feel there has been some increase in these episodes, specifically on late night matches/training and adult matches of a weekend. This isn't very nice, and we have significant concerns based on current examples that to increase license hours of the premises would act to fuel the already unacceptable behaviour we put up with.

Residents have and continue to deal with many incidents of crime and disorder as a result of groups of people using Mold Alex Car Park at night, and patrons of the club on exit, to partake in a variety of activities ranging from drug use/ dealing, reckless driving, trespassing on private property, consumption of alcohol, playing loud music, screaming, shouting and the use of highly offensive language, damage to residential property, littering, being very threatening and the use of intimidating behaviour. It is my understanding that the police requested that a condition be attached to the license requesting that the premises be equipped with a CCTV system. Despite such system already being in place and active since February, as residents we have faced many disruptions. Examples of more serious incidents include individuals shooting a firearm in Mold Alex FC car park on the 16/2/16. The police were in attendance of the incident, including what appeared to be the firearms officer. Clearly the CCTV system does not act as a deterrent despite

being clearly visible. More recently residents have reported trespassing on their property late at night from Mold Alex Patrons, with some reporting that Patrons have urinated into their back gardens. This is disgusting behaviour.

Public Safety

We have concerns about public safety, including but not limited to: overcrowding (leading to an increase of violence or the safety of people in the premises), fire issues, anyone being hurt or having an accident in the licensed premises. The license currently stipulates windows and doors must remain shut during live music events, with no circulating air patrons are at risk of overheating, especially in view of the fact the porter cabin can hold up to 150 people. With reference to the risk of overheating, we are also concerned that this stipulation of all windows and doors remaining closed will not be adhered too and patrons will open windows/doors of their own accord. How to you and Mold Alex plan on policing this?

Public Nuisance

The premises is a modular building; despite reassurances being given by Flintshire County Council prior to granting of a Premise License on the 8th of August 2016 that the porter cabin was well insulate, on par, if not better than some pubs in the area, and noise pollution would be limited, in practice this is simply not the case. As residents the noise pollution coming from the Clubhouse is regular, disruptive and causing upset to residents. It is far beyond what I've ever heard come from a pub. Flintshire County Council appear to have made many assumptions regarding limiting Noise Pollution in their assessments prior to granting a license but in practice, the reality is far different... a porter cabin construction does not offer protection against noise. It is an inappropriate building to license. The most recent example being on Tuesday the 13th of December where the music was that loud at 8.30pm it woke my 2 year old and 3 year old daughters who struggled to settle back to sleep. It also meant that my 6 year old son could not settle to sleep because and I quote "of the disco outside"! The volume of music was ludicrous and completely inappropriate for a residential area. All windows and doors in my property were closed and it is a well insulated house yet I could clearly distinguish the lyrics of the songs being played because the volume was so loud. This was not simply slight background noise/beat you often hear from venues playing music; to be able to hear the lyrics highlights how loud it was. To my knowledge several complaints have been logged with the Environmental Health team at Flintshire County Council regarding this.

As outlined above, in reality we are already suffering a significant amount of noise pollution both during and after a function, to allow an increase in licensing hours is irresponsible and would cause significant harm to local residents, especially vulnerable adults and children with sensory issues. There are residents within close proximity of Mold Alex FC who suffer from severe autism and have severe sensory issues. They are suffering significant distress due to noise from Mold Alex.

Even with limitations like speakers pointing away from residential properties, a noise limiter device fitted to the function room speaker and all windows and doors must be kept closed during live music (we note this does not included recorded music, which will be equally as intolerable), we fail to see how one; this can be policed by either yourselves or staff, in view of the fact the entertainment system (speakers) could be interchanging with different DJ's/bands

being used; and secondly how anyone is naive enough to think they can keep all windows and doors closed during any event when there is potentially 150 patrons coming in and out of the building and opening windows if it get too hot. Also the designated smoking area comes directly off the function room so it is impossible to keep this door closed at all times thus automatically breaching the licensing limitations currently in place.

Prevention of Harm to Children

Should an increase in licensing hours be granted it would most likely result in an increase in late night usage with more parties/functions being held. This would see an increase in traffic, antisocial behaviour, vandalism, fighting, offensive/intimidating language and behaviour. This assumption is based on the current problems we have to deal with, as outlined earlier in this letter. To install signs requesting patrons to be quiet on exiting has little effect on minimising these issues. We have 3 young children, who are 6, 3 and 2. All of which have significant health problems (respiratory and immunity) requiring consultant led care at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool. Peaceful and undisturbed sleep is a vital part of any child's life, but more so when they have such complex health needs. As a family we are often disturbed late at night by noise coming from Mold Alex. We have lost count how many times individuals have played knock and run, or rang our door bell as late as 2am. We have witnessed on many occasion the perpetrators run back into Mold Alex Car Park. We had hoped that with the placement of the new fence, and the newly restricted access to the estate that these incidences would stop; however this is not the case as they simply jump over the fence.

Currently we have to make allowances for other events hosted on the grounds of Mold Alex FC, these include the fireworks display, circus, monster trucks and fun fair. The noise pollution, traffic violations, access issues, parking issues, and an increase in foot traffic, created by such events are already problematic for us as residents of the Soughton Park estate. Also the littering by people who watch these events from the green on the estate is absolutely disgusting and left to us residents to clean up afterwards. For the past two years we have not been able to access our own driveway because of irresponsible parking by non residents who are in attendance of the events hosted. The noise pollution suffered during these events have a detrimental effect on our ability to sleep, specifically my children who have previously become quite distressed with the fireworks display, monster trucks and circus. This is unacceptable, but thankfully these events are limited in frequency over a year. However if the new licensing application were to be granted then these detrimental effects on our lives, particularly my children, would be unbearable and would have a devastating effect on their health and well being.

We would also like to highlight once again our shock and disappointment in the lack of public consultation and advertisement of the application back in July/August time, this meant no objections were raised at that time, although Flitshire County Council were fully aware of the opposition to any sort of license being granted to the Clubhouse after submission of a 111 signatory petition being submitted back in February this year to the 1st application. Despite all of this you still saw fit to issue the current license. In essence this is the 3rd application Mold Alex has made regarding essentially the same license. It is an inconvenience for residents to have to continue to raise the same valid objections over and over again. I would therefore like to

highlight once again that the current licence is creating unacceptable disruption and distress so to increase licensing hours is absolutely unacceptable and strongly opposed.

We understand that Mold Alex FC is a facility benefitted by many members of the community; however the lack of consideration to the immediate community that are impacted does not bode well. It is difficult to broach any concerns such as noise pollution with Mold Alex directly because of the apparent fondness their chairing members appear to have in airing raised concerns/information on social media such as Facebook, this has resulted in any concerns needing to be raised are done so via official routes. We understand that the Club needs to create revenue to function; we just do not understand the need for such a late alcohol and music license. After a meeting with the Chairman of Mold Alex some months ago he stated that the main target audience for use is the many child members of Mold Alex to have their birthday parties etc and to show football matches on the big screen. If this is the case then there would be absolutely no need for an alcohol licence so late and 6days a week. Firstly and foremost Mold Alex is a Football Club, not a Social Club.

We would appreciate a response to our objection, and to be kept up to date with any progress relating to the application and any future applications relating to the licensing of the premises.

Yours faithfully



Rhiannon & James Robins