

Audrey Walker

From: Audrey Walker

Sent: 20 October 2025 20:27

To: ENV LICENSING <licensing@oldham.gov.uk>

Subject: Shaw Cricket Club License Objection (Ref: 110574)

Licensing Team
Oldham Council
Sir Robert Peacock House, Vulcan Street
Oldham
OL1 4LA
20 October 2025

By e-mail

Dear Sir / Madam

Shaw Cricket Club, Holebotham Clough, Off Mark Lane, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 8QG - New Application for Premises Licence (Reference: 110574)

I am a resident of Holebottom Farm, Mark Lane, Shaw, OL2 8QG, and I am writing to you to lodge a Representation in respect of the above application made by Shaw Cricket Club.

I live in close proximity to the above establishment, and will be directly - and adversely - affected, should the pending application be granted.

I understand that the Licensing Act 2003 is governed by four licensing objectives which are:

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

Based on the legislation and statutory guidance available online and my understanding of the proposed changes, I believe the granting of the above application would have a negative effect on the promotion of one or more of the above objectives. For this reason and further details provided below as part of my representation, I strongly object to the approval of the above application.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

I have a number of concerns in regards to the prevention of crime and disorder should the application be approved. I have detailed this below:

- **Prevention of Crime** - The prevention of crime is of up-most importance given the residential nature of the area. My concern with the approval of the application is that additional people will be attracted to the cricket Club, however the current security is inadequate and there could be an increase in crime / disorder. The Club is quite isolated and on exit the lane is dimly lit, which could attract crime and disorder late at night. CCTV is limited and should a crime take place it would be very difficult to address it. With more people attending the Club I believe there will be a need for additional security including increased provision of CCTV and potentially doormen, especially for larger events, to ensure crime does not take place and ensure safety of residents and patrons.

- **Drunkenness** - Linked to the prevention of Crime, there are inadequate measures currently to control and maintain the safety of intoxicated people at the Club, which the approval of this application could exacerbate with no changes made. I have encountered people drinking at the bottom of my drive, which presents issues for themselves as the area is dimly lit, but also myself as I have safety concerns for my property. I am concerned with the increased ability to undertake outdoor activity through the approval of this application, there will be an increase in these types of situations.
- **Violent Behaviour** - Given the tensions that exist between local people and the Club, there have been violent situations in the past between the two groups, our neighbour in particular was confronted over a parking disagreement. Within increased attendance and events combined with limited security and control and additional factors explained later in my representation, I fear that violent behaviour would increase if the application is approved.

Public Safety

Given the residential nature of the area, with elderly people and young children, public safety is very important.

It is also of significance for Club patrons, and for reasons explained below I don't feel this is taken seriously and will be further disadvantaged through approval of the license:

- **Lighting** - The road leading up to the Cricket Club is poorly lit and lacking natural surveillance with no homes located on the road itself. Beyond the Cricket Club the lane is also not lit. This is a concern in the evenings especially, as people often use the lane and the security is poor. With additional Club patrons through the approval of the license, from events for example, there are potential challenges for public safety. Whilst I appreciate the road leading up to the Club is not adopted or owned by the cricket club, if they are increasing activity in the area and usage of the lane, they should be committed to mitigating negative consequences for local people and patrons and should be held responsible for ensuring public safety on the lane.
- **Emergency Service Access** - Parking is a major concern and challenge currently, which I have outlined in further detail below. The current parking issue, which would be further exacerbated by approval of this application, limits emergency service access. Ensuring appropriate access for emergency services such as ambulances and fire engines is essential and public safety is impacted from people parking in lay-bys and blocking the lane (please see attached images). Not only is this an issue for the Club if an emergency occurred, but also my own residence, which is especially concerning given my husband is approaching 70 and may need these services in the coming years. In the summer, there are additional concerns around fire safety given the greenery and homes in the immediate vicinity which could lead to a significant fire if fire services cannot access the Club due to the parking arrangements. This is a serious matter which current owners fail to manage and will only get worse with increased activity.
- **Patron Safety** - The Club is in a relatively inaccessible location with limited public transport options. Patrons will be dependent on the use of taxis after events and late in the evening. There should be appropriate consideration of how users will leave the premises and safely travel home as part of this

application's approval, alongside other points raised above which negatively impact on patron safety directly.

The Prevention of Public Nuisance

The promotion of this objective is my most significant concern. In its current form, the Club negatively impacts enjoyment of my home and I believe the implementation of proposed changes through approval of the application would lead to a further reduction of the living amenity and environment for myself and neighbours living in the area of the licensed premises. My concerns include:

- **Noise** - Under the current operations, there are already significant issues with noise and disturbance. Myself and my family have been disturbed by noise both within and outside of licensed hours, with the use of external speakers on occasion in the evening which I understand is not permitted under their current license. In the summer in particular this creates challenges as I am unable to open my window with the noise disrupting sleep and causing distress for my animals when the club is particularly loud. Whilst I understand and accept there will be noise from the club during its operation and a need for it to be commercially viable, my concern is that the outdoor nature of proposals will significantly exacerbate this issue. Not only will music create noise issues late into the night, it will attract more people to congregate outside creating further noise when myself and others are trying to sleep. This is a significant concern and given the highly exposed nature of the club in a residential area, with elderly and young children, should be taken seriously by the licensing team due to the guaranteed negative impacts.
- **Parking Disturbance** - The most significant issue for myself given the location of my residence is the disturbance caused by the parking of club patrons. This is an issue whenever the Cricket Club is trading, which is even worse when events are being held. Visitors will often park in a way which blocks the access to my home and / or creates challenges for getting up the lane, especially for my sons who are builders and are often in large vans. Additionally to this, I have confronted several taxis and patrons who use our driveway to turn around when the car park is full, ignoring the many signs on my walls indicating this is a private property with no access. I have constantly raised concerns with the club in regards to this issue, as you can see in the screenshots of messages attached to this email, however no significant changes have been made. A sign indicating the car park is full was implemented, however this is often left out or not used at all and therefore people do not respect it when it is there. Whilst parking creates practical challenges including access for myself, my family and deliveries, my worry has always been from a safety perspective. With the current parking situation emergency vehicles including ambulances and fire engines would not be able to access the homes up the lane or the club. As you can see in the messages attached to this email, Club patrons deny that those parked recklessly are their vehicles, in an emergency situation this could lead to devastating consequences for myself, neighbours or the club itself if vehicles cannot be moved. With no proposed improvements for parking, the increased capacity through events and attraction of more patrons facilitated by the approval of this application would exacerbate this issue.
- **Anti-Social Behaviour** - On several occasions I have heard screaming and shouting from the club as the users are communicating outside. Additionally, I have caught people smoking and drinking at the bottom of my drive which I

raised with the club in the attached messages. Whilst I appreciate what happens at the Club is governed and managed by themselves, my concern as an immediate neighbour is the increased activity without proper management, which could increase antisocial behaviour on my doorstep. There needs to be conditions imposed on the Club to manage this behaviour and encourage patrons to be respectful of myself and my neighbours as I am concerned this problem will only get worse with the approval of this application.

- **Litter** - The Club has two large bins adjacent to the entrance of my property, which I understand is necessary however they have been overfilled in the past and will attract vermin into the area. There are no outdoor bins on the Car Park, therefore when people leave the premises they will likely dispose of their rubbish on the lane or car park which is damaging for the environment. I would welcome the provision of additional waste facilities for patrons to mitigate this issue and ensure it does not worsen.

The Protection of Children from Harm

Outside the typical operation of the Cricket Club, which includes sessions for children, the Club also holds a number of events which are tailored for Children - some examples of which are attached from the Clubs Facebook page. I often can hear children running around and screaming late into the evening, likely surrounded by intoxicated adults. My daughter has also encountered an unattended child coming up our driveway on a bike which she had to redirect to the Cricket Club. As a mother of 9 children, I am concerned as children are often at the Club and the proposals could further increase exposure of these children to alcohol and harm. From a practical perspective, the Club's fence is inadequate, with a large gap using site fencing which is often blown over and can easily be bypassed. This is not appropriate for a Club which has many children in attendance across the week as a child could easily get lost or even worse taken. In combination with other issues flagged in my representation including lighting, security and parking, this should be addressed immediately as the harm to children is potentially significant and will likely increase with proposed changes.

Conclusion

I believe that the extension of hours and ability for Shaw Cricket Club to undertake activities outside during operational hours will have a significant negative impact on myself and residents of Mark Lane. I would emphasise that the Club is very exposed and directly facing homes. For myself, I am less than 100 metres from the club and whilst trees have been planted to mitigate noise issues, even with the current arrangements we are able to hear music late into the evening. I am certain this problem will be exacerbated if the proposed activities, such as live / recorded music and provision of late night refreshments, are permitted outside.

I understand that the club needs to make sufficient income to sustain its operation, however over the years it has only caused distress and problems for the residents on Mark Lane. We have constantly been promised by the people managing the club that steps would be taken to address issues and concerns, however minimal changes have been successfully implemented. Additionally, the Club fails to communicate significant information, for example every year for the Bonfire night the lane is blocked completely and I either cannot enter or leave my home, however I never get any information on operations or the plan from the Club. The operations are constantly changing and there is no clear, consistent or positive method to communicate with those managing the Club.

In summary, for the reasons detailed above and my belief that the proposals fail to promote the four licensing objectives, I strongly object to the proposed license changes at Shaw Cricket Club. The existing nuisance has not improved and is a constant issue impacting on quality of life for myself and residents, which will be worsened by the proposed changes. I hope the applicant and council take the representations made seriously and consider the implications / stress which would be caused by the proposed license changes.

I appreciate the time taken to read my representation and would request that the Licensing Authority kindly acknowledge its safe receipt.

Yours Sincerely,
Audrey Walker







