

Mon 07/09/2026 13:46

Good afternoon,

The outline on the map which has been supplied, hasn't been positioned correctly in accordance with the actual position of the Welcome Building. (See attached Site Plan). It has also taken in a large portion of the current playing fields and if this is the case they have claimed even more land, taking it away from locals who use the fields on a daily basis.

In my representation, I made it clear I am very concerned about crime and antisocial behaviour in the area. I walk in the area for between 1 and 3 hours every day, so I see the aftermath (report it for removal) or litter pick (glass etc) so that people and all animals, wild and tame do not get injured. I, and other residents who are civic minded, do not need extra litter and the associated spent firework containers (from events) to have to clear up. We also don't need more youths to be attracted into the area every weekend, bringing alcohol and drug paraphernalia with them.

The signs have only been positioned on the one field and entrance to snipe clough. Residents who don't use the current playing pitches, have had no information sent directly to them or even notices attached to lamp posts on their streets to inform them of this application. Eastbourne street is very close and densely populated and even though the 'plan' looks to be away from properties the scale is deceptive and while walking on the rear field to the site, when I am stood at the end of Tate Street (adjoining Eastbourne st) I can hear every sound coming from the Welcome Building area. It is totally unfair and still unacceptable for anyone to think residents should have to potentially listen to music (of any description) during waking hours (8am to 9pm, the recently proposed change).

"Outdoor music would only be associated with occasional appropriate events."

I understand it may seem to be a bit of an inconvenience to have to apply for a licence individually for each event, however this should be the case. Experience of Northern Roots tells me their word can not be trusted and to give them an open-ended licence would be disastrous. I therefore do not accept the licence should be open-ended Mon to Sun 8am to 9pm. I am of the opinion that there should be no music outside at all, unless specifically applied for. There are a number of parks in the Oldham area which have held live music events outdoors over many years, including Alexandra Park. It is literally next door and therefore can't be a great inconvenience for a special one off event to be held there instead of closer to a more densely populated area.

There are no assurances that this company could make which would make me believe that the present conditions would be adhered to. So I think each **"occasional appropriate event"** should be applied for separately. As most special events are planned well in advance (such as weddings) so this surely would be no hardship.

I am unavailable for further communication or comment until 21st September 2026. Regards Mrs Bird



Investing in a greener future for Oldham

Oldham Council is proud to support Northern Roots - which is transforming 160 acres of green space into the UK's largest urban farm and eco-park.

Through £12.9 million of funding from the Town Deal and Levelling Up Fund, we're supporting the next phase of the ambitious project, creating spaces for learning, enterprise, and community wellbeing.

The Northern Roots masterplan fits into Oldham Council's 'Green and Growing' priority - leading the way on green projects across the county and supporting the growth of tech, green industries, and advanced manufacturing.

Councillor Arooj Shah,
Leader of Oldham Council

Coming soon to the site

A brand-new Visitor Centre - with a cafe, shop, kitchen, exhibition and performance space, and meeting facilities.

Forestry Skills Centre - providing training and qualifications in 'and-based skills'.

Urban farming, wildlife habitats and community spaces - with orchards planted, ponds created, and a thriving community garden already in place.

With regional and national recognition, Northern Roots is growing opportunities for Oldham, from volunteering and education to play and nature. Looking ahead, future plans for the site include a solar array, play areas, wild play and mountain biking facilities, and additional community growing spaces.



NORTHERN ROOTS

The 160-acre Northern Roots site stretches from Alexandra Park in the north, past Park Bridge Heritage Centre, to Bankfield Clough in the south.

Northern Roots is being developed for and with local communities to:

Generate training, education, jobs and business opportunities, and attract new visitors to Oldham.

Improve health and wellbeing by producing healthy food, supporting physical activity, and promoting connection with nature and community.

Manage and improve the landscape to build biodiversity, capture carbon and enhance water quality.



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