

BOBBINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE

Clerk to the Council

Mrs. V S Morris

Tel 07973 759723

E-mail Parish.Council@Bobbington.co.uk

29 Six Ashes Road

Bobbington

Near Stourbridge

South Staffordshire

DY7 5BZ

Licensing Team

South Staffordshire Council

Wolverhampton Road

Codsall

WV8 1PX

14 April 2023

Dear Sirs,

New Premises Licence – Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport, Crab Lane, Bobbington DY7 5DY

Bobbington Parish Council have no objection in principle to the granting of licencing activities at Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green Airport, but the hours of operation being requested are unsuitable for the location and designation of the premises. Therefore, we wish to object to the licence application on the following grounds:

The prevention of crime and disorder

Largescale events of up to 5,000 people will significantly increase the footfall through the Parish of Bobbington. There is a concern that even much smaller volumes of people (500+) will have a detrimental effect on our relatively low crime and anti-social behaviour rates.

We understand the licence permits events to be held from 09:00 on Friday to 17:00 on Sunday. Given the small population in the parish there is currently little activity overnight. There is also not a huge police presence in the area. There is a concern that large events attract people to the area and highlight what is available. There were thefts from a business on the Airport site shortly after the Queen's jubilee events, whilst there is no known connection there remains a concern that crime rates will increase.

Highgate Common is an area which is prone to anti-social behaviour. There is a concern that due to its proximity to the Airport an increase in such behaviour will result when events are held.

Public Safety

There is no public transport in Bobbington, therefore, attendees to events will need to drive, walk or use taxis who are unfamiliar with the local roads. We understand the licence permits events to be held from 09:00 on Friday to 17:00 on Sunday.

Many of the roads surrounding the airfield are unlit, narrow and do not have white lines making them more hazardous to drivers who are familiar with them at night and in the early hours of the morning.

The airport is surrounded by unlit roads and no pavements posing a danger to pedestrians walking late at night.

Given the lack of public transport there is a concern that drink driving may be encouraged – this poses an increased danger to all road users, pedestrians and objects / buildings.

The prevention of public nuisance

The application states that live music will end at 23:30 on Saturday and 17:00 on Sunday, there is no mention of an end time with respect to Friday. This is of particular concern given the application is for a licence from Friday 09:00 to 23:59 and Saturday 00:00 to 23:59, making live music or a similar event possible for over 24 hours. As a parish we know that the live music from the Jubilee celebrations could be heard from beyond Six Ashes Road. It would be unreasonable and create a public nuisance for music to be played late at night. As a minimum we would request an end time to live music on Friday evenings.

Whilst there is an end time for live music, there is no end time for recorded music or film which can equally create a noise nuisance. We are conscious that sounds travels far and in an open and quiet area such as Bobbington any loud noise is likely to create a public nuisance and will require restriction.

Given the lack of public transport and the roads around the airport not being “pedestrian friendly” most attendees will need to drive, this will increase the volume of traffic. Given the location of Bobbington there is currently little traffic throughout the night. Regular events will increase the volume of traffic and noise created to local parishioners.

The application permits alcohol to be taken from the premises. This could encourage attendees to leave the premises with alcohol and attend local landmarks e.g. Highgate Common, creating a public nuisance and encouraging anti-social behaviour. We would not support the application for alcohol to be taken away from the premises.

We understand the licence permits events to be held from 09:00 on Friday to 17:00 on Sunday, this seems excessive for the events we believe the Airport wish to host. The overnight licence will encourage people to stay out later which could lead to an increased nuisance from noise and traffic. We would kindly request the hours be restricted in line with other local venues.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

V Morris

Victoria Morris
Clerk to the Council