

Licensing
Civic Offices
Union Street
Chorley
PR7 1AL

RECEIVED 20 MAY 2019

17 May 2019

Dear Sirs

**Ref (19/00449/LAPLA) – Croston Sports Club, Old Emmanuel School,
Westhead Road, Croston, PR26 9RR**

We wish to voice our serious concerns regarding Croston Sports Club's application for a Premises license, which includes extended hours for alcohol, live music and regulated entertainment.

We live next door to Croston Sports club, and over the past 3 years the loud music and anti-social behaviour bestowed on us by the club and their patrons has caused a detrimental negative impact on our family's quality of life, and enjoyment of our home. If we were able to, we would have moved to a new house.

Loud music

The club regularly has public and private events in their function room, at which they play excessively loud music until 12:30 am. On many occasions we have heard the music in our lounge, over our television. Our lounge is at the front of the house, and the Sports club is at the back of our house. When the music is being played to these extremes, we are unable to go to bed, as our bedroom is at the back of the house, and the volume of the music prevents us from sleeping. If our bedroom window is open, we can hear every word to every song that is played throughout the night. If our window is closed, we hear a constant beat.

We believe that the proximity of the function room to residential properties should prevent Croston Sports club from being granted a licence for amplified music. In addition, we believe the roof of the function room provides insufficient insulation to contain the loud music being played at the club, rendering the function room not fit for purpose. The Chair of the committee at the Social club has advised us of this fact but has said that they are unable to replace it with a more suitable roof because of cost. Furthermore, within the last couple of years the club has installed bi-folding doors the whole length of one of the walls in their function room. Last summer they had these windows wide open until late at night with music blaring out.

Anti-social behaviour

Excessive drinking at the club does lead to anti-social behaviour, to which we are regularly subjected. Large groups of intoxicated people gather in the Sport's club's car park, directly under our bedroom window, during all hours of the day and night, regularly until after 1 am. They speak very loudly, they laugh very loudly, they sometimes urinate, they've been known to damage cars in the car park, and pull up

flowers from the flower beds, the door slams constantly, they swear constantly and have vile disgusting, and sometimes threatening conversations, all of which we can hear as though we were stood with them. Over the Easter break 2019, we were subjected to this behaviour on Good Friday and Easter Saturday until around 1 am, and until 12:30 am on Easter Sunday. The most upsetting and disturbing thing about this behaviour is that my son, who is 7 years old is also subjected to this.

In addition to our experiences, one of our neighbours has advised that patrons leaving the club often walk up her driveway and use it as a toilet. Other neighbours have advised us that intoxicated female patrons leaving the club have had a verbal and physical fight in front of their home, whilst their children watched.

Often when we think the noise has come to an end, people arrive back at the car park in the early hours. On occasion they have got into their cars and played their music loudly, and only leave when their taxis have arrived. Again, they are very noisy whilst they're waiting for the taxis.

Finally, we have the noise from the staff leaving the premises. They set the security alarm, which is extremely loud, leave the door to bang shut and then proceed to have conversations about the night, before they eventually leave. As mentioned above, with no regard for the wellbeing of their neighbours.

The committee and management of Croston Sports Club are not taking their social responsibility seriously. We feel the club is out of control and is being run primarily by youngsters as a nightclub, rather than a local village sports club. They have no consideration for their neighbours, they are concerned only with the amount of money that they can make from selling alcohol to excess. A further example of their lack of social responsibility was when they had an A board outside the club promoting the sale of a pint of beer for £1 a pint.

On many occasions we complained to the club, but things didn't change, leaving us with no option but to complain to the Council. We have been through the Council's process of obtaining evidence, which involved the installation of the sound monitoring equipment at our home. We've spent many many hours sat in the dark in our bedroom pressing the button on the machine and recording the loud music and anti-social behaviour until the early hours. We have also gone to the expense of having new windows fitted at the back of our home, at a cost of over £2000.00 in attempt to reduce the noise. We really cannot be subjected to this any longer, and hope that you will be able to give us back our home and prevent the wider village community from having to endure this type of behaviour.

Yours sincerely



Mr and Mrs Rees

20 Westhead Road, Croston, PR26 9RR