

30 October 2023

Emailed to [REDACTED]

Dear Mrs Scott

APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE RUSHALL OLYMPIC FC

I hope you are well.

I am contacting you on behalf of my clients at Rushall Olympic FC regarding their application for a premises licence. The Council have sent me a copy of your comments and I thought it would be helpful if I contacted you to outline this application further, and to explain the steps that would be taken to promote the licensing objectives.

Rushall Olympic FC has been established here since the late 1890's and the club is an important and valuable asset to the local community. They are extremely active in the local community, doing a lot of great work, promoting and developing various activities especially for younger people.

Their clubhouse isn't a pub and it's utilised as a community resource - community groups such as Walsall Astronomical Society, various charities and organisations, wakes, christenings etc use it, It is also used to support local children and parents throughout the clubs Development Section to help the community.

I can assure you that the club is keen to continue to work with the local community and be a 'good neighbour' to prevent/minimise any issues or problems.

The club already has a licence (called a Club Premises Certificate) and they have operated under this for many years. The current Certificate is to 1am (indoors) on Fridays and Saturdays – the same as the new application. This new Premises Licence application is just to replace the current Certificate to enable the club to operate, moving forward, to its full potential in a safe, legal and compliant way.

The application includes a document called an Operating Schedule – this is a really important part of the application which shows the steps that would be taken by the club to ensure that the club runs well and doesn't cause problems. I attach a copy of the Operating Schedule for your information.

The proposed conditions are extremely detailed and comprehensive and they become legally enforceable licence conditions should the application be approved. The new conditions are considerably more comprehensive than the current ones.

Every new application involves an extensive consultation exercise carried out with the various responsible authorities including the Police, the Councils Licensing Authority, Trading Standards, Environmental Health, Public Health, Child Protection, Planning, etc

Please note that all of the Responsible Authorities have assessed the application and they are satisfied that the licence can be granted

The Council's Community Safety Department, who deal with matters such as noise disturbance, are satisfied that the licence can be granted. The Police are also satisfied with the application. **There are also no objections from any other persons in the local community.**

For your information, the club has a Management Committee consisting of the Chairman (John Allen), a Vice-Chairman (Nick Allen), the Club President, and several other people.

I've discussed your comments with the club and I understand that the tannoy/loudspeakers are only used on matchdays. The football season is generally between August and May, afternoon matches kick off at 3pm, with evening games starting at 7.45pm, meaning that the tannoy system would not usually be used beyond 10pm.

In respect of parking, I understand that the club car park caters for most of their supporters, and they point any overspill parking to Manor Farm Community Centre. The club also have contact with the Royal Oak Indian Restaurant and put cones out to help them with parking issues on match days.

The club will continue to do everything that they can to prevent parking issues.

However, I have to advise you that parking is not something that is actually a relevant consideration in respect of licence applications. Matters such as 'need' also aren't something that can be taken into account. The Council will be able to confirm this.

The premises will continue as a facility for the local community and will always try to ensure that they run everything well. Licensed premises are extremely well-regulated - they must promote the licensing objectives and fully comply with all of their licence conditions. The Police and the Council regularly monitor and inspect licensed premises to ensure compliance with licence conditions, and they can take action against premises who breach their conditions. Action can include prosecution, a licence review, revocation of the licence, etc.

I hope the above information is helpful and informative.

I ask you to give the club the opportunity to demonstrate that the new licence will not cause a problem.

The Council will need to arrange a Hearing of their Licensing Sub Committee to consider your comments and decide on the application - you will be asked to attend this, we'll also be attending. If you were to agree that the licence can be approved, then there is no need for a Hearing.

Please call me on the number below if you have any queries or questions. I can also arrange a face to face meeting with representatives from the club if you would like to discuss the matter with them.

I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

Ian Rushton

JL Licensing

