

From: Suzanne & Michael Williams
26 Tai Maes
Mold
CH7 1RW
December 15, 2016

Commented [A1]:

The Head of Public Protection
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
CH7 6NF

Dear The Head of Public Protection:

Once again, we would like to respectfully oppose the application for a Premises Licence at Mold Alexandra Football Club for the sale of alcohol, live music, recorded music, dancing and plays. We have spent some time considering the application and the impact that such licence is having upon our community.

At this point, I would like to express our disappointment that the club was granted any licence without consideration of the local community. The first application received significant opposition from this community. The application was withdrawn for reasons unbeknown to myself, however when a second application was made in July 2016, this was not advertised in the same way as the first. We, the community were made aware of the application *after* it had already been approved. In a telephone conversation with James Lowe I was advised that the second application had been advertised at the top of the Mold Alex driveway. Although this may have ticked a box under the Licencing Act, I find it unacceptable that the Licencing department did not consider the opposition that had already been presented. I find it difficult to believe that not one person at Flintshire County Council Licencing would question why such volume had been received first time around, but not one representation forwarded second time round.

For this reason, our opposition and concerns remain unchanged from our first representation. In fact, they are only heightened now that the club are hosting events and are requesting extended opening hours.

Our main concerns fall in line with the following objectives;

The Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The concern is around Anti-Social Behaviour. We believe that selling alcohol at a venue so close to a residential area is irresponsible and would increase the frequency of anti-social behaviour that has already been witnessed by the residents. We have called the authorities on a number of occasions due to anti-social behaviour based at the football pitch. We understand that each incident has been linked to either drug use or an excessive intake of alcohol. We are also aware of damage and urinating at neighbouring properties. We have been victims of burglary at this address and so we are already very security conscious. We are anxious that an increased number of people, using alcohol, late at night, will heighten our anxieties and would negatively impact our sleep patterns.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

Our second main concern is the level of noise, specifically of live music events and of people leaving the venue. We appreciate that the applicant has said that he will adhere to noise monitoring and would install

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signs, however we do not believe that this will be sufficient to go unnoticed by the immediate residents. The Morris homes walls are thin! People talking outside the house or on the green can be heard clearly. In the first two/three years living in Tai Maes, the school summer holidays were unbearable – small groups (5-10 people) would use the pitch in the evening and they could be heard clearly until early hours. Groups of a larger number will undoubtedly disturb our sleep and the sleep of our two young children. I query whether noise monitoring is, or has already taken place at the venue, as we have been disturbed by several music events over the last few months.

Noise and disturbance during the day time is not a cause for concern for us personally, but anything passed 7pm is deemed unacceptable (due to the impact on our children's sleep).

We would also like you to consider that even without an alcohol and music license we are already impacted by noise from events at the pitch. Football games themselves can be very loud and unfavourable language can be heard from our home during a game. We contend with disturbance from the fireworks display, monster trucks and the circus on an annual basis. All of the named events already take place and can be tolerated; however inconsiderate some of the visitors can be, the events are usually complete and cleared by around 8pm. People coming and going to the 'new' venue will be doing so until midnight or later.

Related to this application, we would also like to comment that the applicant has expressed that the purpose for the alcohol and entertainment license is to hold events for the community and to raise money for the club. The club has been a part of the community for many years and has managed to achieve this without such licence. Therefore, we do not see a need for an alcohol licence and late night opening hours.

We, the community, have also discussed the applications on our facebook site. The applicant (being a part of the immediate community) has not been community-focused and was in fact extremely rude and defensive to others. In my opinion, this did not demonstrate community engagement and initiated concerns about the true vision of the venue and the functions that they hope to book in the future.

Finally, we understand that the application is available for consideration by the planning department at FCC, however I was advised at a face to face meeting earlier this year that the Planning department rarely submit representations for licencing applications as they have their own applications to review and consider. This in itself is concerning. We would question whether the porta cabin set up has been reviewed by planning and deemed an appropriate venue for functions and for the intended volume of people.

We appreciate your time in reviewing our comments and hope that they are reviewed with the considered approach in which they were presented.

Sincerely,

Suzanne & Michael Williams
Tai Maes Residents